



**George M. O'Brien Kidney Resource Alliance (OKRA)
Early-Career Investigator Travel Awards
April 2026 OKRA Resource Showcase**

Proposals accepted through: 5:00 PM CT on Monday, February 23, 2026

This announcement requests applications for the George M. O'Brien Kidney Resource Alliance (OKRA) 2026 Resource Showcase Travel Award. **All applications must be submitted via [this online form](#) no later than 5:00 PM CT on Monday, February 23, 2026.**

OKRA's primary objective is to provide kidney researchers with specialized resources, tools, technologies, services, and expertise beyond those typically available in an individual lab or institutional core. The Consortium includes seven National Resource Centers (NRCs) and a National Coordinating Center (NCC). We strive to make OKRA resources widely available and utilized across the entire research community and to support the careers and development of early-career investigators who wish to engage in kidney research.

The OKRA Consortium is hosting its inaugural Resource Showcase on April 6, 2026, in Washington, D.C. at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg Center. Early-career investigators planning to conduct research utilizing Consortium resources and who would like to attend may apply for a travel award **through February 23, 2026**. Travel awards up to \$1250 each (based on proximity and travel considerations) will be awarded based on eligibility and total amount of funds available. Applicants must submit an online application which includes the Specific Aims page or summary of their proposed research project and a description of at least one OKRA resource that they are interested in utilizing for their study (one page maximum). The details of OKRA NRCs and their resources can be found on the OKRA [website](#). Approximately 50 early-career investigator awardees will be selected to attend the 2026 OKRA Resource Showcase.

The Consortium would like to encourage wider participation from various scientific disciplines in our inaugural Resource Showcase. To this end, eligible investigators for this announcement would be any early-career investigators who are engaged in basic, clinical, or translational research relevant to the goals of OKRA and are not currently OKRA key personnel. For the purposes of this announcement, early-career investigators are those who hold Early-Stage Investigator (ESI) status as defined [HERE](#) by NIH. This includes post-doctoral fellows, clinical residents and fellows, trainees, and junior faculty.

Early-career investigators attending the Resource Showcase will learn about OKRA's resources including, services, tools, and expertise offered by the NRCs. The showcase will allow attendees to receive guidance on writing successful proposals, an opportunity to collaborate with the NRCs, participate in breakout sessions with OKRA PIs and key personnel, and an opportunity to review and receive guidance on research questions and aims pages with peers and OKRA investigators. It is expected that this opportunity will lead to increased collaborations of awardees with the OKRA Consortium. All eligible applicants, including past travel awardees and OKRA Opportunity Pool applicants, are encouraged to apply.

Applications will be evaluated as they are received by OKRA Consortium investigators not in conflict with the proposed studies or applicant's institution. Applicants will be notified via email about the outcome of their application. Applicants that are selected will receive further instructions on registration, accommodations, and how to receive their travel award.

Award Terms

- One-time award of up to \$1,250 to reimburse travel-associated costs
- Awardees will register in iSupplier, UAB's online vendor portal, to receive their stipend; this process involves submitting an IRS W9 or W8 form
- Travel awards cannot be used to fund travel of OKRA key personnel

To apply for the travel award, please complete the online application, and submit an NIH formatted biosketch and an Aims page or one-page summary of your proposed research project, and a description of at least one OKRA resource that will be utilized or you are interested in utilizing for your study (single PDF file, one-page maximum) [through this form](#) no later than 5:00 PM CT on Monday, February 23, 2026. Application review will be facilitated by the OKRA NCC, and awardees will be notified by early March 2026.

For questions, contact:

okrancc@uab.edu