

Innovator Awards

The Innovator Awards Program enables researchers worldwide to test ideas and collaborate to advance the understanding of IBD.

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The Kenneth Rainin Foundation believes that early support for innovative ideas can lead to improvements in preventing, predicting, diagnosing and treating Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). Our Health grantmaking enables researchers worldwide to test ideas, gather and share data, and collaborate to advance the understanding of IBD. In 2022, we consolidated our Innovator Awards and Synergy Awards into one grant program—the Innovator Awards.

Innovator Awards support individual research projects with grants of up to \$150,000 and collaborative projects involving multiple investigators with grants of up to \$300,000. Grantees who demonstrate significant progress are eligible for up to two years of additional support.

Click to expand the sections below to learn more about the Innovator Awards and how to apply, or explore [frequently asked questions](#).



Dr. Aida Habtezion collaborating in her lab. Photo credit: Lori Halloran

Health Grantmaking Approach

Funding Criteria

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Eligibility

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Application Process

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Awards Calendar

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Letters of Inquiry (LOIs)

August 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025

Letters of Inquiry are due by 5 PM PST on September 30, 2025

Full Proposals (by invitation only)

January 7, 2026 – February 2, 2026

Full proposals are due by 5 PM PST on February 2, 2026

Awards Announcement

May 1, 2026

Grant Period

June 1, 2026 – May 31, 2027

Budget Guidelines

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Reporting

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Curious if your research project fits within our Health grantmaking priorities?

- Visit our IBD microsite to explore the research areas and researchers we have supported.
- Check out our Health Program Snapshot to learn about our goals, strategies, tactics and the outcomes we hope to achieve.
- Email our Health Program Staff to discuss eligibility, research scope and the grant process.

The Kenneth Rainin Foundation enhances quality of life by championing the arts, promoting early childhood literacy, and supporting research to cure chronic disease.

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