

Robert A. Harrington, M.D.

Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean
Weill Cornell Medicine

Provost for Medical Affairs
Cornell University

Call for Nominations: Weill Cornell Physician-Scientist Faculty Incubator Initiative

The Office of the Dean and Office of Faculty invite nominations for the **Weill Cornell Physician-Scientist Faculty Incubator Initiative**. With dual training in clinical medicine and scientific investigation, physician-scientists possess the ability to transform patient-inspired clinical needs into the healthcare of tomorrow. This program aims to support outstanding physician-scientist faculty who have successfully launched independent, extramurally funded research programs spanning the spectrum of translational research by providing the structure and stability needed to fully realize this role.

Core components of this initiative include:

- **Multi-year commitments of protected research effort and clinical effort caps**
- **Dedicated multi-year salary support** covering 30% of research effort-associated compensation — not subject to the NIH cap and potentially renewable following scientific review
- **Individualized career development support** consisting of a milestone-based plan and multi-departmental committee of senior physician-scientist mentors
- **Professional networking and career development** activities, within and across a larger national network of academic institutions, foundations and pharma partners participating in this WCM-led initiative

The initial phase of this program aims to prioritize support early- to mid-career faculty who have secured their first, but not second, R01 (or equivalent). Applications from all research disciplines and across the full NIH translational spectrum are welcome.

Eligibility:

- Must be a clinically active MD or MD/PhD physician-scientist on the pathway for Academic Achievement and Scholarship
- Must hold a full-time appointment as Assistant or Associate Professor
- Must hold (or have recently held) an R01 (or extramural equivalent) as contact PI or MPI
 - Candidates are ineligible if they hold more than one R01 (or equivalent) as contact PI
- Must have a minimum of 75% protected research time and a maximum of 20% clinical effort for non-surgical and/or non-procedural specialties. Surgeon scientists and procedural physician-scientists must have a minimum of 55% protected research time and a maximum of 40%, respectively.
- Must have a commitment from the sponsoring Department/unit to:
 - cost-share 30% of the faculty member's research effort-associated compensation with the Dean's Office in an 80:20 (Dean's Office: department) ratio for a minimum of three successive years
 - develop dedicated funds flow and/or budgetary mechanisms capable of providing renewable three-year periods of support for physician-scientists.

Nomination materials:

Applications should consist of:

- A Letter of Intent that articulates the clinical significance and intended translational impact of the faculty member's research program and pathway toward doing so (**1-page limit**)
- A current Curriculum Vitae in [WCM CV format](#)
- A Research Plan (**3-page limit**) describing:
 - Their Specific Aims of their currently funded R01
 - The percentage of time dedicated to such research
 - The faculty member's 3-year scientific objectives and path toward advancing and/or expanding their research program and second R01 with clearly defined metrics, milestones, timelines and potential contingencies
- A **1-page** letter of support from the Department Chair/Division Chief, including a detailed description of the commitment of protected research time with cost sharing as described above, clinical effort caps, senior Departmental/Divisional faculty career mentor, resources and space (current and proposed) to the faculty member

Applications should be submitted as a single PDF document using the naming convention:

[PI last name_first initial_cwid_2026.pdf] to jed2029@med.cornell.edu by **July 1, 2026**.

