Translational Team Initiative FAQ’s

Applying:

1. Can anyone develop a Translational Team (TT)?
   
   College of Health Solutions (CHS) faculty, staff, and students are all eligible to develop a Translational Team. This includes both junior and senior faculty as well as non-tenure and tenure-eligible faculty. ASU faculty/researchers may also develop a team, but the Lead/PI on the team must be a faculty member in good standing in the College of Health Solutions with a strong research background.

2. Do we need to apply to become a Translational Team, and what is the advantage in doing so?

   Yes, whether or not you are seeking funding, you need to apply for TT designation. This provides you with access to administrative support through the Community Partnerships, Student Success and Research Engagement Liaisons, Data Core and Translational Teams initiative Administrative Assistant. A Professional Training Program is also being developed to help new TTs develop and for existing TTs to become more effective. Translational Teams will also be highly visible to our students and community members through the CHS website and Internship Placement Platforms.

3. If you already have a team but not an actual Translational Team, can you apply to be an official TT?

   Yes, your team certainly may apply. Some teams may have all the components in place already (research, engaged community partners and student involvement), along with funding (Established TT). Those who don’t will either need to get these in place (Formative TT) or have a plan to strengthen these elements (Developing TT). Either way, please apply.

4. If our team is funded, does that mean we have the Translational Team designation?

   Yes, if your application is approved. If you are an operating team with funding engaged in translational research but have not applied for a formal designation, then you need to submit an application for formal approval.

5. What if the team is missing a few components?

   Teams with key components missing or un-developed may still apply for Formative or Developing Translational Team status. CHS recognizes that early stage or beginning teams need different types of support than established or fully-developed teams. However, even Established TTs need to more fully develop components of their team, so applying to become a designated Translational Team will have the potential to benefit teams at all levels of their evolution.

6. If a team applies to become a Translational Team, can it be rejected?

   No submission is ‘rejected’, but an application may need additional information, or a team may need additional development depending on their proposed designation (Formative, Developing,
Established. Feedback will be provided to each team that applies, with encouragement to continue working the development of their team so that they can apply again. Our goal is to provide support for the development and implementation of successful Translational Teams!

7. Can a team only apply once?

Teams may apply multiple times.

8. How will a team move from Formative to Developing, to Established? Are there resources available to assist teams in the development process?

Teams may meet with the TT Core Committee to assist in proposal development. A Training Program is being developed and will be available on Canvas for faculty and staff. Workshops in transdisciplinary team development and community engagement are planned as well, in collaboration with the Interdisciplinary Translational and Integration Sciences Initiative. Additional resources are also available. Please see the Resources Appendix at the back of the handbook.

9. Who reviews the applications?

The first review is conducted by a primary review team consisting of 3 reviewers (1 faculty researcher preferably with content expertise, 1 community partner, and 1 graduate student or staff member). Each application is individually reviewed by members of this team and scored using the specific Translational Team evaluation rubric (i.e., Formative Team Evaluation for Formative Team applications). Scores are automatically averaged for each section and a total average is calculated. The applications then receive a full committee review with a summation of the review process.

The committees will present to the full Review Committee with their recommendation for discussion and final review. The Full Review Committee will determine the appropriateness of the team type and rank teams requesting funding.

10. What are the evaluation metrics?

Application metrics can be view in the Handbook Appendix. In general, metrics include completeness of application, appropriateness of TT category, transdisciplinarity of team membership, innovation and integration of research, student and community engagement. Development of these components will vary with the team type. Formative teams may only have general plans for many of these items, while Established should be able to meet all the metrics.

11. What role do junior faculty play in this new model? How does it enable them to focus on research that reflects a specific area of expertise?

Junior faculty are integral to translational teams. Each team should include junior faculty and have an appropriate mentorship plan in place. Because translational teams focus on complex health challenges and must be transdisciplinary in composition, faculty are expected to bring their diverse expertise to the problem to discover innovative solutions.
12. Will promotion criteria be modified for tenure-track faculty? How do junior faculty distinguish themselves in the translational team based on the rubrics?

The revised evaluation metrics for faculty explicitly includes team science (translational or otherwise) as an individual metric for research and scholarly advancement. Team leads are weighted more heavily than members, but participation in a team, grant submissions (a requirement for most Translational Teams), presentations, publications, and community engagement all meet the metrics for this. Because student engagement is also required, Translational Team members can meet teaching and mentoring metrics as well.

13. What are the criteria for success once teams are approved and functioning?

Translational teams are evaluated based upon the level of their development (Formative, Developing or Established) and the benchmarks they have indicated. This includes both process and outcome-based measures. Progress in team development, community engagement within the research process and student involvement will be evaluated. Research success metrics include meeting research goals and specific aims, developing new related projects or physical deliverables such as submitted pilot grants, white papers, papers, conference presentations. Developing and Established teams are expected to submit grant proposals within 1-2 years.

14. Are teams expected to obtain R01 or R21 funding?

One of the goals of this initiative is to facilitate research proposals and awards. These may be through diverse funding entities, including private donors, but teams should work toward funding their teams’ research programs. A Developing TT should plan to submit at least one R21 or R01 (or equivalent) within a year of being designated at TT. Established TTs should plan to submit multiple R01 proposals (or equivalent) and work toward submission of a Program Project, Center grant or equivalent within 2 years of being designated a TT. This might take some time, depending on the development of the team and the complexity of the problem. We hope that teams will eventually become self-sustaining.

15. What happens when teams are large? Will the entire team work on one grant or project?

Large teams may operate in a variety of ways. Some may have several projects or grant proposals/awards (that feed into the overall research topic) that are distributed among various groups of investigators within the larger team. Other teams may work as a whole.

16. How can we integrate national-level partners into these models?

Yes, definitely.

17. What is the relationship between the Centers of Excellence and these models?

Translational Teams can move toward establishing themselves as Centers or something similar, but it is not required. This may take time as new teams are incubating, but the overall strategy is to provide a supportive environment for team growth, innovation and inclusion.
18. Where can I find like-minded people in the College to recruit to my team?

Experts.asu.edu has a list of faculty and researchers with their areas of expertise. We are currently developing a survey that will provide us with data on all CHS faculty and their areas of expertise, their collaborators (CHS, ASU, other academic institutions, community & industry partners, etc.), translational scope, student engagement, etc. This will then be turned into a searchable database. In the meantime, Cecilia Romero (Research Concierge) or Deborah Williams can direct you if you need additional help.

19. What is the difference between an Affinity Network and a Translational Team?

Affinity Networks (AN) will coalesce around methodologies while Translational Teams are self-organized around addressing complex health problems or challenges. Transdisciplinarity is a key component of Translational Teams but might not occur within an Affinity Network. For example, an Affinity Network might develop around wearable technologies or new methods to enable student success. A Translational Team might integrate an Affinity Network into the team to help in addressing a health problem. For example, a TT focused on chronic diseases might integrate some or all of the AN team on new wearable technologies.

20. When applying to become a TT, is there a strategy? Do we go ‘broad topic’ or ‘specific topic’?

Most pressing health problems are multi-faceted with complex etiologies. That does not mean that all topics will be broad however. Teams can develop around quite specific health problems (e.g., Alzheimer’s, Diabetes, etc.) or more broad challenges (e.g., chronic diseases, prevention). Regardless of breadth of focus, all three TT components (research, community engagement, student involvement) must be included and ideally should include team membership that blends and transcends single disciplines (transdisciplinary). Our goal is to facilitate new ideas, innovation and creative solutions through translational teams.

21. Is there some type of networking platform or event available to new faculty so they can connect with others in CHS to join or develop a translational team?

As mentioned above, the Research Engagement Liaison is constructing a list of faculty/staff with expertise/research interests and availability for collaboration (both community and academic). This can be used to connect with others in our college, within ASU or in the community. A survey will be sent to faculty and staff sometime later in the semester but in the interim, a Google sheet is available so that faculty can input information and see who else has expressed interest in translational teams. You can access this document at the link below:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15adjreTWQFDW_h5qzg5ReQhJcr4uJvpqV6lujxc8o/edit#gid=0

22. What type of support is provided to translational teams?
Translational Teams are eligible for several types of support. 1) administrative support in the form of meeting scheduling and Student Success, Research and Community Engagement liaisons to help with these components, 2) IT support that includes project management software, communication software, data management, etc, 3) Biostats Core support, and 4) some monetary/funding support.

**Funds Available:** $3,000-$38,000 is available depending on the type (Formative, Developing, or Established). See breakdown of awards below.

- **Formative** or early stage teams will be eligible for up to $3,000 in funding for capacity-building and team development.
- **Developing** Translational Teams: may apply for funding ranging from $12,000–$18,000 to support 2-4 pilot research projects
- **Established** Translational Teams may apply for funding up to $38,000. Funds may be used for project development, implementation, and capacity-building.

**Community Partnering:**

1. **What type of organization would qualify as a community partner?**

   Hospitals, health care clinics, dental clinics, schools, charitable organizations - these are just a few of our community partners. A community partner can be either large or small in makeup.

2. **Is assistance available if I have not identified a community partner?**

   If you need help identifying potential community partners, the community partner liaison may assist in providing contact information or in sharing connections with organizations interested in translational teams.

3. **What level of involvement is expected of a community partner?**

   The level of participation for all parties involved will be determined by the team. The involvement of a community partner will vary by team.

4. **Are there any benefits for a community partner to participate in a translational team?**

   Involvement in a translational team does not entitle a community partner to any employee benefits. Each entity is still viewed as separate. However, the community partner may be the lead institution in regard to intellectual property if designated by both parties.

5. **Who maintains oversight of the team given community partner involvement?**

   Teams must have a PI or Co-PI (Project Lead) who is a College of Health Solutions’ researcher. An investigator may not be a PI on more than one team, but may be a member of multiple teams.

6. **Are any additional steps required to create a new partnership?**

   Each community partner will be required to enter into a Research Collaboration Agreement prior to initiating translational team work. The agreement was drafted by the ASU Office of General Counsel & Office of Knowledge Enterprise Development Research. This outlines the legal parameters associated with any translational team.
Student Engagement:

1. What types of activities can students engage in with a Translational Team?

Students can engage in a variety of activities with a Translational Team. These can vary from research/data entry, program creation, community outreach, administrative/project management, etc. There could also be other ways for engagement determined by the individual team.

2. How do I recruit students for my Translational Team?

Translational Teams can advertise their opportunities on an online platform (similar to the process to advertise internships) and review/select applicants through that portal. The process for which will be detailed in a set of resources available for approved teams.

3. Do students earn course credit for participating on a Translational Team?

The two main incentives for students to participate on a team are earning course credit (undergraduates) or being paid (e.g. graduate RAs). Offering volunteer opportunities is also an option if students do not have room in their schedule for course credit, or if there is no budget for paid positions. Course credit can be offered in the form of research, internship, honors thesis, etc. For paid positions, work with the Research Engagement Liaison to build funding into your budget, comply with hiring processes, etc. For volunteers, work with the Student Success Liaison to comply with the University process for student volunteers.

4. I can only take 4 students in the lab. How can other students contribute to my Team?

Other ways to engage students could be to integrate assignments/components of your research project into existing courses; advertise for short term volunteers (similar to participants in a research study). The Student Success Liaison can help connect you to resources.

5. What if a Translational Team wants to develop a new course or new degree program?

The BS in Translational Science is still in the idea stages, but is a goal in bringing together translational team science and various dedicated courses. If a team wants to develop a new course related to their subject/problem, we suggest first connecting with the Academic Program Lead (APL) team to determine if there are existing related courses; if so, you can explore incorporating options for assignments, case studies, etc. to expose students to your topic. If a new course is still desired/appropriate, the proposal process will be posted on the Employee Intranet; you can also work with the Academic Success Hub to help with the proposal process.

Research Engagement:

1. What are the research expectations for TTs:

Expectations for translational teams include: developing research questions with community partners, submitting grant applications, and training students in translational research principles and practices. In addition all TT’s must be transdisciplinary in composition.
2. Who can we talk to about research resources for a TT?

Research Engagement Liaison, Cecilia Romero. Email: cecilia.romero@asu.edu; P: 602-496-0876

3. How can we learn about grant opportunities?

Current resources:
PIVOT® opens doors to funding opportunities and potential collaborators. This application is designed with the dedicated researcher in mind. It sifts through a comprehensive database to find opportunities that may be of interest to you. You can access federal, industry and non-profit sponsors. PIVOT®

Listservs: You can join various sponsor specific listservs to stay up to date on funding opportunities, policy changes, program revisions and submission system issues.
National Institute of Health
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Future:
We are working on a new process that will involve input from the CHS Research Advancement team, IT and faculty to hone how award announcements are sent out to faculty based on their health specific areas of expertise.

4. What if we are already implementing translational research?

Consider signing up for a Translation Team designation, which will allow access to the Translation Team administrative support as well as potential future collaborations.