



## **Request for Letters of Intent**

### **Early Career Investigator Grant**

#### **2025 Grantees**

#### **Purpose**

Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance is requesting Letters of Intent for the 2025 Early Career Investigator Grant (formerly called the Liz Tilberis Early Career Award). The Early Career Investigator Grant (ECIG) is for junior faculty with a strong commitment to an investigative career in the field of ovarian cancer research. The intent of these grants is to support a substantial time commitment to research and academic endeavors in ovarian cancer.

#### **Eligibility and Selection Criteria**

1. Applicants must be working in institutions with strong existing ovarian cancer research programs, in a school of medicine or public health, or a recognized non-profit scientific research facility.
2. Applicants should have strong training in preparation for an investigative career in ovarian cancer research and prior academic accomplishments.
3. The selection committee will consider most favorably applications that are creative, original, and hold the most promise in the areas of early detection, prevention, treatment, and translational ovarian cancer research. The proposed research plan should have sufficient scientific depth to allow the Early Career Investigator grantee to compete for additional funding after the period of this grant. Proposed projects should focus on ovarian cancers and/or related gynecologic cancers.
4. Candidates must have an MD/DO and/or PhD degree and should be in the first seven years of their first academic appointment after having completed their fellowship or post-doctoral training (Assistant Professor or equivalent). Individuals who will begin such a position by July 2024 are eligible for this grant.
5. This year OCRA intends to prioritize funding for at least one clinician scientist for an Early Career Investigator Grant.
6. For MDs/DOs or MD/DO-PhDs with clinical responsibilities, at least 50% of the time must be dedicated to ovarian cancer research.
7. For applicants without clinical responsibilities, at least 75% of the time must be dedicated to ovarian cancer research.
8. Early Career Investigator Grants will not be granted to individuals who hold or have had similar early career investigator awards from other funding agencies or foundations.
9. International applicants are welcome to apply.

10. If invited to submit a full proposal, applicants will be required to provide two letters of recommendation, including one from someone in a position to mentor the applicant. The mentor must be at the same institution as the candidate.

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

## Terms of Grant

Each Early Career Investigator grantee will receive a three-year grant of up to \$150,000USD per year (\$450,000USD total). Early Career Investigator Grants have an anticipated start date of February 1, 2025. Grant recipients will be required to submit activation deliverables and annual progress reports (narrative and financial) throughout the life of the grant. Any publications or presentations of work resulting from this grant should acknowledge support from OCRA. Grant recipients may only receive OCRA's Early Career Investigator Grant once. Each applicant may submit only one LOI per grant cycle. Additionally, grant recipients can only have one OCRA grant active at a time; if the grant recipient also has an OCRA Mentored Investigator Grant, that grant must end before the ECIG may begin.

## Selection Process

Letters of Intent will be reviewed by the 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 North America. The majority of LOIs will be triaged at this stage; only a fraction of those submitting LOIs will be invited to submit full proposals.

We recognize that preparing a full application requires 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 will advance to the final round of selection. *Please note that due to the small size of the OCRA staff and Scientific Advisory Committee, we are not able to provide feedback to applicants on their LOIs or Full Proposals.*

## Timeline

**The submission deadline for LOIs is 5:00pm Eastern Time (NY) on March 27, 2024.** Late submissions and extension requests are not permitted. All applicants will be notified of their status in mid-May 2024. Please be sure to add [grants@ocrahope.org](mailto:grants@ocrahope.org) to your safe sender list in your email so you can get all emails from OCRA's grant system. For those selected to submit full proposals, full proposals will be due mid-June 2024.

## Application Process

Letters of Intent must be submitted in English via the [SmartSimple](https://ocra.us-1.smartsimple.com/) website (<https://ocra.us-1.smartsimple.com/>) by 5:00pm ET on March 27, 2024.

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

Beyond basic contact information about yourself, your mentor, and key personnel, LOIs must include the following:

1. **Scientific Abstract** – Provide an abstract for the scientific community of the proposed research project, which should be presented in 6,000 characters or less (including spaces). Text only; figures, images, and graphs are not permitted.
2. **PI BioSketches** -- A current NIH biosketch for both the PI and mentor are required. Please use the NIH Biosketch template available for download in SmartSimple and adhere to its instructions and space limitations.
3. **Key Personnel Biosketches** -- NIH biosketches should be provided for anyone you listed in SmartSimple as Key Personnel. All key personnel biosketches should be combined into one document and uploaded as a single PDF. Please use the biosketch template available for download in SmartSimple, and adhere to its instructions and space limitations.
4. **Budget** -- Requested total budget amount. A detailed budget is not required during the LOI; only an estimated total budget request is required at this time.

*No figures, references, appendices, detailed budgets, or letters of recommendation or collaboration are required or accepted at this stage.*

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

### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical problems with SmartSimple please email OCRA – [grants@ocrahope.org](mailto:grants@ocrahope.org). SmartSimple works best when using Google Chrome. Be sure your pop ups are not blocked on your web browser as some items will open a new window.

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](http://ocrahope.org) to learn more.

**For inquiries or further information, please contact:**

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