OCRA | ovarian cancer research alliance

Request for Letters of Intent

Collaborative Research Development Grant

2021 Grantees

Purpose

Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance is requesting Letters of Intent for the 2021 Collaborative Research Development Grant. The purpose of this grantmaking program is to provide funds for ovarian cancer research projects that may involve several investigators within one institution or collaborations between groups in multiple institutions. Interdisciplinary collaborations are encouraged.

New this year, for applicants proposing a project that leverages AI: OCRA is partnering with Microsoft AI for Health, a philanthropic program at Microsoft, which offers access to advanced Microsoft Azure cloud computing and collaboration with data science experts for nonprofits, academia, and researchers working on ovarian cancer. Investigators proposing an AI-related project in their OCRA submission will be able to apply for a grant from Microsoft in the form of Azure computing credits, and in-kind data science support. This in-kind support from Microsoft will be in addition to the financial support from OCRA. For more information, follow this link: https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/ai/ai-for-health. For FAQs regarding this partnership between Microsoft and OCRA, please look under the Collaborative Research Development Grant section of the FAQs found here: https://ocrahope.org/research/for-grantees/grant-application-faq/.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

1. The Principal Investigator (one Principal Investigator must be selected) and other investigators must have full-time faculty appointments in a school of medicine or public health or recognized non-profit scientific research facility. They should not currently be in a training program. At least one key investigator must be a physician with expertise on ovarian cancer. International collaborations are welcome.
2. The selection committee will consider most favorably applications that are creative, original, and hold the most promise in the areas of screening and early detection, etiology and prevention, molecular therapeutics, cancer biology and genetics. Submissions that focus on health services research, quality of life, and epidemiology are also encouraged.
3. The primary review criteria will be the likelihood that the investigators can leverage this funding to establish a research team capable of performing high-impact research and competing successfully for additional funding.

If you have any questions about your eligibility, please contact us (see last page).

Terms of Award

Support of $300,000USD annually for three years ($900,000USD total) will be awarded to the institution(s) in which the recipients will conduct the research. Award recipients will be required to submit annual progress reports (narrative and financial) throughout the award cycle.   Narrative reports should include a description of results and how the work will be carried forward in the coming year. It is expected that the project will result in peer-reviewed publication(s). Any publications or presentations of work resulting from this award should acknowledge support from OCRA. After successful completion of the grant, applicants may be invited to apply for a one-time, one-year competitive grant extension of $300,000USD. *Successful applicants whose projects include support from Microsoft AI for Health will contract directly with Microsoft for the support of that part of their project.*

Selection Process

Letters of Intent will be reviewed by Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance's Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), which is comprised of distinguished members of the medical, research and patient advocacy community from across the United States. The majority of LOIs will be triaged at this stage; only a fraction (<40%) of those submitting LOIs will be invited to submit full proposals. *LOIs that indicate an interest in the Microsoft AI for Health opportunity will not be reviewed by the Microsoft AI for Heath team at this stage of the application process; they will only be reviewed by the OCRA SAC. LOIs that advance to the full proposal stage will be vetted by the AI for Health team as part of the full proposal selection process.*

Timeline

The submission deadline for LOIs is 5:00pm ET (GMT -4) on July 10, 2020. All applicants will be notified of their status in late August. For those selected to submit full proposals, full proposals will be due in late September 2020.

Application Process

Letters of Intent must be submitted in English via the [proposalCENTRAL website](http://www.proposalcentral.com) (http://www.proposalcentral.com) by 5:00pm ET (GMT -4) on July 10, 2020.

The proposalCENTRAL website is easy to use and will lead you through the completion of the application. We recommend you log into the website soon and familiarize yourself with the website as well as the required parts of the LOI.

The LOI must include basic contact information for the applicant, as well as a scientific abstract of the proposed research project, which should be presented in 6,000 characters or less (including spaces), as well as biosketches for all investigators. *Applicants interested in additional support from Microsoft AI for Health will be asked to indicate their interest by checking the corresponding box in proposalCENTRAL.* No figures, references, appendices, budgets or letters of recommendation are required or accepted at this stage. Approval for the care and use of animals in a laboratory setting will be verified at time of award

(do not include with LOI). If you are selected to submit a full application, we will request additional materials from you then. Each candidate may submit only one LOI per cycle.

Answers to frequently asked questions about the application process are available online here (https://ocrahope.org/research/for-grantees/grant-application-faq/).

Answers to frequently asked questions specifically about the Microsoft AI for Heath grant opportunity and the partnership between Microsoft and OCRA, please look under the Collaborative Research Development Grant section of the FAQs found here: https://ocrahope.org/research/for-grantees/grant-application-faq/.

Technical Support
If you are having technical problems with the proposalCENTRAL website, technical assistance is available from 8:30am – 5pm EST (GMT -4) by phone 800-875-2562 for toll-free in the U.S. and Canada or +1 703-964-5840 for direct dial international, and by email: pcsupport@altum.com.

Questions about the substantive aspects of the application should be directed to Natalie Alvarado (contact info below).

About OCRA
Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance (OCRA) is the leading organization in the world fighting ovarian cancer from all fronts, including in the lab and on Capitol Hill, while supporting women and their families. Visit ocrahope.org to learn more.

For inquiries or further information, please contact:

Natalie Alvarado
Manager, Grants and Programs
Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance
14 Penn Plaza, Suite 2110
New York, NY 10122
Telephone: (212) 268-1002
Fax: (212) 947-5652
E-mail: grants@ocrahope.org