

CARRA-Arthritis Foundation: JIA Pilot Translational Research Grant

Grant Project Period Length: 2 years

Grant Funding Amount: \$175,000

Grant Availability: 1 award

LOI Deadline: January 15, 2025

Application Deadline: February 20, 2025

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

CARRA's culture of collaboration focuses on facilitating, accelerating, funding, and performing research driven by academicians, clinicians, patients, and families to fulfill its mission: to conduct collaborative research to prevent, treat, and cure pediatric rheumatic diseases. CARRA's peer-reviewed Intramural Grant Program offers various funding opportunities to support investigators at all career levels and advance research that furthers our mission.

Program Description

This pilot grant opportunity supports research that utilizes the CARRA Registry and/or biorepository and is intended to address promising new JIA projects and/or pursue novel ideas in basic, clinical, and translational JIA research that will provide preliminary data for future grant applications from other agencies and programs.

This pilot grant opportunity is meant to provide the research team with a biosample cohort and preliminary data for future funding through larger/team science awards. Accordingly, the project PI/Co-PI should have a track record in conducting translational research and have the capacity to apply for such future grant opportunities.

This grant opportunity is also intended to pilot the collection of:

1. Non-blood samples relevant to conducting translational research in JIA (examples include synovial fluid, tears, saliva, stool, and BAL fluid)
2. Blood biosamples that are not encompassed in the CARRA standard kits (provide link to standard kit contents in *Pilot JIA instructions document*). Examples might include cells that need to be cryopreserved locally before shipping).

The funds of the grant can be used to support the following:

1. Funds can 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.
2. Funds can be used to support the scientific research that will be conducted by the research team.
3. Funds can be used for salary support for the applicant and research team.

The projects should be highly innovative and serve as proof-of-concept projects that could advance our understanding of JIA pathogenesis or provide insight into disease biomarkers that will improve outcomes for patients.

Preference will be given to research that is collaborative in nature and/or will further develop the CARRA network of members.

The research should further the CARRA mission under the [2023-2025 Strategic Plan](#) and [2023-2025 Research Agenda](#).

Special consideration will be given to applications that use biosamples from children with JIA to address some of the specific topics listed below, which were considered among patients, caregivers and providers to be of critical importance:

- Precision Medicine
 - Biomarker identification; diagnostic and prognostic
 - Starting/stopping medication
 - Safety and the impact of use of specific medications (e.g., TNF-I in non-systemic JIA)
- Patient Outcomes and Outcome Measures
 - PROs, impact on health-related quality of life, health disparities and other related issues
 - Long-term outcomes; impact on childbearing, occupation, college, marriage, delays vs. peers, growth, and reproductive health
 - Transition
 - Health-related quality of life (HRQOL)
 - Environmental factors
 - Patient-reported outcomes (PROs)
 - Tools/outcome measure development, implementation, and ongoing validation
- Epidemiology
 - Use of the Registry (artificial intelligence and data science)
- Representativeness
 - Social determinants of health
 - Equitable participant representation in the Registry
- Treatment Development
 - Working with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on acceptable trial designs in pediatric patients
 - Evidence development (use of Registry and community data)
- Comparative Effectiveness Research
 - Consensus Treatment Plan (CTP) Program (development, revision, and implementation)

Eligibility

- The project PI for all grants must be a current CARRA member who is up to date on membership dues and has ensured their membership information (location, contact information, and membership status) is current and accurate.

- The following current CARRA members are eligible to serve as Principal Investigators on this grant opportunity:
 - Pediatric Rheumatologists
 - Other Physicians and Health Care Professionals Research professionals (research scientists, investigators, and coordinators)
 - CARRA's Board of Directors and Emeritus members are not permitted to serve as PIs but can serve as key personnel.

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
- 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. 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 JIA Pilot Translational Research Grant

- After submission of the LOI, applicants will be notified that they are eligible to apply for the full ABC Grant.
- Instructions to complete the full JIA Pilot Translational Research Grant application are available on Proposal Central.
- The JIA Pilot Translational Research Grant applications are primarily reviewed based on the following criteria:
 - Innovation and significance of the proposed research.
 - Ability of the proposed research to provide insights into JIA pathogenesis or disease biomarkers that will ultimately improve outcomes for patients.
 - Likelihood that the biosample collection and research project will lead to future, larger/team science awards.
 - Feasibility of the proposed biosample collection and ability of the research team to execute the proposed research.
 - Likelihood that the project will expand CARRA's capacity to collect complex biosamples in the future.

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

Online Submission through Proposal Central

CARRA uses an electronic grant submission process. All applicants must submit their full application packages through Proposal Central's online grants management system. Paper applications will not be accepted.

- All applicants must register as users on Proposal Central [here](#).
- Click [here](#) for Proposal Central's guide on how to set up an account.
- Click [here](#) for Proposal Central's Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's).
- Still need help with Proposal Central? Reach out to [Proposal Central's Support Desk](#).

Contact Information:

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