



OriGen Health Research Center (OHRC) Request for Letters of Interest: Proyecto oriGen

Deadline: April 7, 2026, 5:00PM Central Time

The [OriGen Health Research Center](#) (OHRC) is a joint initiative between The University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin) and Tecnológico de Monterrey (Tec) that aims to bring together experts in genetics, obesity, human development, statistics, AI, and machine learning to uncover the biological and social drivers of chronic disease. Our goal is to develop targeted prevention and treatment strategies, advance precision medicine, and ultimately improve the lives of all patients. The partnership fosters the [Proyecto oriGen](#) database and biobank, which includes genomic, clinical, and lifestyle data from more than one hundred thousand participants recruited across Mexico. This resource provides a unique opportunity to study the interplay of genetics, environment, and behavior in relation to health outcomes.

OHRC invites Letters of Interest (LOIs) for projects that make innovative use of the Proyecto oriGen database to solve humanity's major health problems. High performance computing resources may be provided to researchers at UT Austin and Tecnológico de Monterrey through our respective partners, the **Texas Advanced Computing Center** (TACC) and **Microsoft AI for Good**.

Successful LOIs will be invited to submit a full proposal. We anticipate making **three awards** for interinstitutional projects for up to **\$50,000/award**, with up to \$25,000 for the UT Austin scope of work and up to \$25,000 for the Tec scope of work. A collaborator from the partner institution is not required at the LOI stage. OHRC will facilitate meetings between PIs with complementary expertise from the two institutions at the full proposal stage.

Eligibility

Researchers with principal investigator (PI) status at UT Austin or Tec.

LOI Submission

Complete the **online Letter of Interest (LOI) form**, found at: <https://forms.gle/aFmopL1WyjcgB3AbA>
Applicants may choose to prepare their responses in advance using the outline below. Responses will be entered directly into form text fields.

1. Principal Investigator Information:

- a. Name
- b. Contact information (email)
- c. Institutional affiliation (UT Austin or Tec) and College, School, Unit affiliation
- d. Collaborator information, if applicable (Name, Affiliation)

2. Project Concept (300 words max):

- a. Introduce your project concept in no more than a few paragraphs, explaining how it aligns with the mission of the OHRC and will leverage the Proyecto oriGen database. Identify the

questions or issues the project intends to investigate, the approach or methodology, and the potential impact or contribution to the field.

3. **Projecto oriGen Data Needs** [See Appendix for available data and sample set [here](#)]:
- Check the box(es) for any data you anticipate being needed to accomplish the project.

Variables	Question	Requested
Registration	13 de 23	<input type="checkbox"/>
Work and occupation	28	<input type="checkbox"/>
General Health		
- Common diseases (Diabetes, Cardiovascular diseases, Cholesterol and Triglycerides, Renal diseases, Obesity)	93	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Other diseases (cognitive/neurological, psychiatric, respiratory, gastrointestinal, infectious, hematological, rheumatological, immune, endocrine, cancer, transfusions, skin, environmental risks)	118	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Diagnosed diseases	6+	<input type="checkbox"/>
Self perception (Mental, Mood, Sleep, Physical and Personal)	62	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visual, Hearing, and Dental Health	36	<input type="checkbox"/>
Smoking and drinking habits	19	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reproductive health	11	
- Women	64	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Men	6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fractures and pain	18	<input type="checkbox"/>
Food	21	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physical Activities	22	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vaccines and general medications	31	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Specialized medications	5+	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hospitalizations	6+	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family	18	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Hereditary family diseases	47	<input type="checkbox"/>
Home (Substitute godos)	6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physical measurements		
- Anthropometry	12	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Blood pressure and blood parameters	7	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Bioimpedance (InBody)	~20*	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genomic data: whole-exome or whole-genome		<input type="checkbox"/>

- Identify any other specific data, variables, or cohorts if known, or describe the ideal data needed (population, measures, sample size, timeframe).
 - If genomic data is needed, specify needs, such as whole-exome or whole-genome.
 - Indicate whether the data needed will include any sensitive or identifiable elements and describe data access requirements.
4. **Computing Needs:**
- UT-affiliated PIs:** Describe anticipated TACC resources required (for example: Frontera, Vista, etc.) and provide estimated service units (SUs).
 - Tec-affiliated PIs:** Describe the Microsoft Azure environment requirements (for example: CPU or GPU, storage, memory) and estimated SUs.

5. Cross-institution Collaboration Needs:

- a. (Y/N) Do you need help finding a collaborator at UT Austin or Tec?
- b. If yes, specify the type of expertise sought (for example: biostatistics, pediatric obesity, social determinants, genomics, or data engineering).

Timeline

- LOI Deadline: **April 7, 2026**
- Virtual UT Austin-Tec Collaborator matching meetings: Month of April 2026
- Invitation to submit a full proposal: May 4, 2026
- Proposal Submission Deadline: June 1, 2026
- Notice of Award: July 2026
- Projects start by September 1, 2026
 - Awarded PIs must execute a project agreement and appropriate data use agreement using approved UT Austin-Tec templates prior to project initiation.

Appendix: Proyecto oriGen Information

Field work details:

- Recruitment in 17 urban cities (where a laboratory and medical facilities were installed) across 19 Mexican states
- Recruitment at participants' homes with no more than 10% of consanguinity
- Sample proportional to population of >18 years old, 60% women, enriched with older population

Operational aspects:

- 100,000 participants
- UK biobank and ENSANUT based [questionnaire responses](#) (~750 questions, ~501 average responses)
- Anthropometric measurements: electrical bioimpedance (InBody), waist circumference, glucose, triglycerides, total cholesterol, LDL, HDL, and blood pressure (CardioChek)
- Collaboration with Regeneron: 100% of genotyping and exome + 10% of whole-genome sequencing