



Request for Letters of Intent

Collaborative Research Development Grant – *Microsoft AI for Health*

2025 Grantees

Purpose

Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance is requesting Letters of Intent for the 2025 Collaborative Research Development Grant in partnership with Microsoft AI for Health (CRDG-AI). The purpose of this grantmaking program is to provide funds for ovarian cancer and/or related gynecologic cancers 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. Proposed projects should focus on ovarian cancers and/or related gynecologic cancers.
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 though the

other Collaborative Research Development Grant application, which is also available on SmartSimple.

5. International applicants are welcome to apply.

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. CRDG-AI grants have an anticipated start date of January 1, 2025. The CRDG-AI grant requires 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 life of the grant. 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. Each applicant may submit only one LOI per grant cycle. Additionally, 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 CRDG-AI may begin. *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 North America. 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. The majority of LOIs will be triaged at this stage; only a fraction of those submitting LOIs will be invited to submit full proposals. The final grantee will be selected by the OCRA SAC.

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 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 and key personnel, LOIs must include the following:

1. **Scientific Abstract** -- Provide an abstract for the scientific community of the proposed research project, outlining both the scientific and AI components. The abstract 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 the PI is 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. 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 to learn more.

For inquiries or further information, please contact:

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