VERITY PILOT & FEASIBILITY RESEARCH AWARD CALL FOR APPLICATIONS (2026-2027)

The Section of Clinical Sciences of the Brigham and Women's Hospital Division of Rheumatology was awarded a Core Center for Clinical Research from NIH-NIAMS in 2017 (P30-AR-072577) which created the VERITY clinical research community. As part of this award, the VERITY Pilot & Feasibility (P&F) Research Award has been established.

a. Scope and goals of the VERITY Pilot & Feasibility Research Award: One grant will be awarded this year. The goal of this program is to facilitate access to VERITY Core services (methodology and bioinformatics) for VERITY research community members who are at the rank of Assistant Professor or below. This program is aimed at providing seed funding for new projects, as well as allowing junior members of the VERITY research community an opportunity to develop skills in proposal preparation. We welcome proposals on all topics related to clinical research in rheumatology and musculoskeletal conditions, including a focus on disparities. *Please note that the award cannot be used to fund clinical trials, to purchase capital equipment, or to fund travel or meals.*

Please note - *If you are interested in working with one of the VERITY Cores, please contact us at least 6 weeks prior to the proposal deadline to determine if your project falls within the scope of the Core. Additionally, we would be glad to set up a brief meeting to provide feedback.*

b. Budget. VERITY has committed $30,000 direct costs for a one-year period (September 1, 2026 – August 31, 2027). VERITY will cover institutional indirect costs that are associated with the award.

c. Submission due date. **The grant application is due Wednesday, June 3, 2026, by 5:00PM ET.** Grants should be submitted to jstratton1@bwh.harvard.edu. Grants received after this time will not be considered. We anticipate giving notice for the award by Wednesday, July 15, 2026. The award period will be September 1, 2026 – August 31, 2027. The awardee will have to demonstrate that the study has an approved IRB protocol by September 1, 2026.

d. Eligibility. Applicants must be a member of the VERITY research community to be eligible. To sign up for the VERITY research community and to find information about the VERITY Cores please visit the website, http://www.verityresearch.org/. The Selection Committee will give preference to VERITY young investigators, defined as members of the VERITY research community at the rank of Assistant Professor or below who have not yet been awarded an R01 or equivalent.

e. Proposal evaluation. Grants will be evaluated by the VERITY P&F Research Award Selection Committee. Proposals will be reviewed based on the following criteria: scientific rationale, feasibility (including justification of sample size), utilization of VERITY Core resources, and potential for publication and/or future grant application.

f. Instructions. Please submit the grant as a single pdf including:

A. Cover page (see next page);
B. Current NIH Biosketch from the applicant as well as any other key/senior personnel included in the application;
C. Letter of support from the applicant's research supervisor or Division Chief;
D. Proposal Abstract (200 words);
E. Research Experience (200 words – detailing your current position and the role of the VERITY P&F Research Award in your research/career plans);
F. Research Proposal (3 pages, 11-point font, Arial, ½ inch margins), including Background, Preliminary Data (if applicable), Research Plan (including the specific VERITY Core service requested and any associated statistical justification). References and study timeline are not included in the 3-page limit;
G. Study timeline describing the year-long duration of the P&F award; and
H. Detailed Proposed Budget and Budget Justification.

VERITY Pilot & Feasibility Research Awardees and Project Details 2018 - 2025

Year	Awardee	Awardee's Institution	Title of Project
2018	Aleksander Lenert, MD, MS, FRCPC	University of Iowa	Algorithm Development for Identification of an EMR-based Autoinflammatory Syndrome Cohort
2019	Lily Li, MD	University of Washington	Clinical impact of reported non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug allergies on analgesic use patterns and opioid use disorder
2020	Vanessa Kronzer, MD	Mayo Clinic	Identifying Novel Respiratory Risk Factors and Genetic Interactions for Rheumatoid Arthritis Risk
2021	Candace Feldman, MD, MPH, ScD	Brigham and Women's Hospital	Defining and Extracting Social Determinants of Health from Electronic Medical Records of High-Risk Rheumatology Patients
2022	Gregory McDermott, MD	Brigham and Women's Hospital	Identification of Rheumatoid Arthritis-Associated Interstitial Lung Disease and Respiratory Infections Using Electronic Health Record Data
2023	Medha Barbhaiya, MD, MPH	Hospital of Special Surgery	Development and Testing of Algorithms for the Identification of Patients with Antiphospholipid Syndrome in Electronic Health Records
2024	Ana Valle, MD, MHS	Brigham and Women's Hospital	Development and Validation of Machine Learning Algorithms to Identify Idiopathic Inflammatory Myopathies
2025	Jennifer Hanberg, MD	Brigham and Women's Hospital	Algorithms to Accurately Identify Hip Osteoarthritis in Electronic Health Record Databases

VERITY PILOT & FEASIBILITY RESEARCH AWARD COVER PAGE

1. Primary Investigator (applicant) (name, degree(s), academic rank):

   _____

2. Primary Institution: _____

3. Grant Title: _____

   _____

4. Requested Total Budget (Direct and Indirect, cannot exceed $30,000): $_____

5. Current Grant Support:

PI	Source	Type of Grant	Title

6. IRB Status. The project receiving the VERITY P&F Award must be IRB approved before September 1. We will require the IRB approval letter before funding.

Please submit the grant as a single pdf by email to Jackie Stratton at jstratton1@bwh.harvard.edu.

Please note – If you plan to utilize either the VERITY Bioinformatics Resource Core or the VERITY Methodology Core for your project, we ask you contact the cores at least 6 weeks ahead of the P&F deadline.