

Richard H. Adler, JD and the Adler Giersch Law Firm Endowed Fund for Traumatic Brain Injury Research, Traumatic Brain Injury Clinical Care Research, and Traumatic Brain Injury Policy Research, in Honor of Kathleen “Kathy” Bell, MD

Purpose: The purpose of this Endowed Fund is to provide support for traumatic brain injury (TBI) research, TBI clinical care research, and TBI policy research, seeking efforts to find more effective evaluation and treatment protocols for those affected by TBIs given the long term cognitive, behavioral, and physical consequences and impairments which may result from the underlying trauma. The funds also support policy research and initiatives to impact TBI prevention, long-term care, and support of patients and their families.

The fund intends to provide seed money and/or bridge funding for innovative, collaborative, interdisciplinary, and novel research or quality improvement projects with the potential to create leaps in knowledge to further the evaluation and treatment of TBI. New approaches to care delivery, implementation, community reintegration, or patient engagement are of particular interest for this funding mechanism.

This Endowed Fund honors both Harborview Medical Center and the University of Washington Medical Center for evaluating and treating past and present clients of Richard H. Adler, JD and the Adler Giersch law firm who have sustained and survived a TBI and those who lost their lives due to a traumatic injury. In addition, this fund is a means for the donors of the fund to give back and ‘pay it forward’ for future clients and others with TBIs.

Grants typically fund one-to-two-year studies with the option of no-cost extension(s). All reasonable and necessary expenses that meet the stated “Purpose” in the above first paragraph will be considered for funding. **Please note that funds must be used internally via a UW budget number. They cannot be used to establish contracts or sub-contracts with non-UW entities.** If working with a group outside of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, please submit a letter of support from that group.

In the upcoming cycle, the committee plans to fund up to two research or quality improvement projects with a budget of up to \$10,000 each. An additional proposal may be awarded if funding permits.

Awardees are expected to: (1) submit a yearly report to the Chair of the Selection Committee and (2) present a poster on funded project at the annual Department of Rehabilitation Medicine Justus F. Lehmann Symposium in May of each year where funds are used. Fund donors will be invited to all formal presentations of the funded project. Awardees will also have the opportunity to meet with all or some of the fund donors to learn about their interest in TBI evaluation and treatment at a mutually agreeable time and place at least once during the award period. It is highly recommended that applicants include costs for presenting final results at a relevant conference in their budget, with funds requested for travel, per diem, and conference registration. Applicants should also include a plan for dissemination and next-steps for the project and their career.

Eligibility: Faculty, residents, fellows, and graduate students within the University of Washington Rehabilitation Medicine, Neurosurgery, Neurology, or other UW Medicine departments and facilities who are engaged in the evaluation and treatment of those surviving TBIs. Award recipients shall have demonstrated a commitment to TBI research, TBI clinical care research, or TBI public policy research in accordance with the purpose outlined above. Preference will be given to (1) those early in their careers (i.e., graduate student through Assistant Professor), but not excluding those beyond the early phase of their career, (2) those who include an interdisciplinary focus to their project, especially those engage in cross-department collaboration including addition of a biostatistician, and (3) those with a position/appointment with UW Medicine and/or whose application demonstrate that their long-term

career goals include advancing the care and/or policies for patients with traumatic brain injuries. Applicants who are early in their career must identify a mentor for the project who is also expected to include a letter detailing their plan for support of the proposed project.

Applications may include up to two Co-Principal Investigators (PIs). If Co-PIs are proposed, the proposal must include a clear statement describing their complementary expertise and the distribution of responsibilities between them. Similarly, the role of any co-investigators on the project team should be clearly described.

Deadline: Proposals are due **by 5 pm (Pacific Standard Time) Monday, November 2, 2026**. Late applications will not be accepted. Awards will be announced before the end of the calendar year.

Review: A multidisciplinary faculty Selection Committee will review the proposals and recommend funding priorities to the Chair of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine. The selection criteria for evaluation will be a combination of the following criteria:

- (1) the scientific merit and impact of the proposal*;
- (2) the degree of innovation and novelty of the proposed research or quality improvement project in improving the evaluation and treatment of survivors of TBI or prevention of future TBIs;
- (3) the extent that interdisciplinary collaboration is included in the proposal; and
- (4) the feasibility of the proposed research/QI project given the available resources and mentorship plan (if applicable). All resources available to the project should be detailed in the budget.

*Impact is defined by having the potential to significantly advance novel and innovative approaches to the evaluation and clinical care of TBI, strengthen TBI policy research aimed at TBI prevention, enhance long-term care and support of patients and their families, and/or generate preliminary data that will increase competitiveness for future grant funding.

Applicants are advised to write their proposal at a level accessible to a generalist reviewer, who will not necessarily be an expert in the specific area of study. Consultants may also be enlisted to review the proposals should the Selection Committee deem this to be necessary.

Budgets: A one-to-two year proposal for an award up to \$10,000 will be reviewed. The maximum proposal budget is \$10,000, regardless of whether proposal is for 1 or 2 years; proposals for less than \$10,000 are welcome if appropriate for study aims. Awarded budgets may be adjusted based on merit and availability of funds. Selected proposals involving human subjects or animals must provide evidence of institutional review board approval before funds can be released.

Questions: Questions regarding the application procedure should be directed to the Chair of the Selection Committee (Kati Pagulayan, PhD; email: farkat@uw.edu).

Application Procedure: Please follow these instructions to ensure that your application is received and reviewed. Submit your proposal as a single .pdf file containing all sections below to the following email: adlertbigrant@uw.edu. Title your email and the file as follows: YOUR NAME_TBI Research Grant 2026.

The proposal should include the following. All page limits refer to single-sided, single-spaced, Arial font size 11, and ¾" margins.

a. Cover letter (1 page maximum)

Include (a) the title of the project, (b) the applicant's Department affiliation(s) and position/appointment, (c) a description of the applicant's engagement in clinical care of

- survivors of the full range of TBIs, (d) the relationship between the applicant and any mentors (if applicable), and (e) signatures of the applicant and mentor (if applicable).
- b. Letter from Mentor(s) outlining their mentoring plan and relationship (1 page maximum)
 - c. CV of both the applicant(s) and Mentor(s)
 - d. **Description of the Research Plan** (3 pages maximum)
 - 1) An introduction and rationale, including a statement regarding the applicant's experience with and commitment to the evaluation and treatment of TBI.
 - 2) Objectives (including specific hypotheses to be tested, if appropriate).
 - 3) Procedures, including a time schedule.
 - 4) Plan for analysis of results.
 - e. **Budget and Budget Justification** (1 page maximum)

If you request money for equipment, please describe where the equipment will be stored/used after your study. If you are planning to use this award to supplement another award, please describe the other funding (agency, amount, and how this award relates to the project). Please also include budget for conference attendance for dissemination of results.
 - f. **Literature cited** (1 page maximum)