

The Coulter Translational Research Partnership

We would like to introduce Coulter ROPE (Real Options PipelinE) funds as a unique addition to the Coulter Program at UVA. The purpose of ROPE Funds are multifaceted.

- The funds are intended to reduce development uncertainty at an appropriate investment level (thus the name, borrowed from “real options,” which function to help reduce uncertainty about early stage concepts so that next stage investment decisions can be made with enhanced information/judgement).
- ROPE funds will enable teams to make rapid progress towards milestone driven research that is focused on clinical outcomes (real world results).
- The program will enable active involvement from all investigators interested in translational research, and thus will tightly build our culture by adding multiple strands of involvement to our community.
- By involving a larger cross-section of our ideas and talent in the pipeline process, the probability of successful outcomes for the whole group's translational effort will be increased in the long-term.

We intend to direct up to \$60,000 of total funds annually for very early stage, novel, translational research. The funds are flexible but should be used in a milestone driven manner and enable investigators to research critical hypotheses and/or develop prototypes for proof-of-concept in the lab or clinic. Ultimately, ROPE Funds should help an investigator secure a larger aliquot of translational research funds, which can include but are not limited to further Coulter funding, foundation grants, corporate grants, STTR/SBIR, private investments, and UVA translational research grants. We expect typical projects to range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 and be used for critical experiments, prototyping, and student wages.

PIs should submit a 1-page abstract of their project outlining the specific clinical problem or unmet need, why it is important, how the approach is different from previous technologies, planned experiments or design tasks, and budget information. We will evaluate projects on a regular basis, with the assistance of the Coulter Board, so projects may be submitted at any time. We recommend that you discuss your ideas in advance with Tom and/or David for feedback before applying. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact David (davidchen@virginia.edu).