

Press release

National Institutes of Health Announces Phase 1 Winners and Launches Phase 2 of the \$6M TARGETED Challenge

NIH Advances Revolutionary Genome Editing Challenge with \$2.5M Prize Pool in Phase 2

SYDNEY, Australia - 14 DECEMBER 2023 – The United States National Institutes of Health (NIH) today opened the second phase of its [TARGETED \(Targeted Genome Editor Delivery\) Challenge](#).

Initially [announced in May 2023](#), the three-phase challenge is a US\$6M initiative supporting [NIH's Somatic Cell Genome Editing \(SCGE\)](#) commitment to developing targeted delivery systems to deliver genome editors to somatic (non-reproductive) cells of the body.

The TARGETED Challenge seeks to elevate in vivo delivery technologies for genome editors, focusing on two Target Areas: Programmable Delivery System for Gene Editing and Crossing the Blood-Brain Barrier.

In Phase 1, participants were asked to submit a proposal describing their solution and how it will address the requirements for one of the Target Areas. Phase 1 prizes have been [announced](#).

Now in Phase 2, participants must submit data from experimental testing that demonstrate delivery and editing performance as well as describe their methodology, technology, and how their solution addresses the Challenge criteria.

Participants can enter this phase without having entered the previous phase. Up to 10 winners of Phase 2 will be each awarded US\$250,000 and will be eligible to compete in Phase 3.

Submission Requirements

Phase 2 submissions will be required to address how the solution meets the solution requirements for the Target Area, provide detailed information about experimental results, and provide a description of the methodologies used. Submissions must include data from studies that demonstrate delivery and editing performance.

Registration Details

Participants may register for and compete in this Challenge in one of two ways: either as a Team (i.e., registering as a group of individuals competing together but not on behalf of an established organization, institution, or corporation), or as an Entity (i.e., registering as a group of individuals competing together on behalf of a legally established organization, institution, or corporation).

Key dates

12/13/23	Phase 2 Launch (Registration Open)
01/25/24	Informational Webinar
11/01/24	Registration Deadline
01/10/25	Submission Deadline
April 2025 (est.)	Winners Announced
April 2025 (est.)	Phase 3 Launch

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About the NIH SCGE Program

The NIH Common Fund's [Somatic Cell Genome Editing \(SCGE\)](#) program is working to improve the efficacy and specificity of gene editing approaches to help reduce the burden of common and rare diseases caused by genetic changes. SCGE is developing quality tools to perform and assess effective and safe genome editing in non-reproductive ("somatic") cells of the body. These research tools will be made widely available to the research community to reduce the time and cost required to develop new therapies.

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