BU IBRO ([www.bu.edu/research/ibro](http://www.bu.edu/research/ibro)) pyramids following Evans Center mechanisms ([http://www.bumc.bu.edu/evanscenteribr/](http://www.bumc.bu.edu/evanscenteribr/))

The Process

**ARC members to yet a new ARC?**
Members of a graduated ARC could assemble a new ARC, if the theme is novel and innovative.

**Graduated ARC to ARC-Program:** Graduated ARCs can become ARC programs based on securing extramural funding, and through an ARC-Program status create a new field of research at BU; Some funding is available to such successful ARC-programs for organizing a research retreat and workshops.

** ARC status and funding:** Once an ARC receives a high score, it is funded for a year; funding has ranged from 50-75K per year per ARC, depending on careful justification; Yearly reports are submitted; Funding can be renewed for up to 3 years pending yearly review with a rigorous set of criteria.

**Pre-ARC to ARC:** following “self selection” the pre-ARC decides, often in consultation with Dr. Ravid, whether to submit an ARC application (available in ECIBR or IBRO web sites); Applications are due in November each year; An ARC review panel, consisting of 9-12 senior investigators reviews and scores applications using NIH scaling; Reviewers are selected based on expertise in ARC research topics and in consultation with other BU leadership; Applicants are notified within 2 weeks, including constructive critiques;

**Pre-ARC:** A pre-ARC assembly is required, as it allows a group to explore in more depth a research theme via meetings or workshops etc. prior to applying for an ARC status and funding. During the pre-ARC phase, investigators approach Dr. Ravid with a suggested theme (at times, also vice versa), and Dr. Ravid meets with the group several times. Funding is available for pre-ARCs to organize meetings, seminars over a period of about six months;
The Content

**Metrics:** Yearly evaluation of ARCs is based on Scholarly output; relatively new (at BU) research areas and grouping; new grant proposals, including training grants; faculty and trainee research networking monitored by IBRO using research network analysis; collaborative work with the CTSI towards development of new diagnostic or therapeutic approaches.

**Research Plan** that: 1) is a compelling biomedical problem; 2) reflects an interdisciplinary approach to a new area, and includes plans for internal and external research interactions and communications; 3) has potential to endure beyond an initial three year funding period; 4) is the highest quality science; 5) has a training component; 6) could lead to additional collaborations in and outside BU; 7) does not duplicate an existing center, unit or program.

**IBRO ARC Leadership:** IBRO expects co-leadership of faculty from Med and CR Campuses.

**Interdisciplinary:** ARC consists of at least 5 active investigators; Membership of faculty from 3 or more BU departments and at least one department from the CRC and Medical Campuses of BU, including DOM; Range size of past ARCs: 7-21.

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K. Ravid, Director

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