



The Gillian Reny
STEPPING STRONG
Center for Trauma Innovation

2019 Stepping Strong Explorer Grants

The Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center for Trauma Innovation announces the **2019 Stepping Strong Explorer Grants**. The awards provide funding to health care professionals and learners to help them develop their knowledge, networks and understanding of traumatic injury and identify subjects where they can pursue research and treatment ideas.

The Stepping Strong Center will review grant requests of up to \$2000, to cover expenses in two areas - to attend standard scientific/medical conferences or to offset expenses related to an individual's training, such as costs related to medical school rotations outside of Boston. Expenses must be related to recognized medical, scientific or technical conferences or other training opportunities and the applicant must explain how the opportunity relates to their medical training or research areas. The Stepping Strong Center expects to provide up to five Explorer grants in 2019.

Stepping Strong's mission is to catalyze multidisciplinary collaborations that inspire groundbreaking innovation, effective prevention and compassionate intervention to transform trauma care for civilians and military heroes who endure traumatic injuries and events. SSCTI funds innovative projects that are patient-centric, with an emphasis on new approaches to research, better methods for training health care professionals, programs to educate society about traumatic injury and its prevention, and advocacy for traumatic injury research, prevention and awareness.

Eligibility:

- Health care professionals seeking learning opportunities, including post-docs, residents, clinical fellows and medical students in the Greater Boston area are invited to apply. Individuals may only be the recipient of one exploration grant annually
- Applicants must apply in advance of the event requiring support and may not receive support for events that have already occurred

Process

- Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis for all applicants
- Funds will be awarded on a competitive basis
- Applications will be evaluated and prioritized by The Stepping Strong Center leadership and its Medical Executive Committee on certain occasions
- No-cost extensions may be permitted under extenuating circumstances; unused funds will be returned to The Stepping Strong Center



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Grant Requirements

- Recipients will be obligated to provide a written report of activity to the Stepping Strong Center within six months and an oral presentation if requested by the Stepping Strong Center
- Grantees will notify the Stepping Strong Center if other grants are received as a result of activities undertaken with the exploration grant funding.
- Grantees will acknowledge The Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center for Trauma Innovation in publications resulting from exploration grant support and will notify the Stepping Strong Center when such papers have been submitted.

Applications

Should be submitted electronically using the online application.

- Applicant's full name, Department and Division, academic institution, other professional appointments, office or laboratory address, telephone numbers, e-mail address
- Specific description of request including trip purpose, conference/symposium name, training location/rotation information, organizational website and participant profile, any relevant event dates and a clear delineation of how the request will benefit the applicant (learn about new topics related to traumatic injury, network with peers, evaluate research opportunities) (limit 500 words).
- Applicant's curriculum vitae
- Detailed budget – typically awards will not exceed \$2000.

CONTACT

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About The Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center for Trauma Innovation

The Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center for Trauma Innovation has a mission to catalyze multidisciplinary collaborations that inspire groundbreaking innovation, effective prevention and compassionate intervention to transform trauma care for civilians and military heroes who endure traumatic injuries and events

Trauma is one of the most demanding global and under-recognized medical challenges in our nation. In the U.S. alone, traumatic injuries are the third leading cause of death across all age groups and the No. 1 cause of death for Americans between 1 and 44 years old. For those serving in the military, 82 percent of soldiers return from battle with at least one wounded limb. Yet, despite these dire statistics, trauma care research still only receives less than one percent of funding from the National Institutes of Health.

Stepping Strong was established in 2014 by the Reny and Epstein families, who were injured survivors of the Boston Marathon bombings and were grateful for their care at Brigham and Women's Hospital. The Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center for Trauma Innovation is a major initiative with a global vision to change how we think about traumatic injury. Through its support for trauma research, and collaboration, the center aims to move the field beyond the current paradigm and to translate new ideas directly to transform outcomes and improve patient's lives.

Since its inception, the Stepping Strong Center has taken a multidisciplinary approach to advancing research and clinical programs that allow BWH and Boston-area researchers to accelerate innovations in trauma care and saving lives. The **Stepping Strong Research Scholars** are engaged in exploring topics to advance bone and skin regeneration in trauma patients; the **Stepping Strong Innovator Awards** program supports groundbreaking projects that address clinical problems that impact both civilian and military patients; and the **Stepping Strong Plastic Surgery Trauma Fellowship** trains the next generation of plastic surgeons in advanced techniques for treating acute and complex traumatic injury. Our physician-scientists are collaborating with medical experts from world-class neighboring institutions, including Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), and Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), and our Medical Executive Committee consists of leading physicians and researchers from 11 academic institutions.

Stepping Strong's grants have proven to be the critical early stage funding that innovators and researchers have needed to launch or validate their innovative ideas. To date, Stepping Strong has provided \$3.3 million to twenty-one researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital in collaboration with area institutions like Massachusetts General Hospital, Children's Hospital and MIT. In just a few short years, several of those researchers have leveraged their Innovator Awards and other grants to secure major research grants from private philanthropy, corporations and federal agencies. In aggregate, our Innovator Award winners have raised an additional **\$14.6 million** in outside funding for their research.