



AI Accelerator Grant: Questions & Answers

Eligibility

- Q.** If a PI is already funded by another OCRA mechanism, are they eligible to apply for this grant?
- A.** Email grants@ocrahope.org with more information on your specific circumstances, and they will determine if you are eligible.
- Q.** If I applied to an OCRA grant already this year, can I be listed as the PI on this grant too?
- A.** Yes, but you may only have 1 active OCRA grant at a time. You may also email grants@ocrahope.org with more information on your specific circumstances, and they will determine if you are eligible.
- Q.** Does the team need to have all four partner countries (US, UK, AUS, CAN) involved?
- A.** Yes, the team needs to consist of Investigators from each of the four partner countries. The PI does not need to be from one of these four countries, as long as the four countries are represented on the team at the Investigator level.
- Q.** Is it ok if the AI specialist is a PhD candidate?
- A.** Yes, they can be included as an AI specialist. However, individuals cannot be included as one of the Lead Investigators if they do not already hold a doctorate degree (e.g., PhD, MD or equivalent).
- Q.** Can we involve SMEs in the call? (SME = small to medium enterprises)
- A.** As per the RFP, funding will be awarded to an academic institution; however, for-profit companies can be included as a collaborator. Individuals from for-profit companies cannot be one of the four Lead Investigators. **Please note that as per the RFP, the successful grant will be subject to OCRA's [Terms and Conditions](#).**
- Q.** Can the AI specialist be someone who does not have a university or non-profit appointment, for example could a consultant from a company be included?
- A.** Similar to above, a consultant from a company can be included in the project but cannot be included among the Lead Investigators.



Q. Can we partner with AI companies?

A. Yes, you may partner with an AI company. As mentioned above, individuals from these companies cannot be included among the Lead Investigators. Please note grant funds may not be used to support other computational platforms.

Q. Do the investigators all need to have permanent contracts to be eligible for this role, or is that just for the PIs?

A. Investigators should be in a more senior role, with a faculty appointment at your institution. You should not be in a training program. If you are not sure if you are eligible, please email grants@ocrahope.org.

Q. Does the PI have to be from a school of medicine?

A. No, as long as the PI has a doctoral degree and necessary expertise the PI can be from any department/school.

Q. What are the roles on the grant?

A. Roles include Principal Investigator (PI), Lead Investigator, Investigator, Key Personnel and Research Delegate. Explanations for each are included below:

- PI (limit one per grant) - this is person submitting the LOI, and it is their institution where the grant will be awarded.
- Lead Investigators - there must be one from each of the four partner countries – AUS, CAN, UK & US.
- Investigator (no limit and can be from any institution): Investigator or Co-Investigator is someone involved in the research project. An Investigator is expected to make significant contributions and may be involved in developing and/or carrying out the project. Investigator(s) must devote a specified measurable effort to the project whether or not salaries or compensation are requested. Investigator or Co-Investigator is also interchangeable with Collaborator/Co-Collaborator.
- Key Personnel (no limit and can be from any institution): Personnel who commit to contribute to the scientific development or execution of the project but are not committing any specified measurable effort (person months or percent effort) to the project.
- Research Delegate: The Research Delegate (RD) is able to assist with all required tasks assigned to the PI including the Letter of Intent and Full Proposal. The RD may enter information into SmartSimple and save it, but the RD cannot submit any information, only the PI is authorized to submit materials.



Q. Is there a limit to how many LOIs we can submit?

A. *You may only submit one LOI with you listed as the PI. However, there are no limitations to how many LOIs you may be listed on as a Lead Investigator, Investigator, or Key personnel.*

Terms & Conditions

Q. What is the total amount of funding available?

A. *A total of \$1 million USD is available, to be spent over the 3-year funding period. We anticipate funding one grant through this competition.*

Q. Does the grant support PI salaries?

A. *Yes, salary support (and fringe benefits) may be included in the budget.*

Q. Does the funding cover PhD Tuition and Fees?

A. *No, the grant does not cover tuition and expenses.*

Artificial Intelligence (AI) / data / samples

Q. Can you please define AI more clearly? Must it be an LLM or can complex machine learning models be used?

A. *We are using a broad definition of AI, which is inclusive of machine learning.*

Q. Does the grant support validation on AI method on wide patient cohort to establish its clinical utility, or aimed at developing completely new approaches?

A. *We are quite open to how AI is applied in this grant, so development of new approaches and validation of existing approaches are both welcomed. Individual plans will be evaluated based on scientific merit.*

Q. Can we use the grant to generate data, or is it based on retrospective data?

A. *Yes, you can use the grant to generate new data – you can also leverage existing and retrospective data to generate new insights.*

Q. Can grant funds be used to acquire or purchase clinical specimens for discovery and/or validation activities?

A. Yes

- Q.** Does the project have to include patient data from all four partner countries?
- A.** No, it does not. The requirements related to the four countries only relates to inclusion of Lead Investigators.

Patient engagement

- Q.** What is a Patient and/or Public partner?
- A.** This refers to someone with lived experience of ovarian cancer (e.g., as a patient or caregiver) who collaborates on a research project. This is different from a research participant.
- Q.** Could you please elaborate a bit more about the role/s of the patients and/or public partners?
- A.** Please refer to the “Understanding and Integrating Patient Perspectives” document for general guiding principles and tangible examples of how to involve patient partners, available [here](#).
- Q.** Can an Investigator’s role be to collect and/or evaluate samples from a clinical trial? Would that also cover the topic of patient engagement?
- A.** The collection / analysis of clinical trial samples is a relevant potential role for an Investigator. However, this activity would **not** be considered patient engagement, which needs to involve collaboration with patients as partners/embedded team members that contribute to research design, communication and dissemination.

- Q.** Does the project require patient and/public partners from each country?
- A.** No, this is not a requirement.

Collaborations

- Q.** Can you help us form collaborations that include the four countries?
- A.** Yes, please email grants@ocrahope.org and we will add you to a Google Sheet where researchers can form collaborations.



OCRA's Discovery Lab

Q: What is the Discovery Lab?

A: The Discovery Lab features a growing catalog of resources, with select datasets and workflows accessible through the Discovery Lab Trusted Research Environment (TRE). Explore datasets, analytical tools, and collaborative research assets contributed by the global gynecologic cancer community. To learn more and explore OCRA's Discovery Lab please visit -

<https://researchexchange.ocrahope.org/discovery-lab>

Q: What is the Discovery Lab Trusted Research Environment (TRE)?

A: The Discovery Lab Trusted Research Environment (TRE) is a part of OCRA's Discovery Lab. The Discovery Lab TRE is an analysis and information management collaborative platform designed to support advanced computational research, secure data sharing, and collaboration among researchers.

To see specific FAQ about OCRA's Discovery Lab Trusted Research Environment (TRE) powered by Cirro Bio, including support, privacy, and technical questions, please visit - <https://Researchexchange.ocrahope.org/discovery-lab/faq>

Q: At what stage of my project do I need to use the Discovery Lab TRE?

A: You can use the Discovery Lab TRE for any stage of your project. The Discovery Lab TRE will be most powerful if data are inputted early on and the platform is used to share data across collaborators and conduct your analyses. However, OCRA requires all grantees under this mechanism as a minimum to share all resulting public data into the Discovery Lab TRE at least by the point of publication.

Q: What training or technical support will be available for using the Discovery Lab and/or Amazon Web Services (AWS)?

A: The Discovery Lab TRE is powered by Cirro Bio. Their team provides documentation, user guides, training materials, and direct support for data access, analysis tools, and interpretation. Regular workshops and webinars are also available.



Amazon Web Services (AWS)

Q: Can I still apply for this project if I do not use Amazon Web Services?

A: Yes, but you may not use any grant funds to support other computational platforms.

Q: Will Amazon Web Services (AWS) provide any additional financial support for my project?

A: No, but you can purchase more AWS credits directly from AWS.

Q: Do I or my institution have to contract directly with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to get the compute credits?

A: No, OCRA will contract with Amazon Web Services (AWS) and apply the credits directly to your account in OCRA's Discovery Lab.

Q: Will Amazon Web Services (AWS) review or help select applications for funding?

A: No, Amazon Web Services (AWS) will not be involved in the selection of grants recommended for funding.

Q: Will Amazon Web Services (AWS) have rights to my data?

A: No, you retain ownership of your data.