

## 2024 DHSA Research Competition Call for Abstracts

DHSA is seeking population health research proposals from students, faculty, or staff affiliated with any of DHSA's member institutions. This is a 'shark tank' type event with real-time presentations, judging and awards!

This year, **proposals are requested to have a Population Health focus specifically for vulnerable populations.** Proposals may address any area of population health including but not limited to social determinants of health, environmental health, behavioral and mental health as related to or impacting vulnerable populations.

Vulnerable populations include but may not be limited to those individuals who experience greater risk factors due to age, gender, geographic location, sexual orientation and preferences, those who are socioeconomically disadvantaged or underinsured.

### Background

The DHSA Research Competition was established in 2019 to foster collaboration between colleagues at our member institutions. We favor projects in population health, including topical areas of interest such as those outlined above and encourage multidisciplinary collaborations with strong community engagement.

DHSA was established in 2009 with four founding partners – ChristianaCare, Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children, Thomas Jefferson University, and the University of Delaware. Since then, additional partners have joined including the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Bayhealth the Delaware Academy of Medicine/Delaware Public Health Association, Beebe Healthcare, Delaware State University and Delaware Technical Community College.

DHSA aligns resources and efforts to create a unique, broad-based alliance, focused on establishing innovative collaboration among experts in medical practice, health economics and policy, population sciences, public health, biomedical sciences and engineering, research, medical education, and healthcare workforce development.

The alliance enables partner organizations to collaborate and conduct cutting-edge research, to improve the health of Delawareans through access to services in the state and region, and to educate the next generation of health care professionals.

### Guide for Researchers

The deadline to submit proposals is 11:59pm Sunday, May 5, 2024

Proposals must include the following:

- Researcher's Name(s)  
Structured Abstract, including the overall research plan, innovative aspect of the proposal, budget, and budget justification
  - o Salary\*, fringe, benefits, and indirect expenses are not allowable
    - \*salary unallowable for anyone directly employed by a DHSA member institution regardless of full or part time status, hourly or salary
- Proposed partnership with at least two of DHSA's partner organizations
  - o Applicant cannot include only one researcher who spans multiple DHSA organizations, there must be a minimum of two researchers from 2 or more DHSA organizations to ensure collaboration.
  - o Each DHSA member institution on proposal must have an independent established PI
- A letter of support from each applicant's Department chair or institutional leaders such as VP of Research or VP of Academic Affairs (or equivalents) is expected. The letter should address the institution's interest in collaborating across DHSA and in supporting the applicant(s) in their work.
- Proposals must prioritize impact on Delaware populations.

### Delaware Health Sciences Alliance

Physical Address: 4765 Ogletown Stanton Rd | Suite L10 | Newark DE 19713 | [www.dhsa.org](http://www.dhsa.org)

Mailing Address: 2207 Concord Pike | #103 | Wilmington, DE 19803

Please submit all proposals to Pamela Gardner, DHSA Lead Program Manager, ([pgardner@dhsa.org](mailto:pgardner@dhsa.org)) **no later than 11:59pm Sunday, May 5, 2024**. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

**Process of Review:**

- All proposals will be vetted by a review committee.
- The top three scoring proposals will be invited to the final event for presentation and pitch to the DHSA panel in late Spring 2024.
  - o Date, location, and format of event to be announced.
  - o Finalists will have fifteen minutes to verbally pitch their proposal and the panel (along with community members) will have time allotted to ask questions.
  - o It is expected that teams will be present for the entire event.
  - o A rubric will be utilized by the panel and a numerical score will be given to each proposal.
  - o The researchers with the highest score will be announced the winner and will receive a \$50,000 grant to fund their proposal and work.

In the event initial proposal scores are too close to determine the top three finalists, teams may be requested to give a brief presentation virtually to determine teams advancing to finals.

DHSA reserves the right to evaluate the final project and timeline one year after awarding funds. If funds have not been utilized after 12 months, upon review, DHSA will either grant an extension of time or require unused funds be returned to DHSA.

For any inquiries about the event, please contact Pamela Gardner ([pgardner@dhsa.org](mailto:pgardner@dhsa.org)). We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Omar Khan, MD MHS  
President & CEO, Delaware Health Sciences Alliance  
[okhan@dhsa.org](mailto:okhan@dhsa.org)



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