



Request for Letters of Intent

Collaborative Research Development Grant – *Microsoft AI for Health*

2023 Grantees

Purpose

Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance is requesting Letters of Intent for the 2023 Collaborative Research Development Grant in partnership with Microsoft AI for Health. The purpose of this grantmaking program is to provide funds for ovarian cancer research projects using AI or machine learning that may involve several investigators within one institution or collaborations between groups in multiple institutions. Interdisciplinary collaborations are encouraged.

For this opportunity, OCRA is partnering with [Microsoft AI for Health](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/ai/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 challenges in the area of health, including ovarian cancer. Investigators funded through this grant opportunity have access to support 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, that leverage AI/machine learning, and that 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, and leverage the resources provided through Microsoft AI for Health.

4. Investigators who wish to apply for the Collaborative Research Development Grant that do NOT have an AI focus or do not wish to partner with Microsoft AI for Health should apply through the other Collaborative Research Development Grant application, which is also available on ProposalCENTRAL.

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

Terms of Grant

Support of up to \$300,000USD annually for three years (\$900,000USD total) will be awarded to the institution(s) in which the recipients will conduct the research. The CRDG-AI grant does require a partnership with Microsoft. If your grant does not have an AI component or you do not wish to partner with Microsoft AI for Health, you should apply for the CRDG and not the CRDG-AI. Grant recipients will be required to submit activation deliverables and annual progress reports (narrative and financial) throughout the grant cycle. It is expected that the project will result in peer-reviewed publication(s). Any publications or presentations of work resulting from this grant should acknowledge support from OCRA. *Successful applicants 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. LOIs will also be reviewed by a small group from Microsoft, which will consider the proposed project's fit with Microsoft's AI for Health capabilities. After this initial review, a small group of semi-finalists will be selected. Each semi-finalist may have a brief phone call (approx. 30 minutes) with a member of the OCRA SAC and representatives from MS AI for Health to discuss the project. A small group of finalists will then be selected and asked to submit a full proposal. The final grantee will be selected by the OCRA SAC.

We recognize that preparing a full application represents a significant amount of time and energy for investigators, and we believe this process will ensure that only those applications most likely to be competitive advance to the final round of the competition.

Timeline

The submission deadline for LOIs is 5:00pm ET on April 7, 2022. Late submissions and extension requests are not permitted. All applicants will be notified of their status in late May. For those selected to submit full proposals, full proposals will be due mid-June.

Application Process

Letters of Intent must be submitted in English via the [proposalCENTRAL website](https://proposalcentral.com/GrantOpportunities.asp?GMID=99) (<https://proposalcentral.com/GrantOpportunities.asp?GMID=99>) by 5:00pm ET on April 7, 2022.

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 must also complete the Supplementary Microsoft AI for Health document as an attachment. Please note that this document is made up of two parts: a fill-in application and a 2-3 page abstract. These parts must be combined and uploaded as one PDF into proposalCENTRAL for consideration.

No figures, references, appendices, budgets or letters of recommendation or collaboration 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 activation (do not include with LOI). Each candidate may submit only one LOI per cycle.

Answers to frequently asked questions specifically about the Microsoft AI for Health 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 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 Kristin McGowan (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:

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