

Prototyping and Characterization Core Facility Funding Announcement 2026 Murdock Trust Pilot Projects

The Prototyping and Characterization Core Facility (PROTECH) is excited to announce the availability of additional **Murdock Trust Pilot Project Awards** to support innovative research utilizing the **Nanoscribe Quantum X Bio 2-photon polymerization (2PP) 3D printer**.

Pilot project awards ranging from **\$4,000 to \$10,000** are available to promote the use of this state-of-the-art technology. The Quantum X Bio is among the world's most precise micro- and meso-scale 3D printers and offers advanced bioprinting capabilities, enabling researchers to fabricate highly complex structures with exceptional resolution.

We invite proposals that leverage this cutting-edge instrument to **design, develop, prototype, and validate** innovative applications across a wide range of disciplines, including biotechnology, the life and physical sciences, health sciences, the arts, and other fields where advanced micro- and meso-scale 3D printing can advance discovery, creativity, or innovation.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and reviewed as they are received. Funding will be awarded until available funds are exhausted or the final application deadline of August 31, 2026, whichever occurs first. Early submission is encouraged.

Key Dates

- Application period: Applications accepted/reviewed on rolling basis until Monday, August 31, 2026
- Project end date: Wednesday, September 30, 2026, with the possibility of extension if approved

Eligibility

- All tenured, tenured-track and research faculty, and postdoctoral researchers at the University of Montana and Missoula College are eligible to apply.
- Graduate student projects must be submitted through a faculty member who serves as mentor.

Application Details

- **Full Applications** (2-3 pages, excluding list of current support) **can be submitted at any time.**
 - Applications must include:
 - Project description that would include specific aims, background/significance, innovation, approach, and anticipated outcomes – 2 page limit
 - Budget & justification (\$10,000 max direct costs). Project funds can support PROTECH core costs (incl. 3D printing & staff labor, must be a minimum of 25% of total budget), a research assistant, and justifiable project-related costs (such as supplies & shipping) – 1 page limit
 - List of current support
 - Projects will be evaluated on the following criteria:
 - Uses PROTECH's Quantum X Bio 2PP 3D printer
 - Potential to be successful and produce a quantifiable outcome
 - Can be reasonably completed by project end date

Submit Application Materials to protech@umt.edu

- For project-related questions, contact PROTECH's Core Manager Joachim Veit at protech@umt.edu
- For budget-related questions, contact Heidi Boggs at heidi.boggs@umt.edu
- See additional information at www.umt.edu/protech