Northwestern Medicine®
Northwestern Memorial Foundation

ALVIN H. BAUM FAMILY FUND
ALVIN H. BAUM CLINICAL SIMULATION RESEARCH GRANTS INITIATIVE
FISCAL YEAR 2027
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Electronic copies of applications are to be submitted to jbarsuk@northwestern.edu

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Friday, October 2, 2026 by 5:00 pm CDT

Investigators seeking assistance in identifying collaborations or specific simulation-related research resources should contact Dr. Jeffrey Barsuk via email at jbarsuk@northwestern.edu

Introduction

Northwestern Memorial Foundation (NMF) in collaboration with the **Alvin H. Baum Family Fund** announces the availability of a 2-year grant supporting work in the field of simulation designed to enhance healthcare reliability for Northwestern Medicine (NM) medical and nursing staffs, management, and trainees. These awards are intended to enhance the mission and strategic plan of Northwestern Medicine as a health system for world-class care, in addition to helping NMF achieve the following goals to inspire continued philanthropy:

- Enable distinguished NM and Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine (FSM) clinical, research, educational and community service programs through the strategic allocation and use of funding from Baum and other donors.
- Provide exemplary stewardship of Baum funding and other donor funds, administered through NMF.
- Generate extraordinary philanthropic support by matching the generous intent of NM supporters with NM needs.
- Exemplify institutional values throughout the culture and organization of NM.

Objectives of the Alvin H. Baum Clinical Simulation Research Grants Initiative

The Alvin H. Baum Clinical Simulation Research Grants Initiative is seeking proposals that provide unique hypothesis-driven projects that have the potential to improve clinical care via simulation-based training, the use of simulation to evaluate the clinical environment, and the development of novel technologies to emulate the clinical environment. Simulation in healthcare has consistently been applied to enhance healthcare reliability. Simulation training impacts culture and processes that radically reduce sub-optimal diagnosis and/or therapy and enable effective response when conditions that may adversely affect outcomes occur. All projects must be executed at NM facilities.

Award Specifics

Only one project submission will be accepted from each Principal Investigator.

Research projects especially encouraged are those that will advance clinical care in the following ways:

- Simulation-based research that involves patient-centered outcomes.
- Simulation-based interventions which impact clinical outcomes.
- Simulations in the clinical environment that inform quality and safety leadership.
- Assessment of health care providers that are interdisciplinary in nature and target quality and safety goals.
- Simulation involving health care providers that explore the cognitive aspects of the delivery of highly reliable care.
- Simulation assessing health care providers' performance over time.

Ideal proposals will incorporate outcomes that are: 1) clinically meaningful, and 2) experienced by patients.

Review Criteria:

Ideal proposals will clearly demonstrate the following elements:

- The proposal is **hypothesis-driven.**
- The proposal **describes the metrics** to be used to assess the proposal's success.
- The proposal represents a **unique opportunity** for innovation and recognition.
- The investigator has identified an **appropriate infrastructure** to conduct the project.
- The proposed research has the potential to lead to **meaningful impact** on clinical care.
- The proposal provides a **clear definition** of objectives, a schedule of steps and/or processes with a corresponding timeline and the anticipated end products or results.
- The proposed research can be accomplished in **24 months**.
- The proposal should include a **clear statement** of how the project will support the goals and objectives of Northwestern Medicine.
- The project has the potential to be **published** in peer-reviewed journals and/or **replicated** at other institutions.

Scoring Procedures
Each grant application will be evaluated by at least two reviewers and will be assigned a score based on how well the application aligns with the Baum Fund's and Northwestern Memorial Hospital's (NMH) priorities for quality improvement and patient safety.

Award Details

Eligibility: Applications will be accepted from all NMH-affiliated medical staff or non-physician staff. PhDs may apply, but collaboration with a medical faculty co-principal investigator affiliated with NMH is strongly encouraged.

Funding Level: Grants will be awarded for a two-year (24 month) period to a maximum of $50,000 total.

Project Description: These awards are focused on providing funding to support original and innovative simulation-based research opportunities that are scientifically promising or have potential to advance Northwestern Medicine strategies. Ideal simulation proposals should challenge existing paradigms of clinical practice, explore an innovative hypothesis, or address critical barriers to reliable healthcare. Proposals should also develop or employ novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools, or technologies for an area.

This award is not limited to a specific clinical or research domain.

Budget Restrictions:

1. Indirect Costs: No indirect costs will be funded, including but not limited to space. Costs associated with the use of the simulation lab are acceptable.

2. Travel and Food: Travel and food will not be funded unless they are a vital component to the project's success. Travel expenses must comply with NMs travel spending policies, which limits total travel expenditures to $1,500 per trip per person.

3. Salary Support: Salary support for investigators to directly work on their proposal is appropriate to include in budget requests. Salary support for positions including, but not limited to research assistants, technicians, and analysts will also be accepted in budget requests.

4. Capital Equipment: Requests for capital equipment will be scrutinized and will require substantial justification. Requests for simulator-related equipment are acceptable.

5. If applicable, the budget can include estimates for using the space, equipment and/or services at the Feinberg School of Medicine's Simulation Lab. For a cost estimate, email simed@northwestern.edu.

Proposal Format

All proposals should be no more than 3 pages (excluding references and attachments) and include the following information:

I. Project Overview–THREE PAGES MAXIMUM (excluding references and attachments)

a. Project Title (200 characters including spaces)
b. Significance: Project Introduction and Background. Include a statement of how the project will advance NM's Mission and the Alvin H. Baum Clinical Simulation Research Grants Initiative objectives
c. Project Aims and Hypothesis
d. Innovation
e. Scientific Methods (Expected Outcomes and How Each Outcome will be Measured)
f. Potential Limitations
g. References

II. Required Attachments (do not count toward 3 pages)

a. Attachment 1: Project Timeline
b. Attachment 2: Detailed Project Budget signed by appropriate Department or Division Leader. Include description of resources needed and intended use of funding. Also include additional current and pending sources of funding for this project, if any.
c. Attachment 3: Curricula Vitae or Biosketches of Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator(s)

Deadline: The application submission deadline is **Friday, October 2, 2026 by 5:00 P.M. CDT.** If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Jeffrey Barsuk at jbarsuk@northwestern.edu.

Grant Award: Notification letters will be sent to all applicants. If the project is selected for funding, the letter will indicate if additional documentation or steps are required prior to the initiation of the project. **The grant period is January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2028.**

Upon award notification, grant awardees will be asked to obtain Institutional Review Board (IRB) and/or Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) approval, if applicable.

Grant funds will be transferred from NMF to the PI's Department. Fifty percent funding is expected to be available in January 2027. The remaining 50% will be granted upon receipt of an interim progress report showing acceptable progress, with receipt of the second installment of funds in January 2028.

Program Administration: The Alvin H. Baum Clinical Simulation Research Grants Initiative will be administered by NMF. Any changes in scope, budget, and personnel must be submitted in writing to Martha O'Connell, philanthropy program director, NMF, Martha.OConnell@nm.org

Stewardship: A brief interim report will be required at or about the mid-point of the project. The interim report (1-2 pages) will be produced in cooperation with and submitted to NMF by November 1, 2027. This report will be created on an NMF template and include the outcome and progress to date of the project along with budget versus expenditure information. A final report will also be required near the end of the second year of funding in 2028. Stewardship accountability reports will be shared with the Alvin H. Baum Family Fund. Near the middle of the grant term, Baum Fund may request demonstrations of projects on site at the hospital where projects are underway. Reporting requirements are subject to change.

Publications: Publications resulting from this work are to acknowledge the support of the "Alvin H. Baum Clinical Simulation Research Grants Initiative."

Presentations: Grant recipients may be asked to present their project findings at an NMF meeting or event.