

LSU Health Shreveport Ochsner

Collaborative Intramural Research Program (CIRP)

Call for Research Proposal

Proposals Due Date: April 1, 2026

LSU Health Shreveport and Ochsner Clinic Foundation (“Ochsner”) recognize the beneficial role of interdisciplinary partnerships in fostering innovative research. To stimulate the growth of groundbreaking research in Louisiana and foster collaboration across institutions, LSU Health Shreveport and Ochsner have created the “Collaborative Intramural Research Program (CIRP).”

The CIRP Program will provide up to \$100,000 (up to \$50,000 per institution) for seed funding for new interdisciplinary collaborative research projects. Projects must involve at least one full-time (tenured or tenure-track) faculty member at LSU Health Shreveport and at least one full-time faculty member, physician, or researcher from Ochsner. Applications must include a **new collaboration** between investigators from different disciplines working together in a new area of research or scientific inquiry. The goal is to extend research beyond LSUHS and Ochsner while building a foundation for future competitive extramural support. Faculty from **both institutions and departments** are invited to submit proposals with a focus on new collaborative research in **all disciplines**. This program is open to both new investigators and established researchers.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Innovative research proposals are sought under the following guidelines:

1. Novel and collaborative investigative team: Each proposal must be submitted with Multi-Principal Investigators from different disciplines or departments who have not previously co-authored any publications or had joint funding. One member of the research team must be a full-time tenure or tenure-track faculty member at LSUHS. The other team member must be a full-time faculty member currently employed at Ochsner. All applications can have multiple designated performance sites.
2. Research proposals from all disciplines will be accepted.
3. Novel and collaborative scope: Each proposal must identify how the investigation will broaden understanding of research problems, yield fresh or unexpected insights, or increase sophistication of theoretical, methodological, or analytical approaches of two or more research disciplines. Explain how disparate research approaches and/or methodologies will be integrated to create innovative or enhanced research outcomes.
4. Innovation: Proposals must identify how the research team (both PIs) represents a new collaboration, and how the proposed project represents new research at LSUHSC-S and Ochsner.
5. Sustainability: Each proposal must show clear paths for sustainability by identifying potential future funding and how this funding can pave the way to position the team to compete for external funding sources and opportunities.

FULL PROPOSAL DUE DATE

Full proposals are due no later than 5 PM on Wednesday, April 1, 2026. All proposals must be submitted in InfoReady <https://lsuhs.infoready4.com/>. Proposals submitted must be in final form, with all required components, including documentation of institutional review. *PIs should adhere to the policies and procedures for grant submission established at their institutions.*

OCHSNER INTERNAL SUBMISSION PROCESS:

Ochsner PI's are required to submit an [Application Initiation Form \(AIF\)](#) by **March 11** (or the closest, following Monday, if this date falls on a weekend). Prior to submitting this form, the Ochsner PI must discuss their application with their Administrative Research Manager/Director. Please contact grants@ochsner.org for help identifying this individual or with questions about his opportunity.

AWARDS

Funds will be disbursed on July 1, 2026. Unused funds must be returned to LSUHS and/or Ochsner. A one-time twelve-month no-cost extension (NCE) may be considered; rebudgets must be approved by the individual institution. No PI may receive more than two total no-cost-extensions across the aggregate of their CIRP awards.

A second year of support may be offered on a competitive application basis but will depend on availability of funds and scientific progress on the project.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Successful applicants will be required to submit a final project report, including a financial expenditure summary, due at the completion of the contract period. In addition, a follow-up report must be submitted one year after project completion to help assess the efficacy and impact of the CIRP program. The project PIs are responsible for completing the proposed research and submitting all required reports. Final reports must be submitted through <https://lsuhs.infoready4.com/>. Performance on prior CIRP-funded projects and follow-up activities, including but not limited to publications and subsequent grant applications or awards, may be considered as part of the decision-making process for future CIRP funding. Failure to comply with these reporting requirements may result in the denial of future CIRP funding. Applicants who have previously received a CIRP Award must submit all required final and follow-up reports before applying for a new award.

All publications, presentations, and other scholarly products resulting from work supported by CIRP funding must acknowledge the CIRP program's role in supporting the research. This should be included in the appropriate funding or acknowledgement section and clearly state the project was supported, in whole or in part, by CIRP.

PROPOSAL PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

All proposals should be submitted in PDF format and set to print on standard 8.5 x 11-inch paper, one-sided, with at least one-half inch margins on all pages. Pages should be single spaced using Arial font size 11 and be numbered consecutively throughout the application. Proposals must include the following components:

1. Cover Pages
 - Provide all information requested in the application form.
 - Signatures of PIs and Department Chairs or Institutional Authorized Representatives are required.
2. Project Summary of 250 words or less
3. Personnel engaged on project
4. Project Description
 - No more than 6 pages, single-spaced, including all tables, graphs, charts, figures, or images. Each of the elements described under Proposal Guidelines should be addressed in the Project Description. The project should reflect one year of work.
5. Budget and Budget Justification
 - No more than 2 pages
 - Funding will be for up to \$100,000 (\$50,000 each PI) for 1 year.
 - Funding is intended to support postdoctoral fellows, graduate and undergraduate students and research technicians, as well as direct research expenses support faculty salary (salaries for faculty are excluded). All personnel must be current employees; funds may not be used to hire new employees.
 - The budget may include up to \$1,000 for travel to attend a scientific meeting or for travel between participating institutions.
 - Budget elements must be adequately described and itemized.
 - The following expenditures are not allowed: 1. Tuition and fees, 2. Equipment purchase, maintenance, or service, 3. Capital expenses, 4. Construction or renovation, 5. Administrative personnel, 6. Office furniture or routine office equipment (including computers), 7. Consultants, 8. Subawardees, or 9. Indirect costs.
6. Literature Cited
 - Literature cited should be listed in an approved journal format and shall not exceed 2 pages. References are not included in the 6 page Project Description limit.
7. Biographical Sketch
 - The PIs should each include a current NIH Biographical Sketch. Biographical Sketches should be no longer than 5 pages.
8. Research Support
 - The PIs should each submit an NIH Other Support to include active, pending and completed support (completed within the past three years) grouped together by status and in-kind contributions. Please refer to PHS 398 Other Support instructions at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/othersupport.htm>.

No additional documentation, appendices, or letters of support should be submitted. Please contact the Office of Research Administration at shvintramurals@lsuhs.edu or the Ochsner grants team at grants@ochsner.org for questions regarding your application or this RFP.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Evaluation of proposals will be performed using the following criteria: (1) Scientific quality of the research project; (2) Expertise and scientific diversity of the research team; (3) Originality and innovativeness of proposed research; and (4) Evidence of sustainability.

1. **Scientific Quality:** Applications must address a new, important, and relevant research question and propose unique or innovative interdisciplinary solutions. The application must demonstrate a sound technical approach to accomplish the proposed research objectives with clearly defined outcomes.
2. **Research Team:** The PIs must have the expertise and experience needed to accomplish the proposed project. The application should provide specific details on how the proposal represents a new collaboration. An existing collaboration entails currently or previously funded research in which the PIs are co-applicants or co-authors.
3. **Originality:** The proposed research must be unique and innovative. The focus should be on new, emerging areas of research or providing interdisciplinary ways of looking at old research questions.
4. **Sustainability:** The proposal should show likelihood of providing leverage for future extramural funding and/or to continue following the 1-year of financial support provided in this RFP. The application should address how the research will lead to new and varied opportunities for the research team. Specific funding mechanisms and areas of known sponsor interest should be mentioned.

PROPOSALS INVOLVING THE USE OF HUMAN SUBJECTS OR VERTEBRATE ANIMALS

Use of Human Subjects: Consistent with Federal policy, all proposals involving the use of human subjects either must have approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) before an award is made or affirm that the IRB has declared the research exempt from continued oversight. Therefore, applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with their institutional IRB during proposal planning and preparation, and prior to proposal submission.

Use of Vertebrate Animals: Consistent with Federal policy, proposals involving the use of vertebrate animals for research or education must be approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) before an award can be made. Therefore, applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with their institutional IACUC during proposal planning and preparation.

If the proposal is recommended for funding, a letter of approval for intended human/animal protocols by IRB or IACUC must be provided prior to contract execution. Also, if applicable, any changes in protocols from that contained in the original proposal should also be indicated and accompany the assurance of IRB/IACUC approval. Approval from the IRB or IACUC at both institutions is required.

REVIEW COMMITTEE

Proposals will be reviewed by a designated review panel of outside experts. Due to the broad nature of this award mechanism, experts in your scientific field of research will not

necessarily review the proposal. Therefore, it is in your best interest to define all acronyms, keep jargon to a minimum, and make the proposal understandable to a non-specialist.

RESEARCH AGREEMENT

The LSU Health Shreveport Office of Research Administration will issue a Research Agreement and any subsequent amendments for all funded projects.