The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) announces a third funding cycle of its Back to Bedside initiative to begin July 1, 2022. The aim of Back to Bedside is to empower residents and fellows to develop transformative projects that foster meaning and joy in work and allow them to engage on a deeper level with what is at the heart of medicine: their patients. Ultimately, the goal of this initiative is to improve clinical learning environments in equitable and impactful ways with lessons that can be broadly disseminated and solutions that can be implemented at multiple institutions.

This cycle of award funding will include a novel multi-institutional arm, with the intent of studying a previously successful intervention in the spirit of Back to Bedside across different education and clinical learning settings and with a larger population of residents and fellows. One multi-institutional project will be funded during this first iteration and will be overseen by a Project Leader, to be selected through a competitive application process.

**Key Dates**

- Announcement and release of Letter of Intent: **November 1, 2021**
- **Letter of Interest submission deadline**: **December 1, 2021**
- Interview invitations and formal RFP offered: **December 15, 2021**
- RFP submission deadline: **February 9, 2022**
- Interviews: **February 15-16, 2022**
- Notification of selected Project Leader: **February 28, 2022**
- Public announcement and call for participating sites: **March 7, 2022**
- Participating site application deadline: **April 4, 2022**
- Participating site selection notification: **May 9-13, 2022**
- Participating site acceptance deadline: **May 16, 2022**
Opportunity Description
The ACGME seeks proposals for funding awards to support a two-year, multi-program project studying the implementation of a resident- or fellow-developed intervention to improve, foster, or cultivate meaning in clinical learning environments by enhancing contact with patients. This proposal must be based on a previously impactful single-institution or single-program intervention in the spirit of the ACGME’s Back to Bedside initiative.

Requirements for Proposed Activity
Initiative Goal: Evaluate, across multiple programs, a resident- and/or fellow-led project designed to improve meaning in daily work by helping residents and fellows get back to their patients’ bedsides. Eligible projects must have:

- been in the spirit of Back to Bedside, i.e., focused on enhancing joy and meaning in graduate medical education by increasing meaningful contact between residents/fellows and patients (see FAQs for details);
- been designed and led by a resident or fellow;
- been focused on interaction between residents/fellows and patients; and,
- been demonstrated to be successful in enhancing meaningful contact between residents/fellows and their patients.

Project Leader - Description and Responsibilities
The Project Leader will be selected through a competitive, multi-stage process, beginning with this Letter of Interest. The Project Leader must:

- have previously engaged meaningfully as a resident or fellow in a project meeting the above criteria;
- have a well-developed vision of how the previous project will scale to multiple programs;
- be a junior faculty member at Assistant Professor rank or lower and less than 10 years from completion of post-graduate education; and,
• be able to devote 0.05 FTE to administrative duties, which will be funded at five percent of the NIH salary cap (currently $199,300).

Once selected, the Project Leader will work alongside the Back to Bedside Work and Advisory Group to create a call for and to select additional participating programs. Of note, one of the participating programs must be at the Project Leader’s home site; note that the Project Leader will have the option to act as a Faculty Mentor or select a different individual for this role (see FAQ for a description of the Faculty Mentor role).

Once the funding cycle begins on July 1, 2022, the Project Leader will be primarily responsible for overseeing the implementation of the project across all participating programs. This will include orienting participating programs to the aim of Back to Bedside and details of the project; monitoring project progress and fund utilization; assisting in overcoming obstacles; collecting and analyzing data; and coordinating dissemination of project outcomes.

All Back to Bedside awardees will receive mentorship and education from the ACGME in the form of semi-annual Learning Collaboratives held at the ACGME office in Chicago, Illinois. These interactive gatherings are designed to build necessary skills for project management and implementation, as well as opportunities for networking and collaboration with other awardees, and with leaders from the ACGME. The final Collaborative will be held at the 2024 ACGME Annual Educational Conference.

The Project Leader must attend all scheduled Collaborative meetings and the 2024 ACGME Annual Educational Conference. The Project Leader must also provide regular updates to the Back to Bedside Work and Advisory Group, on at least a quarterly basis.

Submission Instructions

Use the template below to draft your Letter of Interest and submit final answers via THIS SURVEY by 11:59 p.m. on December 1, 2021. Late submissions will not be accepted.
Back to Bedside Cycle 3
Letter of Interest Template
Multi-Program Project Leader

Name:
Specialty:
Position/Title:
Number of Years as Faculty:
Address:
Email (permanent):
Phone:

I am able to fulfill the responsibilities of the multi-program Project Leader with 0.05 FTE support from the ACGME to include:
- Completion of the project Request for Proposal (due February 9, 2022)
- Participation in virtual application interview (February 15-16, 2022)
- Management of project implementation at all participating programs
- Central data management and analysis for all project programs
- Frequent communication with participating programs and the Back to Bedside Work and Advisory Group
- Dissemination of outcomes of this project, with peer-reviewed scholarly work being preferred
- Participation in ACGME publicity of this novel effort

[ ] Yes  [ ] No

Previous Project Details:

Project Title:
Project Start Date:
Project Completion Date (may indicate ongoing):

During what year(s) in residency/fellowship did you participate in this project? Also describe your role. (maximum 100 words)

Briefly describe your project. (maximum 250 words)
List project outcomes. These may include data from project metrics, as well as subsequent scholarly work (papers, presentations, etc.) or other publicity (media/press mentions, social media coverage, etc.).

Describe how your project enhanced resident/fellow contact with patients and meaning in work, including any outcome measures if applicable. (maximum 250 words)

**Multi-Program Project Details:**
Describe how you will generalize your intervention to multiple programs. (maximum 200 words)

Describe how will you ensure projects remain resident-/fellow-led at participating programs. (maximum 200 words)

How many programs do you anticipate including?

Describe basic characteristics or inclusion/exclusion criteria you will use to choose participating programs.

Do you anticipate any changes to your original project based on lessons learned? Please describe. (maximum 200 words)