

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
LKS FACULTY OF MEDICINE
Centre for Health AI Research and Translation (CHART)

HKUMed Strategic Translational and Research Fund

Objectives

1. The Centre for Health AI Research and Translation (CHART) under LKS Faculty of Medicine (HKUMed), The University of Hong Kong (HKU), is a cross-disciplinary platform which aims to nurture innovative health AI research and translation. CHART provides a dedicated R&D platform to support researchers, clinicians, teachers and students to develop, validate, and maintain AI and big data-enabled health innovations. In addition to translational support and infrastructure, CHART offers funding to support high-quality digital health solutions with strong translational potential, benefiting patients, vulnerable populations, and the community. Target beneficiaries include patients, carers and the elderly, and youth; CHART aims to contribute to developing Hong Kong as a health and medical innovation hub.
2. The Strategic Translational and Research Fund established under CHART, made possible by the generous contribution from philanthropists, including The D.H. Chen Foundation and Mrs Carol Murray, aims to foster innovation and translational research that makes a significant impact on healthcare. Emphasis is placed on technology-driven translational research bridging the gap between scientific discovery and real-world applications, ensuring that research outcomes are translatable into tangible benefits for the community.

Eligibility and conditions

3. HKUMed research staff at the grade of Research Assistant Professor or above are eligible to apply for the scheme.
4. Projects with a strong partnership with the healthcare sector, NGO, public sector, or industry to ensure the delivery of tangible benefits to patients, caregivers, and the community, as well as a sustainable plan for long-term deployment are preferred.
5. While we welcome projects at various stage of development, the project's impact to the target beneficiary must be delivered and evaluated within the funding period. Therefore early-stage research feasibility or pilot studies may not be suitable. All projects must deliver quantifiable impact on health or well being of their intended beneficiary within the funding period.

Awards

6. A maximum of four awards per year, each valued at HK\$1,500,000 to HK\$2,000,000, may be

made each year. However, if there are no suitable projects, the Faculty reserves the right not to grant any award in a given year.

7. The duration for each project should be a maximum of three years.

Application procedures

8. Calls for applications would be made once a year.
9. Applicants should submit the following documents for consideration:
 - a. Completed application form;
 - b. Project proposal, up to five (5) A4 pages in length, which should outline clearly the innovation elements, significant impact on health and well being, potential impacts to the society, and collaboration with industry and community partners, etc.; and
 - c. Brief curriculum vitae (up to 2 pages) of the Principal Applicant and Co-Applicants.
10. If a Department/School is submitting more than one application, the Chairperson/Head/Director concerned may be asked to rank the applications and provide a brief rationale for the ranking.

Selection criteria

11. Selection is based on:
 - a. Scientific merit, impact, element of innovation and translational potential of the proposed project.
 - b. Strategic needs and development of CHART, HKUMed, and HKU.
 - c. Research track record of the applicant(s).
 - d. Potential of technology transfer and adoption of research outcomes by the healthcare sector or community.
 - e. Strengths and complementary nature of the research team and its partners.
12. Interdisciplinary projects involving more than one department/school/faculty of HKU are highly encouraged.

Selection process

13. A Selection Panel comprising members below shall assess the applications and make award recommendations:
 - a. Associate Dean (Research) of HKUMed (Chairperson)
 - b. One of the CHART Co-Directors
 - c. One of the CHART Advisory Board members
 - d. Other HKUMed or external members as appropriate
14. Applicants may be invited to present their projects to the Selection Panel.

15. The Awards shall be granted by the Board of the Faculty of Medicine, which will consider recommendations from the Selection Panel.

Expected deliverables

16. Awardees are required to submit annual reports, which should include details on project progress and outcomes achieved. Awardees who fail to submit the required reports may be debarred from applying for any research grants supported by the Faculty in the future.

17. Upon completion of the project, awardees are expected to have a solid plan to translate their research outcomes, e.g. a practical deployment plan in healthcare settings or the community.

18. Awardees may be required to present their projects and/or outcomes at appropriate showcase events.

Administrative arrangements

19. To meet future circumstances, the regulations of the scheme may be subject to review annually.

June 2026