Request for Letters of Intent/Expressions of Interest

AI Accelerator Grant

Purpose

The Global Ovarian Cancer Research Consortium (GOCRC) —Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance (OCRA, USA), Ovarian Cancer Action (OCA, UK), Ovarian Cancer Canada (OCC), and the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation (OCRF, Australia)—invites Letters of Intent (LOIs) for the second year of the $1M (USD) Global Artificial Intelligence-driven Ovarian Cancer Research Grant (the AI Accelerator Grant). The grant will be administered by Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance in the US.

The program supports international, data-intensive research collaborations that apply artificial intelligence (AI), including machine learning, to advance ovarian cancer research and improve patient outcomes.

New this year, OCRA is partnering with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to offer additional compute support through this grant program in the form of cloud-based compute credits to enable data-intensive AI research. Investigators may request up to $200,000 (USD) per year/up to $600,000 (USD) total of in-kind AWS compute support, provided in addition to the financial support from the Global Ovarian Cancer Research Consortium (GOCRC). *Please note:* access to AWS compute credits requires that the proposed research be conducted within OCRA's newly launched **Discovery Lab** Trusted Research Environment (TRE) within the **Community Accelerated Research Exchange.** The Discovery Lab TRE is a collaborative platform designed to support advanced computational research, secure data sharing, and collaboration among researchers. For FAQs regarding OCRA's Discovery Lab TRE please visit: https://Researchexchange.ocrahope.org/discovery-lab/faq

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

1. **Team Composition Requirements**
    a. This is a collaborative, team-based grant requiring a minimum of four senior lead investigators, with **representation from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia**.
        i. **One investigator must be designated as the Principal Investigator (PI).** The PI may be based in any country, provided the country representation requirement (US, UK, CAN, AUS) is met.
        ii. The PI and all lead investigators must:
            1. Hold full-time faculty or equivalent appointments at an accredited university, medical school, public health school, or non-profit research institution
            2. Must have a doctoral degree at the time of LOI submission
            3. May not be in training positions
        iii. Teams must include an AI specialist or experienced AI researcher.
        iv. Applications led by investigators from artificial intelligence, computational, data science, or related quantitative disciplines are encouraged to apply, provided the proposed work has clear relevance to ovarian cancer research.

v. Inclusion of a clinician (e.g., MD, DO, PA, or equivalent clinical experience) is strongly preferred.
vi. There are no citizenship requirements for this grant; the PI may be from any country.
vii. Teams are strongly encouraged to include patient or public partners as part of the research team. Applications must clearly describe the role of the partners throughout the research process (e.g., ideation, implementation, knowledge translation). For more information about patient and public involvement please see the PPI document.

2. **Proposed Project Requirements:**
    a. Must be data-intensive, AI-driven research efforts. Projects that request in-kind cloud compute support from Amazon Web Services (AWS) must conduct the supported work within OCRA's Discovery Lab Trusted Research Environment.
        i. Grant funds may not be used to support other computational platforms.
    b. Projects that incorporate innovative, novel, and creative approaches to advancing AI-driven ovarian cancer research are strongly encouraged.
    c. Proposed areas of research may include, but are not limited to, priorities highlighted in the recent *Nature Reviews, Cancer* publication (*Rethinking ovarian cancer III: reducing mortality from high-grade serous ovarian cancer*), such as prevention, initiation, and early detection; the tumor ecosystem; and treatment resistance. **All scientifically rigorous AI-driven ovarian cancer research areas that aim to improve survival rates are eligible.**
    d. Projects are expected to deposit public or shareable data generated through the funded project into OCRA's Discovery Lab Trusted Research Environment, subject to consent and privacy requirements.
3. **Institutional Eligibility and Applicant Limits:**
    a. Funding is limited to accredited academic institutions (e.g., universities and colleges) and other eligible research institutions, provided they are non-profit, including research hospitals, research institutes, and recognized scientific research facilities. Funding is not available for for-profit entities, consulting companies, non-research organizations, or non-profits that are not conducting the research themselves.
    b. An individual may serve as Principal Investigator (PI) on only one Letter of Intent (LOI) per grant cycle. Individuals may participate in additional LOIs but only in a non-PI role.
    c. A PI may hold only one active OCRA grant at a time. If a PI has an active OCRA grant, it must conclude before a new grant may begin.

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

Terms of Grant

1. Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance (OCRA) will be the organization awarding & managing the grant.
2. Support of up to $1,000,000 USD total over three years will be awarded to the institution of the Principal Investigator.
3. All grants funded by OCRA are subject to OCRA's Terms and Conditions. OCRA will not modify the Terms and Conditions (T&C) at the request of individual institutions. Our current T&C can be found on OCRA's website under the FAQ section.
4. This grant has an anticipated start date of February 1, 2027.
5. Grant recipients will be required to submit activation materials and annual progress reports (narrative and financial) throughout the life of the grant to OCRA, which will be shared with the global funding partners.

6. 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 all funders.
7. *Successful applicants who elect to receive the additional AWS compute credits will have those credits applied by OCRA in OCRA's Discovery Lab; no additional contracting will be required.*

Selection Process

1. Letters of Intent will be reviewed by all Funders and a special review committee, which is comprised of distinguished members of the medical, research and patient advocacy community from across the world.
2. The majority of LOIs will be triaged at this stage; only a fraction of those submitting LOIs will be invited to submit full proposals. Last year, only ~24% of LOIs were invited to the full proposal stage.
3. The selection committee will give preference to applications that are innovative, scientifically rigorous, and demonstrate meaningful use of AI with strong potential for impact across ovarian cancer research.

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 we cannot provide feedback to applicants on their LOIs.

Timeline

- **LOI Deadline: 5:00pm Eastern Time (NY) on June 23, 2026.**
- Late submissions and extension requests are not permitted.
- All applicants will be notified of their status in early August 2026.
- For those selected to submit full proposals, full proposals will be due September 2026.

Please be sure to add grants@ocrahope.org to your safe sender list in your email so you can get all emails from OCRA's grant system.

Application Process

Letters of Intent must be submitted in English via SmartSimple: https://ocra.us-1.smartsimple.com/ by 5:00pm ET on June 23, 2026.

The Letter of Intent must be submitted through the PI's SmartSimple account. The individual logged into SmartSimple when the LOI is created will automatically be designated as the PI.

Applicants are encouraged to log into SmartSimple early to review system requirements.

Required Components:

1. **Scientific Abstract**
   A summary of the proposed research, including project aims, team overview, and overview of available resources. The abstract must be **no more than 6,000 characters (including spaces)**. Text only; figures, images, and graphs are not permitted.

2. **AI Brief Summary –** Describe your project's planned use of artificial intelligence in 200 words or less. Include where known:
    a. The AI architecture or approach (e.g., large language model, convolutional neural network, reinforcement learning, agentic/multi-agent system)
    b. Specific models or frameworks (e.g., GPT-4, LLaMA, ResNet, PyTorch)
    c. Specific cloud services (e.g., AWS SageMaker, AWS Bedrock)
    d. Specific research application (e.g., imaging analysis, biomarker discovery, patient stratification, literature synthesis).
    e. If AI tools are still being evaluated, describe the category of AI you intend to use and how it will contribute to your research aims. Vague or purely conceptual references to AI are insufficient.

3. **Brief Patient Involvement Summary –** The Patient and Public Involvement Summary is a quick overview of how you will involve patients and public partners on your project in 100 words or less. You will be asked to elaborate on this plan in the Research Plan in the Full Proposal if you are invited to submit. If you are not involving patients and public partners, please provide rationale for why you're not involving them.

4. **Biosketches**

    Biosketches are required for the PI, all listed investigators, and key personnel. Researchers may either use the biosketch template available in SmartSimple (a previously used NIH-approved template) or create a biosketch using NIH SciENcv (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/) and select the NIH Biographical Sketch Common Form option*. If an individual does not have an eRA Commons username, this field may be left blank on the template available in SmartSimple.*

    - **Principal Investigator (PI):** A current NIH biosketch for the PI (must be the person submitting applicant).
    - **Lead Investigators:** NIH biosketches for the lead investigators, with each investigator's country clearly indicated, combined into one PDF. If the PI is not based in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, or Australia, the team must include four lead investigators—one from each of the four required countries.
    - **Key Personnel**: NIH biosketches for all other listed key personnel, combined into one PDF.
    - **Patient Partners**: Biosketches for all patient partners are required and must use the template provided in SmartSimple, combined into one PDF.

5. **Budget**

    Indicate the estimated **total** funding amount requested, up to $1,00,000 USD, inclusive of indirect costs. A detailed budget and AWS estimated credits are not required at the LOI stage.

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/information-for-researchers/apply-for-a-grant/).

Informational Webinar

The Global Ovarian Cancer Research Consortium will host an informational webinar on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 4:00 pm ET. This webinar will address information about this grant program, the four funders, how to apply, and specific questions. Register here: https://secure.ovariancanada.org/site/Calendar?id=103751&view=RSVP&s_locale=en_CA. If you are unable to attend, the webinar will be recorded and posted to OCRA's website for review.

Technical Support

If you are having technical problems with SmartSimple please email OCRA – 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 the Funders:

OCRA – United States
Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance (OCRA) is the largest global organization dedicated to combating ovarian and all gynecologic cancer. Since its founding in 1994, OCRA has invested $140 million in scientific breakthroughs, and supports 95,000 people annually through its programs, which are free to all participants. As the only dedicated voice for ovarian and gynecologic cancer on Capitol Hill, OCRA has helped to secure $3.8 billion in federal research and education funding. Learn more at ocrahope.org.

Ovarian Cancer Action – United Kingdom
Ovarian Cancer Action (OCA) are the UK's leading ovarian cancer research charity, working on early detection, prevention and treatments so that no woman dies of ovarian cancer. We live and breathe this lifesaving, world-leading research. We fund more ovarian cancer research than any other UK gynaecological cancer charity. It's how we've driven some of the biggest breakthroughs of the last 19 years. In the UK only 1 in 3 women live more than 10 years after a diagnosis. We are working to better prevent, treat and detect ovarian cancer, so that by 2032 at least half of women with ovarian cancer live for 10 years. We're also the only charity at the heart of the global ovarian cancer research community and have been for four decades through hosting the Helene Harris Memorial Trust (HHMT) Forum on ovarian cancer since the 80's. By connecting the world's leading scientists together, we're creating a powerful hub of experience, expertise and insight.

Ovarian Cancer Canada – Canada
Ovarian Cancer Canada is the only national health charity in Canada dedicated to uncovering key discoveries that can change the reality of an ovarian cancer diagnosis. We are building research capacity, unlocking insights into rarer forms of the disease, addressing urgent needs, and bringing hope to people across the country. We are driving ovarian cancer research in Canada faster than ever – changing the landscape of available treatment options, investing in innovative early detection projects, and preventing ovarian cancer before it starts. To ensure this work has the greatest impact on women, we're putting the voices of those with lived experience at the forefront through our Patient Partners in Research program. After decades without real change, improved outcomes are finally possible.
Since being founded in 1998, we've come a long way, and we are not stopping now. Our time has come to reach even more people affected by ovarian cancer, others at high risk for this disease, and concerned

Canadians who know everyone deserves to live their best lives. Ovarian cancer patients deserve our attention. They deserve our focus on eradicating this disease. We will not rest until we've achieved this.

Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation – Australia

The Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation (OCRF) is Australia's leading independent funder of ovarian cancer research, having funded over $33M towards the prevention, detection and treatment of ovarian cancer. With fewer than 50 per cent of women and girls in Australia diagnosed with ovarian cancer surviving more than five years, our vision is a future where those impacted by ovarian cancer can live healthy, vital lives. To achieve this, we are catalysing change and accelerating progress by increasing awareness, advocating for greater investment and equity, collaborating nationally and internationally, and strategically funding high-impact medical research. Every dollar we raise comes from the Australian community, driven by a shared determination to make our vision a reality. Together, we will overcome ovarian cancer.

For inquiries or further information, please contact:
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