



The Gillian Reny
STEPPING STRONG
Center for Trauma Innovation

2020 Stepping Strong Explorer Awards

The Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center for Trauma Innovation announces the **2020 Stepping Strong Explorer Program awards**. The Stepping Strong Explorer Program funds Massachusetts-based healthcare professionals seeking to develop their knowledge, networks, and understanding of traumatic injury; and to pursue innovative research and treatment ideas that may lead to improved outcomes for trauma patients.

The Stepping Strong Center will review grant requests of up to \$2,000 to cover expenses in two areas:

1. To attend standard scientific/medical conferences
2. To participate in training programs, such as medical school rotations or other educational activities, outside their home institution

Expenses must be related to recognized medical, scientific, or technical conferences or other training opportunities. The applicant must explain how the opportunity relates to their medical training or research interests. The Stepping Strong Center expects to provide up to five Explorer Program awards in 2020.

The mission of the Stepping Strong Center 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.

To learn more, visit BWHsteppingstrong.org.

Eligibility

- We welcome proposals from healthcare professionals, post-docs, residents, clinical fellows, and medical students based in Massachusetts.
- Individuals may receive only one Explorer Program grant annually.
- Applicants must apply in advance of the event requiring support and may not receive support for events that have already occurred.
- Preference will be given to applicants who are based, or who are planning to remain, in the Greater Boston area.

Process

- Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.
- Funds will be awarded on a competitive basis.
- Applications will be evaluated and prioritized by the Stepping Strong Center leadership team with support from the Stepping Strong Medical Executive Committee.
- 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 three months in order to receive reimbursement of expenses.
- Stepping Strong Center leadership may request an oral presentation.
- Recipients will notify the Stepping Strong Center if other grants are received as a result of activities undertaken with Explorer Program funding.
- Recipients will acknowledge The Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center for Trauma Innovation in publications resulting from Explorer Program grant support and will notify the Stepping Strong Center when such papers have been submitted.
- Recipients will attend major Stepping Strong Center events when possible.

Applications

Proposals should be submitted by email to steppingstrong@bwh.harvard.edu in one document that includes the following information:

- Applicant's full name, Department and Division, academic institution, other professional appointments, office or laboratory address, telephone numbers, email address
- Specific description (500 words or less) 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).
- Applicant's curriculum vitae
- Detailed budget (does not exceed \$2,000). Lines items may include airfare, hotel, registration fees, and food expenses. More detail may be required at time of reimbursement, so please plan to keep all paper and electronic receipts.

Contact

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About The Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center for Trauma Innovation

Trauma is one of the most demanding and under-recognized global 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 of age. For those serving in the military, 82 percent of personnel return from battle with at least one wounded limb. Yet, despite these dire statistics, trauma care research receives less than one percent of funding from the National Institutes of Health.

The Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center for Trauma Innovation was established in 2014 by the Reny and Epstein families following the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing tragedy to close this gap. Several members of the Reny family were injured, but none more than Gillian Reny, who suffered life-threatening injuries. Based on their personal experience, and in gratitude for their lifesaving care at the Brigham, the Renys and Epsteins are devoted to advancing trauma research and care, which remains a neglected, underfunded medical discipline.

A major initiative of Brigham and Women's Hospital, the Stepping Strong Center funds patient-centric, innovative projects with an emphasis on: (1) advancing new approaches to trauma research and clinical care; (2) training current and future generations of healthcare professionals in the treatment of complex traumatic injuries; (3) creating programs that educate society about traumatic injury and its prevention; and (4) furthering advocacy efforts to expand research, raise awareness, and prevent traumatic injuries from occurring.

Stepping Strong Center grants have proven to be the critical early stage funding that innovators and researchers have needed to launch or validate their innovative ideas. The Stepping Strong Center's model—bestowing seed grants to research teams that show great promise—has a proven track record, leading to better patient outcomes, and the potential for commercialization. To date, the endowed Stepping Strong Innovator Award program has provided **26** physician-scientist teams with grants totaling **\$3.8 million**. In aggregate, Stepping Strong Center awardees have raised nearly **20 million** in outside funding for their research.

Multidisciplinary collaboration is at the core of the Stepping Strong Center's mission and vision. Our physician-scientists work with medical experts from world-class neighboring institutions including Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston Children's Hospital, and the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. The Stepping Strong Medical Executive Committee consists of leading physicians and researchers from 15 academic institutions.