

AI Accelerator Grant Informational Webinar: Questions & Answers

Please also refer to [OCRA's FAQs](#) for more general questions and for a recoding of the webinar.

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. 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, beyond Microsoft AI for Good Lab?

A. Yes, you may partner with an AI company. As mentioned above, individuals from these companies cannot be included among the Lead Investigators.

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. Can a PI from School of Pharmacy (not school of medicine) apply for the fund?

A. Yes, as long as the PI has a doctoral degree and necessary expertise.

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 .*

Q. Can I be a collaborator on more than one LOI?

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

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.

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 consumer 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 interchangeable with “patient partner” and is different from a research participant.

Q. Could you please elaborate a bit more about the role/s of the patients or consumers?

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.

Q. Does the project require consumer advocates 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 folks can form collaborations.

In-kind support

Q. Can you discuss the in-kind support from Microsoft Azure a bit more? Does this need to be factored into the budget planning?

A. The optional in-kind support from Microsoft will be a separate contract through the Microsoft AI for Good Lab and is not included as part of the \$1M budget submitted to OCRA. If you are interested in partnering with Microsoft AI for Good Lab, you simply need to ensure that you indicate this at the LOI stage. A supplemental questionnaire from Microsoft AI will then be included at the Full Proposal Stage in SmartSimple, if you are invited to submit a full proposal. More information on Microsoft AI for Good Lab can be found [here](#).