

Call for Applications - Innovation Academy and Pitch Competition

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The [Center for AI-Enabled Learning Health Science \(CAILHS\)](#) invites all OHSU members to submit project ideas to leverage AI and learning from data to directly improve patient care.

The OHSU Center for AI-enabled Learning Health Science (CAILHS) is one of the first in the country to build an AI-driven learning health system*. Co-directed by Drs. David Dorr and Jeff Gold, CAILHS aims to build a system that is practical, ethical, patient-focused, and at the forefront of health informatics and learning health science.

**A "learning health system paradigm focuses on generation of new knowledge based on analysis of data collected during clinical care, as well as continuous improvement of the healthcare system based on the application of that knowledge and accompanying insights."*
(Tenenbaum JD, et al 2026; PMID: 42048237)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The **CAILHS Innovation Academy & Pitch Competition** is an annual Innovation Accelerator that identifies, develops, and advances multidisciplinary Learning Health System projects from concept to implementation. Goals of this program are to:

- Identify high-impact clinical and operational challenges that can be fostered under CAILHS
- Foster multidisciplinary collaboration across OHSU
- Build institutional expertise in Learning Health System methods
- Accelerate implementation of innovative, data-driven solutions
- Develop projects that are competitive for external funding and commercialization

CAILHS Innovation Academy Award

The committee expects to award up to three projects across the priorities areas of 1) Quality/Safety, 2) Research/Discovery, 3) Education, 4) AI, 5) Access, and/or 4) Work Environment. CAILHS Innovation Academy Awardees will receive a package of institutional resources, which may include:

KEY DATES

Application due: 12/1/26

Selected applicants notified:
12/18/26

Innovation Academy seminars: 4
sessions in January 2027

Pitch presentation: 02/18/27

NEED ASSISTANCE WITH YOUR APPLICATION?

To learn more about this opportunity,
please contact:

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Visit the CAILHS website:
<https://www.ohsu.edu/school-of-medicine/center-ai-enabled-learning-health-science>

[APPLY HERE](#)

- Monetary Prize (final amount being confirmed)
- CAILHS IT development voucher
- Technology transfer consultation
- OHSU Innovates Entrepreneur-in-Residence consultation for identifying and defining the problem and preparing the pitch
- OHSU Innovates commercialization support, including partnership support, innovation resources, and more
- CAILHS mentorship and implementation guidance
- Consultation with engaged patients for projects impacting care in preparing pitch and completing project phases
- Executive or content expert sponsorship to facilitate project in preparing pitch and completing project phases

APPLICATION PROCESS OVERVIEW

1. Submit an application in SMARTSHEET: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/019f4e41b9927c2a92ab714ad2bfaa1e>.
Due 12/1/26
2. Participants notified of selections to move forward: 12/18/26
3. Selected applicants must attend Innovation Academy educational offerings and participate in office hours (January - 10-12 hours expected time commitment)
4. Deliver a project pitch: 2/18/27 1 - 5pm in the Knight Cancer Auditorium
5. Final project awards made post-pitch

PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS

- Attend the four Innovation Academy seminars during January
- Work with your assigned mentor to advance project development and incorporate Innovation Academy learnings
- In-person project pitch
2/18/27 from 1:00 -5:00 p.m.
Knight Cancer Auditorium

ELIGIBILITY

This opportunity is open to all those who work or learn at OHSU, including those with joint VA appointments.

Project ideas must address learning health system improvements, and may be AI-enabled.

A learning health system is an evolving framework where research, informatics, incentives, and culture are aligned for continuous improvement. Data generated from routine healthcare delivery are continuously analyzed to capture new knowledge, which is then embedded back into patient care to optimize health outcomes.

Core components include:

- Addressing at least one of the following OHSU priority areas: 1) Quality/Safety, 2) Research/Discovery, 3) Education, 4) AI, 5) Access, and/or 4) Work Environment.

- Continuous learning and data integration: internal data are systematically merged with external evidence
- Stakeholder involvement: patients, families, and clinicians are treated as active participants in the learning and delivery process
- Seamless integration: best practices and new innovations are quickly integrated into clinical workflows

EVALUATION CRITERIA

High-scoring projects should:

- Address OHSU Priority area(s): 1) Quality/Safety, 2) Research/Discovery, 3) Education, 4) AI, 5) Access, and/or 4) Work Environment.
- Advances OHSU's effort in building a learning health system (see Dorr et al reference above)
- Have a realistic implementation plan with a high likelihood of success in 1 year
- Include measurable outcomes that matter to patients, clinicians, and/or health systems
- Show strong engagement with end users and stakeholders
- Consider ethics, equity, privacy, and responsible AI use
- Have potential to be sustained, scaled, and adapted as new evidence and data become available
- Optionally, may have commercial or broader applicability outside OHSU

PROJECT EXAMPLES

Topic	Description	Potential Outcomes	OHSU Priority Areas
Improve sepsis outcomes on the hospital wards	• Pragmatic randomized trial of linking Epic predictive tools (that identify patients with sepsis) to auto-consultation by the Critical Care Activation Team	Shorter time to antimicrobials Lower ICU rates Lower costs	Workflow; Clinical Operations; AI/Data Science
Reducing hospital readmissions	• Use AI to identify patients at high risk of readmission. • Introduce targeted discharge planning and follow-up for high-risk patients. • Continuously monitor outcomes and retrain the model as new data become available.	Lower 30-day readmission rates, improved patient satisfaction, reduced healthcare costs	Workflow; Clinical Operations; AI/Data Science

Optimizing medication safety	- Implement AI-assisted medication review to identify potential adverse drug interactions or prescribing errors. - Integrate recommendations into clinicians' workflows. - Track reductions in medication errors and alert fatigue.	Fewer adverse drug events, reduced prescribing errors, improved medication reconciliation	Workflow; Clinical Operations; AI/Data Science
Personalizing chronic disease management	- Use AI to stratify patients with conditions such as diabetes or heart failure according to risk and likely treatment response. - Tailor follow-up schedules and interventions. - Continuously evaluate outcomes and update prediction models based on new evidence.	Improved disease control (e.g., HbA1c or blood pressure), fewer hospitalizations, better patient engagement	Clinical Operations; AI/Data Science; Patient Engagement
Improving appointment scheduling	- Predict missed appointments using AI. - Offer reminders or alternative scheduling for patients at higher risk of non-attendance. - Assess improvements in clinic utilization and patient access.	Reduced no-show rates, improved clinic efficiency, shorter waiting times, better access to care	Clinical Operations; AI/Data Science; Patient Engagement
Enhancing diagnostic accuracy	- Introduce AI decision support for interpreting medical images or pathology slides. - Compare diagnostic performance before and after implementation. - Refine both the AI system and clinical workflows based on ongoing performance monitoring.	Increased diagnostic sensitivity and specificity, reduced diagnostic delays, improved clinician confidence	Workflow; Clinical Operations; AI/Data Science

Examples of projects that are considered not responsive to this call

- Projects with no benefit to OHSU
- Use of AI to draft papers or to grade student work
- Projects focused on studies outside of the OHSU community
- Projects whose scope is limited to use of AI to summarize evidence
- Projects which don't use data-driven learning health science principles

QUESTIONS?

Please direct all questions to Melissa Mudd, muddm@ohsu.edu