



2027 CARRA-Arthritis Foundation Advancing Biosample Collection Award

Grant Project Period Length: Up to 3 years total. Biosample collection must begin within the first year of the award, and the project period may extend up to 2 years following the first biosample collection.

Total Grant Funding Amount per award: up to \$50,000

Letter of Intent/Data and Sample Share Request Deadline: December 11, 2026

Application Deadline: March 15, 2027

Start Date: September 1, 2027 (Sample collection to start by September 1, 2028)

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 unite the pediatric rheumatology community to drive research and transform the lives of children with rheumatic diseases. CARRA's peer-reviewed grant program offers various funding opportunities to support investigators at all career levels and advance research that furthers our mission.

Program Description

The CARRA-Arthritis Foundation Advancing Biosample Collection Award program supports biosample collection within the CARRA network to advance high-impact CARRA translational research. Applications must identify the intended research use of the biosamples and describe how the collection will support a specific hypothesis-driven study or external funding opportunity. This mechanism provides funding for collection of biosamples at CARRA Registry sites using the CARRA Registry biosample consent form and is not intended to support biosample banking without a clearly defined research purpose. Priority will be given to projects with existing funding or a clearly defined plan to obtain external funding.

- Biosamples may be collected only at active CARRA Registry sites in good standing and only from patients who are enrolled in the CARRA Registry.
- Only CARRA-approved standard biosample collection kits may be used. See "Biosample Collection Options" below.
- Applications must include a hypothesis-driven research plan describing the intended use of the proposed biosamples and how the collection will support a specific research objective or external funding opportunity.
- Award funds will remain within CARRA and will be used solely to support approved biosample collection activities. Covered costs include biosample collection tubes/kits and shipping, CARRA Biobank fees, a one-time site eligibility report, CARRA Registry site payments for biosample collections, and CARRA administrative support required to manage the program. Covered costs include biosample collection tubes/kits and shipping, CARRA Biobank fees, a one-time site eligibility report, and CARRA Registry site payments for biosample collections, and CARRA administrative support required to manage the program.
- The following costs are not allowable under this award:



- CARRA Registry data collection costs, including the enrollment of patients who are not currently eligible for CARRA Registry
- Investigator effort
- Costs related to the future analysis of the biosamples

The principal investigator(s) are expected to collaborate throughout the project with CARRA's Translational Research Committee (TRC) and the CARRA Biobank to ensure the biosample collection and project execution.

This funding program is intended to support research that furthers the CARRA mission under the [2026–2028 Strategic Plan](#) and Research Agenda.

Standard Biosample Collection within CARRA

CARRA will only accept proposals that utilize the current CARRA Registry case report forms (CRFs) and the standard CARRA biosample collection kits. Proposals requiring supplemental data collection or non-standard biosample collection procedures will not be considered.

Applicants must propose using one of CARRA's two standard biosample collection kits (type I and type II). Use of the standard kits is required because they:

- Ensure standardized collection of multiple biospecimen derivatives (e.g., plasma, serum, RNA, DNA, and cells)
- Promote consistency across studies, allowing biosamples collected throughout the CARRA network to be readily compared and combined Utilize establish standard operating procedures (SOPs), enabling efficient implementation and reducing site burden
- Leverage research coordinator familiarity with the collection procedures, minimizing training needs and variability
- Support standardized collection costs across all participating sites

The two types of CARRA Standard CARRA Biosample Collection kits include the following:

- Type I kit: spin kit, centrifuged (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 (total cost per sample collected is \$297)
 - EDTA tube (DNA)
 - Tempus tube (RNA)

Applicants must identify in the LOI and application the biospecimen derivatives (e.g., plasma, serum, RNA, DNA, or cells) and the quantity of each anticipated to achieve the proposed research objectives. Upon Data, Sample, and Publications Committee (DSPC) approval, only the designated portion of collected biospecimens will be reserved for the approved project.



All remaining biospecimen derivatives not designated for the approved project will be available to the broader CARRA research community through the Data and Sample Share (DSS) request process, subject to DSPC approval.

Reserved biospecimens will be held until the DSPC-approved project milestone is achieved (e.g., receipt of external funding, acceptance of the primary manuscript, or another DSPC-approved milestone), or until 2 years after completion of biospecimen collection, whichever occurs first. Thereafter, any unused reserved biospecimens will become available to the broader CARRA research community through the DSS request process, subject to DSPC approval.

Additional information regarding Biosample Collection Standard Operating Procedures can be found on the [CARRA Research Portal](#).

Eligibility

- The project principal investigator (PI) must be a CARRA member in good standing (up to date on membership dues and current and accurate member profile).
- Previous and current CARRA awardees who wish to submit new grant applications must be up to date on all award deliverables.
- 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 (co-I).
- The project PI or co-PI must be a member of the CARRA Registry network.
- While not eligible to serve as PIs, the following may serve as team members: medical and graduate students, research professional members who are regulatory or data coordinators, business and industry associate members, and nonprofit/government associate members.
- CARRA board members or those in executive leadership positions may not serve as study leadership.
- All sites proposing to collect samples under this grant mechanism must be current, active CARRA Registry sites. Participating site investigators must also be listed authorized personnel on the current CARRA Registry delegation of authority log, managed by Duke Clinical Research Institute (DCRI).

Data and Sample Collection

Grant applicants who intend to utilize the CARRA Registry or CARRA-related data and/or samples must receive approval from the CARRA Data, Sample, and Publications Committee (DSPC) via a data and sample request, to be submitted through the Letter of Intent (LOI).

The request must match the intended use outlined in the grant proposal. Failure to receive approval of the data and/or sample request through the LOI before submission of the grant application will result in the administrative decline of the application.



To learn more about who can access CARRA data and biosamples, conditions of use, and the review process, please review the Data and Sample Share Policy on the [CARRA website](#).

For more information on requesting CARRA data and/or samples and to access the request form, please visit the Data and Sample Request page on the [CARRA Research Portal](#).

Materials for Submission

Step 1: Letter of Intent

Letters of Intent LOIs are non-binding and will be used to guide reviewer selection. (LOIs) are due December 11, 2026, in Proposal Central and must include the following information:

- Title Page
- Enable Other Users to Access This Proposal
- Applicant/PI
- Institution and Contacts
- Sample Collection Details
- Abstracts & Keywords
- Print LOI

Step 2: Full Application

Completed application packages, with all required attachments and supporting documentation, must be submitted through Proposal Central by 11:59 PM Eastern time on March 15, 2027.

All application text should be Arial 11 pt or Times New Roman 12 pt font. Margins should not be less than 0.5 inches on the standard letter format size (8.5 x 11 inches).

Enable Other Users to Access This Proposal

This section allows the PI to give other users access to the grant application. Signatories will need at least edit access on this screen if electronic signatures are required for submission.

Institution and Contacts

- The institution's information will be automatically populated by Proposal Central. Please ensure that the institution's information is correct.
- Enter the email address for institutional contacts:
 - Signing official
 - Financial officer
 - Technology transfer officer

Other Key Personnel

- Add emails for key personnel participating in the project.

Abstract

- Lay Summary: Please provide a general audience summary with text only and no special characters or formatting.
- Project Summary: Please provide a summary for a technical audience with text only and no special characters or formatting.

Project Aims

- Identify two to five aims that outline the project's central objectives within the full funding period. Each aim should also be referenced and fully described within the main Research Proposal document. When inputting the short description of the aim in section 8, please start with the aim number (e.g., "Aim 1: Description of aim"). Enter a short description of your Specific Aim and Associated Milestone. Explain how this aim relates to CARRA's mission and vision.

Milestones and Deliverables

- Provide a brief description of at least one milestone (timepoint that delineates a key phase in a project schedule) and at least one deliverable (final outputs) per aim. Deliverables may include, but are not limited to, the development of new models, knowledge generation, publications and other knowledge mobilization activities, technical advancements, provisional patents filed, etc.
- Input a brief description (one or two sentences) for each milestone/deliverable. Click the "+" icon to add rows for each additional milestone/deliverable.

Budget Period Detail

The funding limit of this award is \$50,000.

The budget provided must indicate how funds are to be allocated for each year.

The budget should include sample costs, CARRA administrative time, and a one-time site eligibility report fee of \$5,300. Note: Please be sure to research, accurately reflect, and explain data extraction costs (if proposed).

The type-I kit is \$520 per collection, and the type-II kit is \$297 per collection. These fees include the tubes and kit materials, shipping to/from Biobank, payments to sites for collecting samples, and Biobank fees for processing and storage. These fees are subject to change without notice.

These fees do not include future lab processing and/or shipping costs related to sending samples from the Biobank to an institution (or other labs) for conducting the future research project, CARRA time required to manage the project, and internal budget, if needed.

Patient Impact

Describe how your CARRA-funded award will ultimately directly or indirectly impact patients (up to 350 words).



Application Attachments

Download all templates and instructions in this section. Required attachments that have not been uploaded are listed in this section.

NIH Biosketch

In this section, the applicant can upload documents for the application. NIH-formatted Biosketches for all PI(s), co-PI(s), and all co-I(s). Please limit 5 pages per biosketch.

Applicants should highlight any past CARRA Registry publications in their biosketch.

Research Plan

- Importance of the Proposed Biosample Collection:
 - Describe the significance of the proposed biosample collection (Up to 300 words).
 - Why should biosamples be collected from the study population?
 - How will this project advance the CARRA mission?
 - How will studying the proposed biosamples impact patients?
- The ABC Award is designed to allow the collection of biosamples in the CARRA network that will be used immediately for hypothesis-generating research or that will enable investigators to apply for non-CARRA funding to conduct ongoing research. It is important that the applicant provides evidence of feasibility-that the research team is able and qualified to conduct the proposed translational research.
 - Describe the future study that will use the collected biosamples (Up to 300 words):
 - Background, significance/innovation
 - Any supporting preliminary data
 - Research methods (including sample size and statistical plan)
 - Expected outcomes
 - Timeline (include a proposed timeline for the recruitment and sample collection)
- Provide the number, type(s), and volume of samples that the research team would like to be reserved for your research project (Up to 300 words).
- Future Funding:
 - Describe how future research activities will be funded (Up to 300 words).
 - How will obtaining these biosamples impact the research team's ability to acquire funding from other sources?

References and Recommendations

Please provide information on references used in the application.



Letters of Support

- Up to 2 letters of support from collaborators, mentors, and institutions are highly recommended but they must reflect the PI's ability to lead this effort and complete the study in one year (no extensions will be entertained).

PI Demographic Info

The applicant should provide basic demographic information in this section:

- Gender
- Race
- Primary race
- Ethnicity
- Citizenship

Required Signature Page

The applicant and institutional official must sign the application before it can be submitted.

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 (FAQs).
- Still need help with Proposal Central? Reach out to [Proposal Central's Support Desk](#).

Grant Policies

- There will be no disbursement of funds to the awardee's Institution. Biosample collection fees and other associated fees are paid directly by CARRA to our biorepository and related vendors; thus, grant funds stay within CARRA.
- Awardees are expected to submit an abstract and attend the CARRA annual meeting after the biosample collection is complete.
- Awardees are expected to join a progress call with CARRA staff every six months beginning six months after the sample collection start date
- Awardees must submit a final progress report no later than 90 days after the project period's end date.
 - A late submission may impact an applicant's eligibility for future CARRA grants and data/sample requests.
- All awardees of funding received through CARRA's Intramural Research Program must abide by the procedures outlined in the current [CARRA Authorship, Publication, and Presentation Guidelines](#) when presenting/publishing findings from their projects.
 - This includes submitting all abstracts, posters, and manuscripts to the CARRA Data Sample and Publications Committee (DSPC) here 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.” For more detailed acknowledgement guidelines, please visit CARRA’s [Policies & Templates](#) page.

Contact Information:

Program or Administrative Questions:

Emily Klein

Senior Manager, Grants & Awards

grants@carragroup.org

Technical Questions:

[proposalCENTRAL](#)

pcsupport@altum.com

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