

BAUM FAMILY FOUNDATION

ALVIN H. BAUM CLINICAL SIMULATION RESEARCH GRANTS INITIATIVE

FISCAL YEAR 2026 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Friday, December 5, 2025 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 and will help NMF achieve the following specific goals:

- 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 NMF resources.
- Provide exemplary stewardship of donor funds and all funds granted through NMF.
- Generate extraordinary philanthropic support by matching the generous intent of NM supporters with NM needs.
- Assure NM institutional values throughout the culture and organization of NMF.

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, impacting culture and processes that radically reduce sub-optimal diagnosis and/or therapy and effectively respond when conditions which may adversely affect outcomes do occur.

Award Specifics

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

Research projects especially encouraged are those that would 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 which inform quality and safety leadership.
- Assessment of health care providers which are interdisciplinary in nature and target quality and safety goals.
- Simulation involving health care providers which 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 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 Foundation'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 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 category 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 NMF's 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. The budget must include estimates for using the space, equipment and/or services at **Northwestern Simulation (Feinberg School of Medicine)**. For an estimate of cost, 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 NMF'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.
- c. Attachment 3: Curricula Vitae or Biosketches of Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator(s)

Deadline: The application submission deadline is **Friday, December 5, 2025 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 was selected for funding, the letter will indicate if additional documentation or steps are required prior to the initiation of the project.

These steps include:

- Following receipt of 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 2026. The remaining 50% will be granted upon receipt of an interim progress report due November 1, 2026, with receipt of the second installment of funds in January 2027.

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 manager, NMF, Martha.OConnell@nm.org

Stewardship: A brief interim report will be requested 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, 2026. This report will be created on the template supplied by NMF 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 2027. Stewardship accountability reports will be shared with the Alvin H. Baum Family Fund. 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.