

ALROV CENTER for DIGITAL MEDICINE

Call for Grants I March 2024



About the Center

The **Alrov Center for Digital Medicine** is a joint initiative of Tel Aviv University (TAU) and Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, Ichilov (TASMC).

Digital medicine – the development and application of advanced digital technologies, such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and big data analysis, to improve patient outcomes and healthcare delivery – is the next frontier in biomedical science. It encompasses a broad spectrum of innovative digital technologies for diagnosis, monitoring, and treatment of various medical conditions and focuses on platforms and methods for collecting, storing, and analyzing patient data, including electronic health records, genomics, molecular high-throughput data, and medical imaging.

The Alrov Center for Digital Medicine strives to advance innovative, groundbreaking research in the field of digital medicine, drawing upon the extensive expertise and capabilities of the two institutions, TAU & TASMC, and promoting the digital medicine research community.

Call for Applications

We are excited to announce our first **Call for Grants**, aiming to provide **several research grants** to advance collaborative, impactful, and innovative research in the field of digital medicine.

This call for grants solicits applications in two funding tracks:

1. **Proof-of-Concept projects**, each with total funding of up to 100,000 NIS (for 1 year).
2. **Flagship projects**, each with total funding of up to 500,000 NIS (2-year projects, with second year funding pending progress).

Evaluation Criteria

Funding decisions will be based on scientific excellence and on the project's alignment with the core concepts of the Center, including:

- **Active, reciprocal, and prolific collaboration between TAU and TAMSC researchers**
- **An emphasis on big data and computational innovation**
- **A clear focus on unmet clinical needs with potential short- and mid-term translational benefits**

General Eligibility

- A proposal for a joint collaborative project involving both TAU and TASMC Principle Investigators (PIs). **TAU PI must be a senior academic staff member employed by Tel Aviv University 100% in the research tenure track. TASMC PI must be a TASMC member holding a MD or PhD degree with a proven record in biomedical research or data science.** The PIs will head the group and will be responsible for representing the group to the Alrov Center and the research authority.

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- Additional researchers and personnel at TAU or at TASMC (with no conditions on their academic or medical rank) can be included in the proposal as Co-Investigators (CIs). Awarded funding will be allocated directly only to the PIs.
- An individual can be included as a PI or CI on only one application.
- The budget should be divided equally between TAU and TASMC.
- By TAU rules, retired professors are not eligible to apply.

Format and Scope

The application should include the following in a single PDF file:

1. **Cover page** – Proposal title, PI names and titles, affiliations, and 4-6 keywords
2. **Research plan (2-page** limit for Proof-of-Concept grants; **4-page** limit for Flagship grants; Times New Roman or Arial font 11), including the following information:
 - **Scientific background**
 - **Research aims** - including potential clinical applications and expected clinical benefits
 - **Methodology** - demonstrating clear academic innovation in the digital medicine domain
 - **Data requirements** - with a well-defined specification for the requested data
 - **Collaboration plan** - description of how each PI contributes to the research goal and how the collaboration will be maintained; Note: research activities that go beyond data collection/retrieval/annotation at **both** institutions are a fundamental condition for funding
 - **Preliminary data** - required for Flagship projects only
 - **Budget** - detailed budget for each PI and budget justification (including expected costs for data preparation & processing and cloud resources)
3. **References**
4. **CV of each applicant** (NIH Biosketch or similar format; 4 page limit per PI)

Submission, activation, and reporting

- Submissions due: **May 5, 2024**
- Funding decisions are expected by the end of July 2024, with awarded grant activation starting September 1, 2024
- Please send your application to alrovdigmed@tauex.tau.ac.il
- Suggestion for potential referees should be sent in a separate e-mail
- Proposals will be managed by a grant committee and evaluated by TAU, TASMC, and external reviewers
- Accepted proposals that require ethics approval and/or a data transfer agreement must present these documents before grant activation
- Reporting requirements: A progress report for Flagship projects, 2 months before the end of the first year. A summary report (for both Flagship and Proof-of-Concept projects), a month after completion of the grant, summarizing the accomplishments and results

GOOD LUCK!