



Executive Summary

Scores of promising drug targets never move out of academia because investigators lack the resources, expertise and funding needed to convert their research discoveries into viable drug candidates. To overcome this challenge, the University of Rochester, University at Buffalo and Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center entered into a \$47 Million partnership with Empire State Development to form Empire Discovery Institute. Our mission is to accelerate the translation of academic innovation into commercially viable drug candidates and life-saving therapies. By bridging the gap between academia and the pharmaceutical industry, we provide researchers with the support and infrastructure to advance their discoveries, while offering investors access to a pipeline of high potential, de-risked assets ready for development. As CEO, Ron Newbold leads a team of world-class Advisory Board members with extensive pharmaceutical industry expertise and a proven track record of translating discoveries through the early stages of development to clinical proof of concept and commercialization.

The **Medicines Discovery Award Program** is a competitive incubator and accelerator program designed to identify and advance promising early stage discoveries from its three founding academic research institutions into viable drug candidates for commercialization. Successful projects exit as either negotiated licensing transaction to strategic partner or as a startup company.

Funding and Support

Projects accepted into this program will potentially be eligible to receive:

- Between \$250,000 and \$7.5M in total program support over 5 years, reviewed annually (includes salary, fringe benefits and cost of materials)
- Access to EDI's Advisory Board, strategic partners and consultant network
- Drug discovery and development expertise
- Project management and planning
- Business development and product commercialization
- Company incorporation and management
- Clinical development strategy, intellectual property, regulatory strategy, and IND preparation
- External program financing through venture capital or strategic pharma investments

Empire Discovery Institute's Advisory Board review the applications and determine which investigators will receive invitations to the oral presentation stage. The selected investigators will give a 30-minute oral presentation followed by a 30-minute Q&A session. Presentations are graded on a "[Market-back, Science-forward](#)" set of criteria. Those investigators accepted into the Program will receive a written invitation by Empire Discovery Institute.

Stage Of Discovery & Development



Programs of Interest

EDI is interested in programs that provide novel insights into the pathways and molecular determinants of human disease. Ideally, the research area should have the potential for the creation of new and novel "composition of matter" patents. EDI is agnostic to the therapeutic modality and is interested in the development of small molecules, biologics (peptides, proteins, and antibodies), oligonucleotide (RNA, DNA based therapies), vaccines, and gene and cell-based therapies. Preferred research areas have a clear mechanism of action or possess a well-defined genetic basis for the underlying condition. Research projects with a strong biomarker component are highly desirable. Programs in the fields of cancer, neurological diseases/CNS conditions and platform technologies with therapeutic potential across multiple diseases are of particular interest. Investigators working in the rare and orphan diseases are also encouraged to apply.

Eligibility

Investigators must hold a full-time faculty position at the University of Rochester, University at Buffalo, or Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center.

For More Information

Molly Mesko
Director of Portfolio Development & Alliance Management
Email: meskom@discoverEDI.org
Website: <https://www.discoveredi.org/mdap>