



CoFests! Data Fund Request for Applications (RFA): Colorectal Cancer Data Projects

Want to accelerate progress in cancer research? Join the effort to tackle one of the leading causes of cancer-related deaths—**colorectal cancer**—using the power of data! Whether you're driven by discovery or passionate about patient outcomes, this is your chance to turn your data into breakthroughs.

The Convergence Institute at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center (SKCCC) at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine is committed to solving cancer through the power of convergence science. By bringing together experts from diverse disciplines, we accelerate innovation in cancer research. Now, we're inviting researchers to bring that spirit of innovation to CRC through this special data-driven RFA.

The CRC Convergence Program, with generous support from the Schnabl Family, is pleased to announce a Request for Applications for innovative research projects focused on colorectal cancer. This initiative aims to 1) support data science-driven research that leverages omics-based datasets to advance our understanding of colorectal cancer biology, pathology, and treatment approaches, and 2) advance data science education by making well-characterized CRC datasets available for teaching and methodological development.

Project Requirements




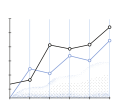


- All proposals must specifically address research questions related to colorectal cancer biology, pathology, or treatment
- Proposals for data collection will not be considered, data should be available for analysis at the start of the award period
- In the spirit of the convergence institute's mission, proposals should include a clear description of the expected contribution to knowledge and potential for synergy with other CRC research initiatives.
- Projects must have clear, achievable objectives within the allocated resources and time.

Award details

Each award will provide a unit of analysis work comprising 80-90 hours of analyst support (equivalent to 5% FTE spread over 2-4 months). This support includes:

- Regular meetings to review results
- Collaborative planning of subsequent steps
- Development of detailed deliverables
- Providing project-specific technical support and sharing analytical resources

Services Provided

 Statistical quality control for omics data	 Data preprocessing and normalization	 Computing resources and infrastructure
 Biostatistical modeling Advanced analyses Data Visualization	 Data engineering support	 Publication assistance (reformatting tables/figures, manuscript preparation)

Application Requirements

Applicants must submit a detailed project proposal (1500 words) outlining the proposed work, including:

1. Background and scientific question.
2. Relevance to Colorectal Cancer.
3. A brief description of the datasets to be utilized.
4. Proposed analysis outcomes.
5. A timeline and deliverables for the proposed work.
6. A statement of willingness to engage with the Convergence Community to share data, disseminate findings, and identify opportunities for collaborative synergy.



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Eligibility Criteria:

- Open to all researchers across Johns Hopkins University
- Priority consideration will be given to junior faculty
- Applications will be evaluated by a panel of reviewers based on
 - Data quality and accessibility
 - Scientific merit and significance of the proposed question
 - Alignment with the guiding principles of this RFA
 - Feasibility within the allocated resources (80–90 hours)
 - Ability to pair the project with an appropriate analyst
 - Potential for synergies with other research initiatives

Expectations for Awardees:

- Commit to presenting findings at the CRC convergence mini-symposium (poster/talk).
- Demonstrate the potential of their project to inspire future CRC CoFests! hackathons.
- Maintain openness and collaboration to facilitate broader scientific engagement.
- Engage with the Convergence Community to share findings

Submit A Project Proposal Now!

Applications must be submitted electronically by 6/30/2025. Proposals should be sent to crc-cofests@jhmi.edu with the subject line: "**CRC Data Projects RFA Application**". Please note that incomplete or late submissions will not be reviewed. Awardees can expect to hear back from us around early October.

For questions or further information, please contact crc-cofests@jhmi.edu.