Regulations in biomedical therapies exist to balance public benefit with informed risk. Appropriately, these national policies and regulations should be supported by state-of-the-art science data and evidence.

But given the pace of innovation and fiscal realities, agencies often lack the resources to fully address each and every emerging regulatory question.

To support the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other U.S. and Canadian regulatory agencies in closing this gap, the Burroughs Wellcome Fund created the Innovation in Regulatory Science Award (IRSA).

IRSA offers investigators up to $500,000 over five years to develop innovative and implementable solutions to regulatory questions. Applications are open to U.S. and Canadian citizens or permanent residents who have a faculty or adjunct faculty appointment at a North American degree-granting institution.

Applicants must explain how their research will have direct implications for regulatory policy—including the strategy and timeline for an agency to receive and consider the findings in their regulatory decision-making, as well as any potential pitfalls and the major validation steps required. Beyond this, the possibilities are as limitless as the frontier of medical therapies. We invite collaborations and talents spanning mathematics, computer science, applied physics, medicine, engineering, toxicology, epidemiology, and systems pharmacology, and any other field spanning biomedical, biophysical, and biostatistical disciplines.

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund recognizes that regulatory science is an important, underserved area of research. We want to fund investigators who can anticipate and assess the future of health therapies and technologies—and strengthen the biomedical knowledge informing national regulatory decisions.

Please see bwfund.org/irs for complete guidelines.