

## Idea Award \$150,000 / year • 1-year term

*High-risk, high-reward translational ideas with a clear pathway to clinical impact, defined data contribution plan, and AI/ML integration plan.*

### Scope of Science

The Idea Award funds bold, first-in-field hypotheses or new directions where science is conceptually exciting but not yet de-risked. The aim is to generate the credibility data and validation needed to compete for an Impact Award or external follow-on funding within the next 18–24 months. The award is intentionally high-risk; we expect a meaningful fraction of Idea Awards to produce negative or null results that contribute to the field themselves.

### Best Fit For

- Investigators applying AI/ML, computational modeling, or advanced data science to existing federated pediatric brain tumor datasets, including first-of-kind analyses that require no new data collection.
- Cross-disciplinary teams pairing biology with computation, imaging, or data science.
- Early-career investigators (Assistant Professor or equivalent within 7 years of first faculty appointment).
- Established investigators proposing a substantive new direction outside their current funded portfolio.

### Application Format

| Stage                             | Format & Length                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Letter of Intent (LOI)</b>     | 2 pages, single-spaced, 11-pt Calibri or equivalent, 1-inch margins. Includes hypothesis, approach, data plan, feasibility statement and PBTF Data LOI form.                                                                                                             |
| <b>Full Proposal (if invited)</b> | Up to 5 pages of science. Required additional attachments: References, NIH-format Biosketches, Budget Justification, Data Deposit Plan and AI/ML integration plan (max 2 pages), and Human Subjects/Vertebrate Animals compliance statement (max 1 page, if applicable). |

### Mechanism-Specific Requirements

*All applications must include the universal application components defined in the RFP.*

*The following are mechanism-specific:*

- **Risk articulation:** A 1-paragraph statement identifying the highest-risk assumption and what a negative result would teach the field.
- **Feasibility statement:** A concise statement establishing that the proposed approach is achievable within the 1-year award term.

### Milestones & Deliverables

- Mid-term check-in (month 6): summary of preliminary results and any pivots; data deposit update.
- Final scientific report (month 12): primary findings, lessons learned, and detailed plan for follow-on work.
- Final data deposit (month 12): research-ready package transferred per data standards.
- Manuscript or preprint submission notification.

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### Review Criteria: Mechanism Weighting

| Criterion                                | Weight | Emphasis                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Scientific Significance</b>           | 30%    | <i>First-in-field hypothesis quality; potential to reshape the field</i>                           |
| <b>Rigor &amp; Translational Pathway</b> | 25%    | <i>Feasibility within 12 months; credible bridge to follow-on funding</i>                          |
| <b>Data Strategy &amp; Harmonization</b> | 20%    | <i>CBTN deposit + reuse plan; existing data leverage demonstrated</i>                              |
| <b>AI/ML Integration</b>                 | 15%    | <i>Methods rigor; validation strategy and scalability across datasets</i>                          |
| <b>Team, Governance &amp; Equity</b>     | 10%    | <i>Team expertise, completion confidence, reach across tumor types and underserved populations</i> |

*For current scientific priorities, see the RFP 2026 Call.*

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## Impact Award \$150,000 / year • 2-year term (\$300,000 total)

*Validated proof-of-concept advancing toward preclinical-to-clinical translation, with a patient-outcome validation plan*

### Scope of Science

The Impact Award funds projects built on computational analysis of existing data (validated AI/ML models, computational pipelines), or data-driven biomarkers, or experimentally validated biological and therapeutic candidates, advancing toward clinical readiness. Proposals should demonstrate that the underlying computational model, biomarker, or biological/therapeutic candidate is validated in at least one system, and outline a clear sequence of experiments, computational validation studies, or model refinement that will move the work into pre-clinical validation, computational-validation, or clinical-readiness territory within the funding term.

### Best Fit For

- Computational scientists with validated models, integration pipelines, or clinical decision-support tools requiring expanded clinical-data validation.
- Established investigators with peer-reviewed preliminary data supporting the proposal.
- Teams operating at the interface of computational modeling and existing clinical data infrastructure (harmonized clinical cohorts, biorepositories, multi-modal datasets), with matched pre-clinical models (PDX/organoid panels) where applicable.
- Investigators positioned to pair an emerging biomarker and drug candidate with a defined clinical-validation pathway.

### Application Format

| Stage                                  | Format & Length                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Letter of Intent (LOI)</b>          | 2 pages, single-spaced, 11-pt Calibri or equivalent, 1-inch margins. Includes hypothesis, approach, data plan, translational pathway, and PBTF Data LOI form.                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Full Proposal (upon invitation)</b> | 5 pages of science. Required additional attachments: References, NIH-format Biosketches, Budget Justification, Data Deposit Plan & AI/ML Integration Plan (max 2 pages), Patient-Outcome Validation Plan (max 1 page), and Human Subjects/Vertebrate Animals compliance statement (max 1 page, if applicable). |

### Mechanism-Specific Requirements

*All applications must include the universal application components defined in the RFP.*

*The following are mechanism-specific:*

- **Patient-outcome validation plan:** A defined plan describing the patient-relevant endpoint(s), validation cohort or dataset, statistical framework, and what 'success' looks like at the end of year two.
- **Preliminary data package:** Concise summary of de-risking data already in hand; clear distinction between what is established and what this award will establish.

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## Milestones & Deliverables

- Annual progress reports: summary of preliminary results and any pivots; data deposit update.
- Year-1 scientific report and go/no-go review against the milestone goals.
- Mid-award and final data deposits with documented integration readiness.
- Final scientific report with patient-outcome validation results and clinical-readiness assessment.
- Manuscript or preprint submission notification.

## Review Criteria: Mechanism Weighting

| Criterion                                | Weight | Emphasis                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Scientific Significance</b>           | 20%    | <i>Significance of patient-relevant endpoint; addresses major unmet clinical need.</i>              |
| <b>Rigor &amp; Translational Pathway</b> | 35%    | <i>Credibility of route to clinical readiness; patient-outcome validation plan.</i>                 |
| <b>Data Strategy &amp; Harmonization</b> | 20%    | <i>Multi-cohort integration; deposit timeline and standards alignment.</i>                          |
| <b>AI/ML Integration</b>                 | 15%    | <i>Validation strategy and scalability across federated datasets; clinical data application.</i>    |
| <b>Team, Governance &amp; Equity</b>     | 10%    | <i>Team credibility, timeline confidence, reach across tumor types and underserved populations.</i> |

*For current scientific priorities, see the RFP 2026 Call.*

## **Innovation Award \$200,000 / year • 3-year term (\$600,000 total)**

*Multi-investigator, cross-institutional programs addressing a major unmet translational challenge with a clinical-integration plan.*

### **Scope of Science**

The Innovation Award funds programmatic, multi-site collaborations that scale computational models, AI/ML methods, and shared data infrastructure across institutions to resolve a translational bottleneck too large for any single laboratory: for example, a federated, multi-institutional AI/ML platform built entirely on existing imaging, genomic, and pathology data across participating sites. Successful proposals harmonize data and protocols across sites and integrate complementary clinical and scientific expertise toward a defined path to clinical integration, consortium trial design, or shared diagnostic / therapeutic infrastructure. PBTF's role is catalytic: capital is structured to compound across institutions and to attract follow-on federal, philanthropic, or industry investment.

### **Best Fit For**

- Teams pairing a clinical-trial-capable site with a data-science / computational hub.
- Multi-PI teams spanning at least two institutions with complementary scientific and clinical expertise.
- Cross-sector teams that include industry partners (industry funded outside of PBTF capital where appropriate).

### **Application Format**

| Stage                                  | Format & Length                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Letter of Intent (LOI)</b>          | 3 pages, single-spaced, 11-pt Calibri or equivalent, 1-inch margins. Includes consortium composition, scientific premise, integration plan, governance, data plan, a 3-year milestone map, and PBTF Data LOI form.                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Full Proposal (Upon invitation)</b> | 8 pages. Required attachments: References, NIH-format Biosketches, Multi-Institutional Budget Justification (max 3 pages), Data Deposit & AI/ML Integration Plan (max 3 pages), Governance & IP Plan (max 2 pages), Letters of Support from each Institution, and Human Subjects/Vertebrate Animals compliance statement (max 1 page, if applicable). |

### **Mechanism-Specific Requirements**

*All applications must include the universal application components defined in the RFP. The following are mechanism-specific:*

- **Governance & decision-rights plan:** Lead PI authority, steering committee composition, publication and IP arrangement.
- **Data harmonization plan:** How data, samples, and protocols will be standardized across institutions; harmonization workstreams and consent.
- **Clinical-integration plan:** Specific clinical sites, trial readiness, regulatory considerations, and the route from this project's outputs into patient care.

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## Milestones & Deliverables

- Annual cross-institutional progress reports.
- Annual programmatic reviews with go/no-go decisions on each workstream.
- Annual data harmonization & deposit milestones (data integration measured at each annual review).
- Mid-program convening (month 18): virtual scientific review with RAN/RAC reviewers.
- Final report (month 36) with clinical-integration assessment and follow-on funding outcomes.
- Manuscript or preprint submission notification.

## Review Criteria: Mechanism Weighting

| Criterion                                | Weight | Emphasis                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Scientific Significance</b>           | 20%    | <i>Scale of unmet need; potential for field-level impact</i>                                                   |
| <b>Rigor &amp; Translational Pathway</b> | 30%    | <i>Route to clinical adoption; integration plan across institutions</i>                                        |
| <b>Data Strategy &amp; Harmonization</b> | 20%    | <i>Multi-site harmonization depth; data integration measured at each milestone review</i>                      |
| <b>AI/ML Integration</b>                 | 15%    | <i>Validation rigor; how the approach scales across federated, multi-modal, multi-institutional datasets</i>   |
| <b>Team, Governance &amp; Equity</b>     | 15%    | <i>Cross-site governance strength, lead PI authority, reach across tumor types and underserved populations</i> |

*For current scientific priorities, see the RFP 2026 Call.*

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