

**Northwestern Institute for Artificial Intelligence in Medicine and  
Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities  
Ethics and Artificial Intelligence Research Grant  
2026-2027**

**About the Institute for Artificial Intelligence in Medicine (I.AIM) and the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities (CBMH):**

The mission of the Institute for Artificial Intelligence in Medicine (I.AIM) is to bridge computational methods with human expertise to advance medical science and improve human health. The Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities (CBMH) seeks to advance bioethics and medical humanities at Northwestern and beyond through education, innovation, clinical application, and thought leadership. This award presents a unique opportunity to advance the missions of both I.AIM and CBMH.

**Purpose:**

The award will fund research at the intersections of bioethics and artificial intelligence (AI). AI holds enormous potential to advance healthcare delivery through improved diagnostic techniques, predictive analytics, applied robotics, drug development, disease tracking, and much more. But with the vast opportunities presented by AI come unique ethical challenges. Issues related to bias, privacy, confidentiality, data sharing, implementation, and what it means to be human in this era of technology are a few examples of the ethical challenges that AI brings. This award will provide funding for pilot/exploratory projects that consider bioethics problems associated with any type of AI in healthcare. Projects can address issues from conception, development, testing, and implementation of AI and can be normative or empirical work. The aim is to support preliminary work that will provide a foundation for obtaining funding that supports larger research projects.

**Award Information:**

Projects can be up to one year in duration. Awards up to \$2,500.00 (total costs) will be granted.

**Eligibility:**

To be eligible, applicants must be one of the following:

- A Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine medical student, resident, or fellow\*
- A Northwestern University graduate student or fellow\*
- An employee of Northwestern Medicine/Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, or Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital\*
- A Northwestern University faculty member

\*All students, residents, fellows, and employees should identify a Northwestern University faculty mentor with whom to collaborate. Mentor qualifications and plans for mentor oversight should be described in the proposal.

**Applicants must have the backing of a department or center who can receive the funds in full and process all payments related to the project.** Applicants may apply for no more than one grant per year from the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities.

Preference will be given to proposals with a clearly delineated plan for obtaining subsequent extramural or internal funding, to earlier career people (including students, trainees, and instructor/assistant professors), and to people who have not previously received CBMH/I.AIM funding.

**Requirements:**

All awardees will agree to the following:

- Request membership to the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities and the Institute for Artificial Intelligence in Medicine
- Prepare two progress reports, one halfway through the period of funding, and one at the end of the period of funding
- Acknowledge funding from the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities and the Institute for Artificial Intelligence in Medicine in presentations and publications

**How to Apply:**

Applications should include the following:

- A proposal narrative with the following headings (should not exceed 4 pages):
  - o Specific Aims
  - o Background and Significance
  - o Approach
  - o Next Steps
  - o Timeline
- Budget with budget justification (1 page)
- Non-faculty applicants: Mentor qualifications and plans for oversight (1 page – if applicable)
- Non-faculty applicants: Mentor endorsement should be provided by obtaining your mentor's signature on your proposal or including a confirmation email from your mentor (as a PDF or screenshot)

Once complete, please visit the online grant proposal form to upload your application document(s) and provide additional information:

<https://forms.office.com/r/RvcPZbiLhg>

**Review Criteria:**

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Background/Significance - How well does the applications describe the background and need for the research? If all the specific aims are achieved, would the project make a significant/important contribution to this field and how significant/important is this contribution?
- Approach - Are the strategy, methods, and analyses well-reasoned, well described, and appropriate to accomplish the aims? Is completion of the proposed work feasible?
- Mentor - How strong are the mentor's qualifications and what are the plans for mentorship oversight? (required for non-faculty applicants only)
- Plans for subsequent funding - Are the plans for obtaining subsequent funding adequately described? What is the likelihood of obtaining subsequent funding?

**Important Dates:**

- Deadline for submitting applications: May 26, 2026 at 5 PM CT
- Funding decisions communicated: August 2026
- Funding period: September 2026 – August 2027

**Questions:** Please contact Bryan Morrison ([bryan-morrison@northwestern.edu](mailto:bryan-morrison@northwestern.edu)) with any questions.