

TDD Research Pathways Grant

Requests for Applications

Funding Year - January 1, 2027

DATE OPEN: July 31, 2026 | APPLICATION DEADLINE: October 2, 2026 5PM EST

I. Overview

The TANGO2 Research Foundation (T2RF) supports researchers and scientists at various stages of their careers in order to advance the understanding of TANGO2 deficiency disorder (TDD) and its basic disease mechanisms, identify innovative approaches to therapeutics, and develop strategies that support individuals living with TDD. T2RF seeks to fund talented young investigators during this critical phase of their scientific training. T2RF aims to inspire a long-standing commitment to TDD research which in turn will support efforts to fulfill the foundation's mission enthusiastically.

A. Important Dates

The proposed schedule of events subject to the RFA is outlined below:

Public notice	July 31, 2026
Deadline for questions	August 18, 2026
Deadline for applications	October 2, 2026 5pm (EST)
Estimated Notice of Award	December 4, 2026
Project Start Date	January 1, 2027

II. Introduction

For close to a decade, The T2RF has been successful in carrying out its mission to fund innovative basic, clinical and translational research conducted by talented investigators worldwide. T2RF has awarded a little over \$1.3 million since its inception, funding projects that have the potential to advance the field and have an impact on individuals living with TDD as quickly as possible.

The **TDD Research Pathways Grant** empowers early-career investigators; including undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, residents, and clinical/research fellows, who are committed to advancing scientific understanding and improving outcomes for individuals living with TDD.

This grant provides funding to support pilot projects, innovative research initiatives, and engagement in TDD-focused studies, fostering the professional development of the next generation of TDD researchers. Through this program, scholars gain mentorship, access to the T2RF research community, and opportunities to contribute to collaborative efforts that bridge research, clinical care, and patient-centered outcomes.

By investing in early-career scientists, the T2RF TDD Research Pathways Grant seeks to cultivate a pipeline of skilled investigators who will drive meaningful discoveries, enhance translational research, and strengthen the global TDD community.

T2RF reminds prospective applicants that the priority areas of interest exist to encourage submissions on a topic, not to limit submissions to the specified priority topics. T2RF welcomes proposals on all topics related to TDD that fall within the guidelines of the grant program. This funding cycle the foundation has identified these priority topics for proposals:

- A. Understanding cellular response to therapeutics (e.g. drug, nutrition, and gene therapies)
- B. Optimizing nutrition in those affected by TDD (e.g. optimization of B vitamins)
- C. Understanding, managing and avoiding the life-threatening symptoms of TDD (e.g. metabolic crises, rhabdomyolysis)
- D. Improving affected patients' function, quality of life, and independence (e.g. language, behavior, movement and neurological symptoms of TDD)
- E. Development and Validation of Process Outcome Measures

Suitable research topics may focus on the following. *Examples include but are not limited to:*

- A. Cellular and molecular mechanisms disrupted in TDD
- B. Development and characterization of novel animal (vertebrate or invertebrate), cellular, and computational models
- C. Biomarker discovery or development
- D. Therapeutic target identification and validation (e.g. B5, other vitamins quantity/rate)
- E. Bioinformatics, machine learning, and other computational biology approaches applied to existing TANGO2 clinical, imaging, or -omics datasets
- F. Development of novel diagnostics or clinical outcome measures, including digital tools for passive or active data collection.

III. Grant Specifics

A. Eligibility

Applicants worldwide are eligible to apply and must meet the following criteria:

1. Mentorship and Institutional Support

Applicants must demonstrate:

- A clear commitment to research aligned with the proposed project
- Appropriate institutional support
- Identification of a qualified mentor (an individual that has relevant contributions to TANGO2 Deficiency Disorder (TDD) or rare disease research (e.g., publications, presentations, or collaborations) who will provide active supervision and guidance throughout the project period

2. TDD Research Contributions and Commitment

Applicants must demonstrate:

- Relevant contributions to TANGO2 Deficiency Disorder (TDD) or rare disease research (e.g., publications, presentations, or collaborations), and/or a strong foundational interest in the field
- A clear plan for future research and meaningful contributions to advancing TANGO2 research

3. Eligible Applicants

Eligibility is inclusive of applicants across training levels and geographic locations. The scope of the proposed project and level of independence should be appropriate to the applicant's stage of training.

- **Early-Career Investigators**

Applicants with a PhD, MD, or equivalent doctoral degree who are engaged in postdoctoral research at an academic institution, teaching hospital, or nonprofit research institute; and:

- Within 10 years of obtaining their doctoral degree at the time of application, or
- Within 5 years of initiating rare disease research

- **Trainees (Undergraduate, Graduate, and Medical)**

Individuals currently enrolled in an accredited undergraduate, graduate (e.g., Masters, PhD or equivalent), or medical training program (including residency or clinical/research fellowship) are eligible to apply.

- **Transitional Applicants**

Current PhD candidates who will begin a postdoctoral appointment at a nonprofit institution no later than July 1, 2026 are eligible to apply.

- **Appointment Requirement**

For postdoctoral applicants, the appointment must extend through the full one-year funding period.

The T2RF is committed to increasing the diversity of the scientific workforce and encourages applications by researchers from underrepresented or historically excluded populations, those based outside of the U.S., not previously funded by the T2RF, as well as Early Stage Investigators as defined by the [National Institute of Health \(NIH\)](#).

B. Award

This funding cycle T2RF will fund projects via the following mechanism:

- **Award amount \$15,000 USD**

- Indirect costs are unallowable
- 1-year grant duration (1/1/2027 - 12/30/2027)
- No-cost extensions (NCE) can be requested and are subject to foundation approval.

C. Application

All grant applicants **must** submit an application. Applications will be accepted starting **August 3, 2026** through **October 2, 2026 5pm EST**. Applicants may submit **only one grant** application per cycle. **Multiple applications from the same institution are permitted; however, only one application per institution may be funded during a given grant cycle.**

Applicants will complete the T2RF TDD Research Pathways Grant for submission via Submittable. Applicants are reminded that non-conformity with application requirements can have serious consequences. T2RF may withdraw any application identified during the receipt, referral and review process that does not conform with the instructions. The following information will be requested in the full application and shall not exceed 7 pages, excluding NIH formatted Biosketches and cited references.

Applicant Information

Full Name, credentials, title

Current academic/medical Institution and mailing address

Email address

Phone number

Project Title

Career Purpose: Why did you come into Rare Disease research? What are your future plans in the field? (Please limit to one-page or 500 words max)

TANGO2 Community Interaction: Describe your engagement activities with the TANGO2 community, and/or TANGO2 Research Foundation? Has the applicant met with the TANGO2 community in person, collaborated or plans to collaborate, engaged or plans to engage in any TANGO2 activities (e.g. fundraise(d), subscribe(d) to T2RF newsletter, view(ed) any T2RF content via its website, social medias, YouTube channel or Research Learning Network, a committee member, attend(ed) a T2RF virtual or in-person event)? (Please limit to one-half page or 250 word max)

Project Lay Summary: (not to exceed 7-10 sentences)

Project Abstract: Outline the planned research. Please include anticipated timelines for the project, as well as, anticipated pitfalls and alternate strategies (Please limit to one-page or 500 words max)

Background: Include the problem and/or what research question is being addressed, its significance, prior or concurrent studies conducted, and any preliminary work the investigator and/or mentor has already completed on this subject. Please specify if human subjects, live vertebrate animals, biological agents or recombinant DNA will be involved in the study and if approval for the study is in place through the Institutional Review Board, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Radiation Safety Committee, and/or the Institutional Biosafety Committee. (Not to exceed one-half page or 250 words max)

Hypothesis or Statement of Work: A statement outlining the question to be answered or the premise to be investigated. Clearly state the hypothesis being tested and the corresponding proposed specific aim(s). (Please limit to one-half page or 250 words max)

Methods: Methods Include a precise description of the methods of data collection, analysis and research model to be used. Describe the procedures and methodology that will be used to accomplish the specific aims of the proposed project. Specify the planned number of patients or experiments or observations to be evaluated to prove or disprove the hypothesis with power analysis. (**Note:** A grant submitted without this information will not be eligible for review.) Methods should be described in sufficient detail to allow reviewers to critically appraise their scientific merit. (Please limit to two-pages or 1,000 words max)

Budget & Narrative: How do you plan to utilize the funding from this grant? Provide a brief and succinct budget and budget justification. The budget narrative should breakdown costs for each of the major cost categories (i.e., salary, fringe benefits, equipment, supplies, and other direct costs). Describe each line item in the budget and show the calculations used to derive the costs. Expenses should be justified in the context of the project. List any other funding sources that will be applied to this project. (Not to exceed 1 page or 500 words max)

Funding Restrictions - T2RF TDD Research Pathways Grant funds cannot be used for the following:

- Starting a new business
- Paying back loans
- School tuition/housing
- Registry maintenance or development
- Fundraising
- Personal use of goods or services
- Travel costs
- Equipment (more than \$3,000 USD)
- Facilities and Administration (F&A) costs
- Visas and/or Passports

- Research Patient Care
- Membership dues
- Conference, symposium, or meeting registration fees

Compliance Statement (Not to exceed 2-3 sentences) - Please provide a statement outlining the compliance practice for your proposed project highlighting if this work was approved by the appropriate governing bodies.

Research Compliance Bodies:

- The **Institutional Review Board (IRB)** functions to assure that research involving human subjects is carried out in an ethical manner. The principles of respect for persons, beneficence, and justice will prevail in IRB review of research involving human subjects.
- The **Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)** oversees the Animal Care and Use Program, Vertebrate Animal Housing and Facilities, and Live Vertebrate Animal Procedures.
- The **Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)** provides guidance to researchers who use biological agents or recombinant DNA within the scope of their work.
- The **Radiation Safety Committee** has the responsibility to oversee projects utilizing radioactive materials or radiation sources.

Project Timeframe: Is your project a subset of a larger project? How confident are you that it can be completed within the one year timeframe? Detail the timeline of your proposed project. If your project is a subset of a larger project, then justify how your portion can be completed within one year. (Please limit to one-half page or 250 words max)

Conflict of Interest (Not to exceed 2-3 sentences) - All Investigators are required to disclose their outside financial interests related to the proposed project at the time of application submission, on an annual basis in the event the project is funded and on an ad hoc basis as changes in their situation arise.

Mentor Statement: Please provide a mentor statement. Only one (1) mentor statement is required. Mentor statements should be uploaded to Submittable as a pdf document on institution letterhead.

Biosketch - Please attach a Biographical Sketch/Curriculum Vitae (CV) in [NIH format](#). T2RF staff and reviewers utilize the biosketch to ensure that individuals included on the applications are equipped with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research.

References: List relevant references.

D. Review & Application Scoring

The T2RF internal review committee of professionals and TDD family stakeholders will review full applications. **Two applicants will be funded per grant cycle.** Full proposals will be scored using the established rubric below. Notice of awards for full proposals will be made via email from the T2RF Research Director in December 2026.

Criteria for Evaluation of the Proposals Refer to RFA for more detailed information.	Possible Points
Researcher Evaluation Relevant Education & Training - 10 Points Possible Environment - 5 Points Possible Related Publications - 5 Points Possible	20
Scientific Approach Feasibility & Assessment of Project Summary - 25 Points Possible	25
Impact and Innovation Significance Of Proposed Project Within: Specific Disease State - 20 Points Possible Rare Disease Community - 5 Points Possible	25
Purpose / Patient Engagement Purpose & Future of Pursuing Rare Disease Research - 5 Points Possible Patient & Family Engagement - 5 Points Possible Relationship to Patient Advocacy Organization - 5 Points Possible	15
Budget Justification Budget Explanation - 15 Points Possible	15
Total	100

E. General Rules & Award Conditions

Acceptance of a TANGO2 Research Foundation (T2RF) Research Grant constitutes agreement to the following terms and conditions:

1. Progress Reporting

- The Principal Investigator (PI)/awardee is required to provide periodic written progress updates to the T2RF Research Committee throughout the award period. T2RF may also request brief virtual or written updates to discuss project progress, milestones, challenges, and anticipated next steps.

2. Final Report

- Within 60 days of the project end date, the PI/awardee must submit a final scientific report summarizing the project's objectives, accomplishments, key findings, challenges, and future directions. A financial summary of how award funds were utilized may also be requested.

3. Sharing of Research Findings

- T2RF is committed to fostering collaboration and accelerating research progress. Upon request, awardees agree to share project updates, preliminary findings, and final results with the T2RF Research Committee, other T2RF-funded investigators, and the TANGO2 community through appropriate channels, including presentations, webinars, scientific meetings, publications, or community forums, when scientifically and ethically appropriate.

4. Acknowledgment of Funding

- All publications, presentations, abstracts, posters, and other scholarly products resulting from work supported by this award must acknowledge funding from the TANGO2 Research Foundation.

5. Project Changes

- Significant changes to the project's scope, research aims, timeline, Principal Investigator, institution, or budget require prior written approval from the TANGO2 Research Foundation.

6. Award Termination

- If the PI/awardee or institution is unable to complete the proposed research project, or if the project is terminated before completion for any reason, the TANGO2 Research Foundation must be notified promptly in writing.

7. Return of Unexpended Funds

- In the event a project is discontinued, terminated, or cannot be completed, any unexpended or unobligated award funds must be returned to the TANGO2 Research Foundation within 60 days of project termination, unless otherwise approved in writing by T2RF.

8. Compliance

- The PI/awardee and sponsoring institution are responsible for ensuring that all research supported by this award is conducted in accordance with applicable institutional policies and all federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including obtaining and maintaining all required ethical and regulatory approvals.

9. Communication and Collaboration

- Awardees are encouraged to maintain open communication with T2RF throughout the award period and to participate in collaborative activities that advance the Foundation's mission of accelerating research and improving outcomes for individuals living with TANGO2 Deficiency Disorder.

[Submit an application for a TDD Research Pathways Grant](#)