
UC Davis Science Translation and Innovative Research (STAIR™) 2024 Proof-of-Concept Grant Program: Tomorrow's Health Care Today

Program Overview

The UC Davis Science Translation and Innovative Research (STAIR™) Grant is one of the technology proof-of-concept programs managed by Venture Catalyst at UC Davis. Over the past ten annual cycles, the STAIR Program has awarded over 70 awards; core funding for the STAIR Grant was provided by the Vice Chancellor for Research with supplemental funding provided by Innovation & Technology Commercialization (Venture Catalyst and InnovationAccess) as well as campus and industry partners. **This year, in partnership with the UC Davis Health Ventures Office, the STAIR proof of concept program is focusing on the theme of *Tomorrow's Health Care Today* funding interdisciplinary innovations providing breakthrough solutions for problems encountered in human health.**

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 human health-focused 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 Monday, April 1, 2024, at 11:59 pm PDT.** You can email any questions you have to stairgrant@ucdavis.edu or arangan@ucdavis.edu.