



## **Request for Letters of Intent**

### **Mentored Investigator Grant**

#### **2026 Grantees**

#### **Purpose**

Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance is requesting Letters of Intent (LOI) for the 2026 Mentored Investigator Grant (MIG) (formerly called the Ann Schreiber Mentored Investigator Award). This grant provides funding for trainees who are working under the supervision of a mentor who is a recognized leader in the field of ovarian cancer research and/or related gynecologic cancers.

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

1. Applicants (Principal Investigator) must be either clinical fellows or post-doctoral fellows with protected time to do the proposed work. Candidates for this grant must have an MD/DO and/or PhD degree at the time of submitting the LOI.
2. Applicants must be working in institutions with well-developed ovarian cancer research programs, in a school of medicine or public health, or a recognized non-profit scientific research facility.
3. Applicants should be involved in either laboratory, clinical, epidemiologic or health services research. The research leader who will serve as the mentor should have significant independent cancer research funding (NCI, DOD, OCRA, etc.).
4. Funding is only available to accredited non-profit universities/colleges, non-profit research hospitals, or a recognized non-profit scientific research facility. OCRA does not offer funding to any for-profit entities, consulting companies, or non-profits who are not conducting the research themselves.
5. Submissions may only have one mentor listed. Each mentor may support only one applicant per year. We encourage research groups to vet concepts so that only one LOI is submitted for this grant. Mentors must be at the same institution as the applicant.
6. PhD applicants must be no more than 5 years out of their terminal degree at time of application (e.g. terminal degree must have been awarded during 2020 or later); MD/DOs and MD/PhDs must be currently enrolled in a fellowship program.
7. This year OCRA intends to prioritize funding for at least one proposal that spans the entire range of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (CCPS), including (but not limited to): risk and outcome studies, survivorship, and health services research.
8. The selection committee will consider the strength of the research environment and project proposal, the trainee's prior academic track record, and the likelihood of them pursuing a research career dedicated to ovarian cancer and/or related gynecologic cancers. Ideally, the project proposed should be one that the trainee's mentor believes will advance the overall

scientific objectives of the research group. Proposed projects should focus on ovarian cancer and/or related gynecologic cancers.

9. Although the trainee may take part in some non-research activities (e.g. class work, clinical activities), at least 80% effort should be devoted to research during the tenure of the OCRA grant.
10. There are no citizenship requirements for OCRA Grants, international applicants are welcome to apply.
11. Each applicant may submit only one LOI per grant cycle.
12. Grant recipients can only have 1 OCRA grant active at a time, if the grant recipient already has an active OCRA grant, the current grant must end before the new grant may begin.
13. If invited to submit a full proposal, applicants will be required to provide a minimum of 1 letter of recommendation from someone in a position to mentor the applicant.

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

### **Terms of Grant**

Support of up to \$100,000 USD to be used over one or two years will be granted to the institution of the Principal Investigator. MIGs have an anticipated start date of March 1, 2026. Grant recipients will be required to submit activation deliverables and annual progress reports (narrative and financial) throughout the life of the grant. Grant recipients may only receive OCRA's Mentored Investigator Grant once.

It is the mentor's responsibility to assure that a trainee who receives this grant submits the required activation material and 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.

### **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 26, 2025.** Late submissions and extension requests are not permitted. All applicants will be notified of their status in mid-May 2025. 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 2025.



## Application Process

Letters of Intent must be submitted in English via the SmartSimple website (<https://ocra.us-1.smartsimple.com/>) by 5:00pm ET on March 26, 2025, by the Principal Investigator.

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, and your mentor, LOIs must include the following:

1. **Scientific Abstract** - Provide a summary of the proposed research project. The abstract should clearly outline your proposed research project and aims to allow the reviewers a clear understanding of your proposed project. The abstract should be presented in 6,000 characters or less (including spaces). Text only; figures, images, and graphs are not permitted.
2. **PI BioSketch** -- A current NIH biosketch for the PI is required. Please use the NIH Biosketch template available for download in SmartSimple and adhere to its instructions and space limitations. The PI's biosketch is uploaded in the PI biosketch Section.
3. **Mentor's Biosketch** - A current NIH biosketch for the mentor is required. Please use the NIH Biosketch template available for download in SmartSimple and adhere to its instructions and space limitations. The mentor's biosketch is uploaded in the mentor biosketch section.
4. **Budget** -- Requested total budget amount in USD for the entire grant. A detailed budget is not required during the LOI.
5. **Grant Length** – The application needs to select if they would like the grant active for 1 or 2 years.

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 oldest and largest ovarian and gynecologic cancer charity in the world. Since its founding in 1994, OCRA has grown into the leading non-government funder of ovarian and related gynecologic cancer research. Through innovative education and advocacy efforts, compassionate support programs, and cross-industry collaboration, OCRA is driving progress and

pushing the boundaries of what's possible to improve outcomes for patients and advance research in its quest for a cure. Visit [ocrahope.org](http://ocrahope.org) to learn more.

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

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