

CARRA-Arthritis Foundation Advancing Biosample Collection Award

Award Project Period Length: 2 years

Award Funding Amount: \$50,000

Award Availability: 2 awards –at least 1 JIA

Combined LOI/Data and Sample Request Due Date: January 15, 2025

LOI Due Date: Application Deadline: February 20, 2025

Project Period: July 1, 2025- June 30, 2027

Program Description

This funding opportunity supports biosample collection within the CARRA network to advance CARRA translational research. The goal is to collect biosamples from patients enrolled in the CARRA Registry, to be used by CARRA investigators for future hypothesis-based research. This mechanism funds the collection of biosamples at CARRA Registry sites utilizing the CARRA Registry biosample consent form.

New for the 2025 grant year, CARRA is including the requirement of a combined letter of intent and data and sample request. If approved, all information requested in this new form will transfer and pre-populate where appropriate in your future application.

- Biosamples may be collected only at CARRA Registry sites and from patients who are enrolled or eligible to be enrolled in the CARRA Registry.
- Only CARRA standard collection kits are permitted. See “Biosample Collection Options” below.
- Applications must include a hypothesis-based research plan for the future use of the proposed biosample collection.
- Funds will remain within CARRA to be used to pay biosample collection costs. Funds will be used to pay for biosample collection tubes/kits and shipping, CARRA Biobank fees, CARRA Registry site payments for biosample collections, DCRI support, and CARRA administrative support needed to manage the process.
- The following costs are not allowable for this award:
 - CARRA Registry data collection costs, including the enrollment of any patients that are not currently eligible for Registry enrollment
 - Investigator effort
 - Costs related to the future analysis of the biosamples
- The principal investigator(s) are expected to collaborate on an ongoing basis with the TRC, DCRI, and CARRA Biobank to ensure the biosample collection is successful.

Eligibility

- The project PI must be a CARRA member in good standing (up to date on membership dues and membership information (location, contact information, and membership status) is current and accurate.

- Applicants must hold an advanced degree (MD [or equivalent], PhD, or MD/PhD) and must have a faculty or equivalent government appointment.
- All applications must be submitted by or include a pediatric rheumatologist named as a Co-Investigator.
- Applicants should be a member of the CARRA Registry network.

New: Letter of Intent and Data/Sample Share Request: CARRA Registry and Biorepository

- LOIs are due in Proposal Central January 15, 2025, by 11:59PM ET. Instructions for the LOI are available in Proposal Central.
- No separate data and sample request is required when applying for a CARRA Grant in 2025.
- Grant applicants who intend to utilize the CARRA Registry or CARRA-related data and/or samples must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) for prior approval. The purpose of this process is to ensure that the proposed biosample collection is feasible before the applicant spends time on the larger application. The LOI is not for scientific merit review. This year, in an effort to streamline the user experience and improve operational workflow, we are combining the LOI and data /sample requests into one process.
- If you would like to know more about conditions of use, please review our data and sample share policy on the [CARRA Research Portal](#).
- *CARRA will only accept proposals that utilize the current Registry CRFs and standard biosample collection kit. However, with CARRA approval, the subsequent extramural funding project plan may include plans for supplemental data collection.*

Full Grant Application for the ABC Awards

- After submission of the LOI, applicants will be notified within a week if they are eligible to apply for the full ABC Grant.
- Instructions to complete the full ABC Award application are available on Proposal Central.
- The ABC Award applications are primarily reviewed based on the following criteria:
 - Feasibility of the proposed biosample collection within the CARRA network.
 - Ability of the proposed biosample collection to address an important scientific question and expand the research resources (in terms of samples) within the CARRA network.
 - Further information about review is provided in the Instructions document located [here](#).
 - Likelihood that the collected biosamples will lead to new translational research projects or additional external funding.
 - The applicant should propose a future scientific project that is planned to be done with the collected biosamples; however, this scientific project may be preliminary as it is being proposed for future research after the biosamples are obtained. The research team should have some plan to obtain funding for the future scientific research with the samples.

Standard Biosample Collection within CARRA

Applicants must propose utilizing one of the two standard CARRA biosample collection kits (“Type I” and “Type II”). Applications proposing non-standard collections will not be considered. CARRA’s Standard Biosample Collection kits must be used for the following reasons:

1. To ensure that multiple derivatives are obtained from each patient (plasma, serum, RNA, DNA, cells);
2. Because biosamples collected within CARRA using the same standard approach can be easily compared;
3. CARRA research coordinators are familiar with the Standard Collection kits;
4. Requests using the Standard CARRA Biosample Collection are relatively routine and easily expedited as there are established standard operating procedures (SOPs); and
5. CARRA has standardized the cost to collect samples with Type I and II kits.

The two CARRA Standard CARRA Biosample Collection kits

- Type I kit = spin kit = centrifuged kit (total cost per sample collected is \$520)
 - Tempus (RNA)
 - SST (serum)
 - P100 (plasma and DNA)
 - CPT (peripheral blood mononuclear cells)
- Type II kit = non-spin/no-spin kit = non-centrifuged kit (total cost per sample collected is \$297)
 - EDTA tube (DNA)
 - Tempus tube (RNA)

Additional Information

The CARRA Manual of Operations for Biosample Collection describes the standard operating procedures for collecting biosamples in the CARRA network:

<https://research.carragroup.org/en/registry-and-biorepository/biospecimen-collection>

Collected samples will be shipped to, and stored in, the CARRA Biobanks in Cincinnati or Toronto. If future research is approved by the CARRA Data, Sample, and Publication Committee (DSPC), the designated portion of the biosamples will be reserved for the applicant’s research team for up to 2 years after the completion of the biosample collection. The remaining portion of the biosamples will be made available to other CARRA investigators to access through the data and sample share process (typically after the primary study is complete and the primary manuscript has been published).

Applicants must use the templates provided when submitting their final applications. CARRA Staff is available to assist with the application process and to answer questions. Contact us by emailing grants@carragroup.org.

APPLICATIONS NOT FOLLOWING THESE INSTRUCTIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED

Important Information for Advancing Biosample Collection Award Submissions

- Letter of Intent Deadline: January 15, 2025
- Application deadline for the CARRA-Arthritis Foundation Advancing Biosample Collection Award: February 28, 2025.
- Applicants will be notified of funding decisions in June 2025.
- Interim progress reports describing the status of the biosamples collected are required every 6 months. Awardees must submit a final progress report no later than 45 days after the project period end date.
- If the biosample collection is not completed within 2 years, the award recipient may request a no-cost extension (NCE) for up to 12 months. NCE requests can be made up to 90 days prior but no less than 30 days prior to the project period end date. NCE requests will be considered by the review committee but are not guaranteed.
- Biosample distribution and publications resulting from analyses of these biosamples are subject to CARRA's Data and Sample Sharing Policy and Authorship, Publication, and Presentation Guidelines. This can be found on the [CARRA Research Portal](#) for CARRA members.
- If the PI is unable to complete the project, any unexpended balance must be returned to CARRA.
- Awardees are expected to submit an abstract and attend the CARRA Annual Meeting(s) until the project is complete/final results have been presented.
- Timely provision of progress reports is required to be eligible for future CARRA-Arthritis Foundation grants.
- All awardees of CARRA-Arthritis Foundation funding must abide by the procedures outlined in the to the current CARRA Publications and Presentation Guidelines when presenting/publishing findings from their projects. This includes submitting all abstracts and manuscripts to the CARRA Publications Committee for approval prior to submission and acknowledging the support of CARRA and the Arthritis Foundation by including the following language: "The authors wish to acknowledge CARRA, and the ongoing Arthritis Foundation financial support of CARRA."

Application instructions and other required information can be found [here](#).

Contact Information:

Program or Administrative Questions:

Emily Klein
 Senior Manager, Grants & Awards
grants@carragroup.org

Technical Questions:

[proposalCENTRAL](#)
pcsupport@altum.com
 800-875-2562