

AI4Health Collaboration Grant Program

The Artificial Intelligence Research for Health Center (AI4Health) at USC is pleased to announce a collaboration grant program. The goal of the program is to initiate new collaborations between USC researchers in Artificial Intelligence and researchers in the health sciences that will lead to new federally funded projects. Two \$100,000 grants are made possible by the gift of a generous donor which has been matched by the Information Sciences Institute. The purpose is to allow the formation **of new multidisciplinary teams** to collaborate and publish in advance of proposing multi-investigator projects to external agencies. Teams with seed funding who generate preliminary results and gain experience working jointly have proven more successful when they later compete for multi-investigator and/or multidisciplinary grants.

PURPOSE

Serving as a catalyst for USC faculty to form new teams, the seed grant program is intended to initiate new intellectual directions and to be competitive for multidisciplinary grants. Proposers must include one AI researcher from Viterbi and one researcher from the Health Sciences or a closely related field such as biological sciences. Note that the goal is to create new collaborations, so we are excluding teams of researchers that have collaborated on publications or on externally funded projects together in the past. A key consideration is whether the project can be leveraged toward new externally funded research and whether the project builds capacity and synergies to create critical mass in larger efforts. An ideal project would apply for external funding within 9-12 months following seed funding.

ELIGIBILITY

Proposals are invited from all USC individuals eligible to serve as a Principal Investigator. All proposals must include a PI or CoPI from USC Health Sciences or biological sciences and a PI or coPI from Viterbi with a background in Artificial Intelligence. A researcher may participate as PI or CoPI on only one proposal.

USE OF FUNDS

Funds may be used for any activity directly related to the conduct of the research, e.g. salaries and benefits for faculty, students, postdocs, or research scientists, research supplies, equipment/facility recharge, etc.

DEADLINES

Proposals due: August 6, 2023

Projects selected / announced: August 31, 2023

REVIEW PROCESS

Proposals will be reviewed by USC faculty with comments returned to explain funding decisions. The alignment of projects with the goals of innovation and high impact, the availability of necessary data, and the feasibility of completing the project and submitting a collaborative grant proposal are evaluation priorities. Proposals that are disruptive, use technology in new ways, or launch entirely novel approaches are specifically encouraged. The assessment will consider the extent of inter-departmental collaboration as well as the potential for subsequent extramural funding.

APPLICATION FORMAT

Bearing in mind that not all reviewers will have an extensive knowledge of their field of inquiry, proposers should use proposal language accessible to most faculty. The Application should consist of:

1. A cover page with title, list of PIs and their USC affiliations, and a statement that this is a new collaboration and that PIs have not previously authored a paper nor been funded on a federal grant together.
2. Research Plan - No more than 3 pages, single-spaced, 12 point font with one-inch margins. Typical proposals should include: a brief introduction

- and one-year objectives, research plan - specific aims and methodology, and anticipated results.
3. External Funding Target: What specific federal funding opportunity will be targeted for subsequent funding? What is the proposed timeline for applying for external funding?
 4. CVs including recent publications and grants (no more than 5 pages for each investigator, preferably in NIH or NSF biosketch format).

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Email applications as a single PDF to AI4HealthGrants@isi.edu

RELATED OPPORTUNITIES

The **AI4Health collaboration grant program** is related to the [NEMO PRIZE](#) by USC's Office of the Senior Vice President of Health Affairs in that both offer seed grants. There are some differences in focus based in part by the sources of funds. In particular:

- The **AI4Health collaboration grant program** is designed to expand the number of collaborations and only new collaborations are eligible.
- The **AI4Health collaboration grant program** is focused only on Artificial Intelligence Research and health sciences collaborations. The NEMO prize is for any area of engineering and health sciences.
- The NEMO award is slightly larger (\$125,000 vs \$100,000)
- The AI4Health collaboration grant program has an earlier deadline and feedback will be provided in time to apply for the NEMO prize.