

UC Davis Science Translation and Innovative Research (STAIR™) 2024 Proof-of-Concept Grant Program: Fall Cohort

The UC [President's Entrepreneurship Network Council](#) has developed a new initiative called the UC Proof of Concept Program with the goals to identify promising inventions for commercialization at each campus and to provide early-stage support for their development. Venture Catalyst is excited to launch the pilot cycle of the **Fall Cohort of the Science Translation and Innovative Research (STAIR) Grant Program at UC Davis**. This program is designed to support innovative research projects that have the potential to translate groundbreaking ideas into viable solutions and commercial applications.

The objective of this pilot cycle is to provide seed funding for early-stage research projects, enabling researchers to validate their concepts and explore their market potential.

Early-stage technologies from university research are often perceived as too uncertain or too risky to attract funding or partners to translate into commercial products or services. The lack of accessible funding creates a gap between basic research and early-stage commercialization efforts. The STAIR Grant helps bridge this gap by providing funding and resources to translate basic UC Davis research with commercial potential by demonstrating proof-of-concept and establishing market viability, thus de-risking the innovation. The ultimate objective of the program is to develop technologies that attract entrepreneurs, industry, and investors willing to commercialize UC Davis technologies, resulting in societal and economic impacts aligned with our Land Grant status.

Successful projects will advance UC Davis technologies towards commercialization by achieving specific research and development milestones. Outcomes that might be enabled by STAIR Grant funding include, but are not limited to:

- Generating translational data or research results to create more robust foundational intellectual property (IP), therefore strengthening patent claims
- Testing commercial and market feasibility
- Building a working prototype or second iteration prototype to prepare for commercialization
- Demonstrating scale-up development potential that would be compelling to external partners
- Producing results that support more competitive Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grant applications and/or hitting a technical de-risking milestone that would make the technology more appealing to partners or investors

A key to achieving translational impact is mentoring provided by industry experts to STAIR Grant awardees and finalists. Feedback from industry experts through the review and mentoring processes has been invaluable to the program and to UC Davis researchers as they design and implement research plans to increase the commercial potential of UC Davis technology.

In addition to enabling outcomes such as those listed above, the program also helps develop an innovative and entrepreneurial culture that extends the benefits of UC Davis research activities beyond the boundaries of the university.

How to Apply

For more information and application instructions, visit the Venture Catalyst proof-of-concept programs website at: <https://itc.ucdavis.edu/stair-grant-program/>. **The application deadline is Friday, August 30, 2024, at 11:59 pm PDT.** You can email any questions you have to stairgrant@ucdavis.edu or arangan@ucdavis.edu.