



AIM-AHEAD & NCATS Training Program Cohort 3

Informational Webinar

September 17, 2025 | 2:00 PM CT

Before we get started...



- This session is being recorded. The recording and presentation slides will be shared after the webinar.
- In an effort to reduce accidental unmuting and background noise, we have disabled attendee microphones until the Q&A portion.
- We will hold a Q&A session at the end. You may drop your questions in the chat or electronically “raise your hand” at that time.

Thank you for joining!

About the AIM-AHEAD Consortium



AIM-AHEAD is a nationwide network of institutions and organizations designed to build AI talent among researchers and clinicians, support multidisciplinary research projects that harness AI/ML to improve the health of Americans and enhance the AI capabilities and infrastructure of communities or hospitals that otherwise would not have had the resources or the capacity to benefit from the advancement of AI/ML.

AIM-AHEAD Coordinating Center



The A-CC consists of four cores, focused on various initiatives to achieve AIM-AHEAD's mission.

Leadership Core

Lead, recruit, and coordinate the AIM-AHEAD Consortium

Data Science Training Core

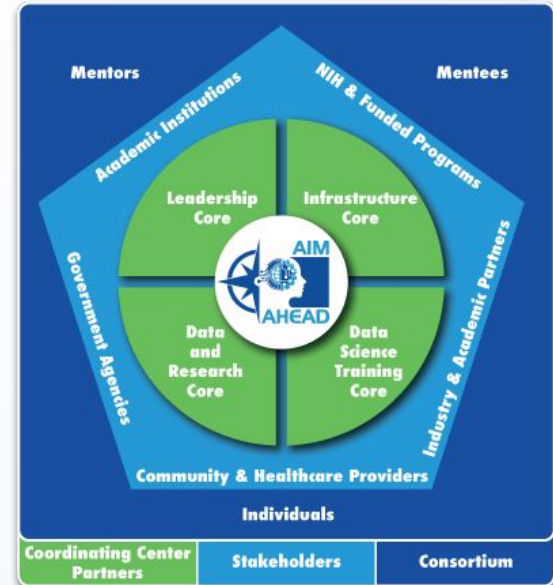
Assess, develop, and implement data science training curriculum

Data and Research Core

Address research priorities and needs to form a comprehensive basis for AI/ML

Infrastructure Core

Assess data, computing, and software infrastructure to facilitate AI/ML and health research



NIH Program Officers



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Program Purpose and Partnership



Partnership

The **AIM-AHEAD & NCATS Training Program**, through a partnership with the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), was designed to reduce barriers for AIM-AHEAD researchers to access and analyze **real-world clinical data**.

This program provides trainees with the skills and guidance needed to conduct novel research at the intersection of **AI/ML and healthcare**, using data collected from a broad cross-section of American communities.

Program Trainee Objectives



Objective 1

To describe foundational and core concepts and terminology related to health data science, such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, real-world data, infrastructure, translational science, and good algorithmic practices.



Objective 2

To use artificial intelligence and machine learning approaches to analyze real-world health data, including creating testable research hypotheses, defining concept sets, identifying appropriate patient cohorts, building AI/ML models, testing robustness, and appropriately interpreting results.



Objective 3

To describe and demonstrate effective interprofessional team science skills, including defining professional roles, crafting a multidisciplinary project proposal, collaborative project management, effective interprofessional communication, and presenting results to multidisciplinary audiences.



Outcome

Participants will learn to apply AI/ML to health data to improve outcomes and gain essential skills and experience to contribute to research on reducing chronic diseases and promoting better health for all Americans.

Training Overview



Trainees complete online courses, participate in live classes, and learn hands-on skills using the **NCATS National Clinical Cohort Collaboration (N3C) Data Enclave**, a secure, harmonized health data resource with data from over **22.8 million** individuals across the U.S.

Training progresses in 3 phases:

Foundations

AIM-AHEAD Connect &
N3C Data Enclave Onboarding

Complete foundational courses
based on your learning needs

Approaches & Applications

Learn AI/ML approaches in
Health Data Analysis I, II & III

Apply AI/ML skills to conduct a
guided team project in the N3C

Presentations

Create effective Health AI/ML
abstracts, posters &
presentations

Present your work at the 2026
AIM-AHEAD Annual Meeting!

Class of 2026 Training Timeline



Foundations Short Courses

Intro to Translational Science
Intro to the N3C Data Enclave
Intro to Health Care & Health Data
Intro to Clinical Biostatistics

Programming Bootcamps

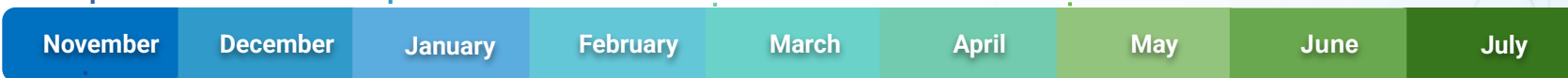
In R or Python
November & December

**Health Data
Analysis I
& N3C Projects**
January & February

**Health Data
Analysis II
& N3C Projects**
March & April

**Health Data
Analysis III
& N3C Projects**
May & June

**Presentations at the
2026 AIM-AHEAD
Annual Meeting**
July (dates to be confirmed)



**Program
Orientation
& Onboarding**
November 17, 2025

**N3C Registration &
Onboarding Due**
December 10, 2026

**1:1 Meetings with
Career Mentors**
Monthly, January - July

**Career Development
Webinars**
Quarterly, January - July

**Program
Closing**
July 31, 2026

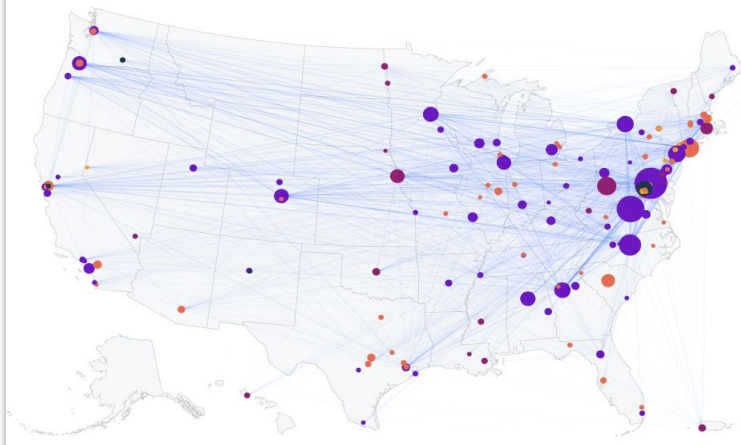
N3C Data Enclave



Inter-institutional Collaboration Map

Collaborative team science is central to the N3C's mission. Below you can find a map of institutions with members working within the N3C Data Enclave sized by their number of collaborative members. Links represent collaborations between at least one member from each institution. The darker the link, the more collaborators.

■ CTSA [90] ■ CTR [23] ■ COM [31] ■ GOV [16] ■ UNAFFILIATED [77]



The N3C Data Enclave represents one of the largest secure collections of harmonized clinical health data in the United States.

 **Sites:** 84

 **Lab Results:** 16.3 billion

 **Persons:** 22.8 million

 **Medication Records:** 5.3 billion

The NCATS National Clinical Cohort Collaboration (N3C)

Data Enclave is a secure, harmonized health data resource designed to facilitate rapid insights and innovative research into diseases, treatments, health care practices, and improving health.

Note: All data in the N3C is de-identified or a limited data set. Trainees will begin in the Education Enclave using synthetic data, and will **not** view any protected health information

N3C Registration



All accepted trainees are required to confirm or obtain institutional N3C Clinical Data Use Agreement **AND** complete individual registration for an N3C account within 30 days of the Notice of Award. Visit <https://n3c.ncats.nih.gov/clinical-cohort/researcher-essentials/registration> to register.

1. First, confirm your Institution is listed on the N3C Clinical/Tenant DUA Signatories List.

If your organization is not currently listed, download the DUA form and ask your institutions' signing official to sign and email it to NCATSPartnerships@mail.nih.gov. About 1-2 weeks after they email it, you should see your institution on the DUA Signatories List, and can proceed with individual registration.

2. Once your organization is listed, follow the instructions to complete your individual registration and create your N3C Clinical/Tenant account.

This will include completing NIH Information Security and Human Subjects Research certification and using or creating your Login.gov and ORCID account.

N3C HelpDesk: <https://n3c.ncats.nih.gov/clinical-cohort/support>

BEGIN REGISTRATION TODAY! We strongly encourage all applicants to begin registration early, as there are multiple steps involved. Note: Trainees may need approvals from their institution's signing authority, and delays may be expected during the holiday weeks.



N3C Registration

Welcome! Thank you for your interest in the National Clinical Cohort Collaborative (N3C).

Please register your profile information on the following page. After submitting your information, please follow the [onboarding instructions](#) to request access to the N3C Team Drive, mailing lists, N3C calendar, Slack, and GitHub.

You will receive a copy of your responses and are encouraged to update your information as needed.

[Click here to Register](#)

Please submit a [support desk ticket](#) with any questions.

IMPORTANT:

If a trainee is not able to complete registration before the Health Data Analysis courses begin in January 2026, the trainee will not be able to continue in the program and stipends will not be issued.

Program Expectations for Trainees



Onboarding

Complete the onboarding process including attending all orientation sessions

Committed Time

Work on the program an average of at least 8-10 hours per week

Courses

Attend and participate in all the required courses

Networking

Engage in AIM-AHEAD & N3C learning communities and the peer networking sessions

Mentorship

Engage with an AIM-AHEAD career mentor and project team clinical advisor (to be matched/assigned)

Assignments

Complete all the assigned goals and tasks listed in AIM-AHEAD Connect

Team Project

Conduct a guided team project using N3C data. Submit an structured AI/ML abstract and summary report. The project submitted—including the title—must comply with the [US White House Executive Order](#).

Presentation

Attend and present a poster, and possibly oral presentation if selected, at the AIM-AHEAD Annual Meeting (July 2026, dates to be confirmed).

Program Evaluation

Participate in program evaluation activities

Engagement

Take an active role in the AIM-AHEAD network by engaging in upcoming events, webinars, and office hours; seeking additional mentorship; and applying to current and future programs and Calls for Proposals

Program Benefits



Stipend

An **\$8,000** stipend upon successful completion of trainee milestones

Travel allowance to attend the AIM-AHEAD Annual Meeting in summer 2026



Support

1:1 Mentorship

(Matched w/ an Experienced AIM-AHEAD Mentor)

Project Team Clinical Advisor

(One advisor assigned per team)

Support from AIM-AHEAD
Communications Hub &
Data Science Training Core

Virtual office hours, dedicated
Helpdesk support, and
concierge services supporting
projects using N3C data



Training

Offers both **didactic** instruction and **hands-on** experience in AI/ML applications.

Coursework Focus:

Clinical Research

**Translational
Research**

AIM-AHEAD Mentorship Process

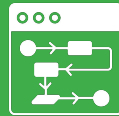


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Each trainee will be **matched with a mentor** who will provide mentoring and support throughout the training program. Mentors are matched with mentees using the Connect Platform. Mentorship matches are made using:

AIM-AHEAD CONNECT



AI Algorithm



Administrative
Matching



Mentor Pool
Search

AIM-AHEAD Annual Meeting

NIH National Center
for Advancing
Translational Sciences



**Attend engaging
panels and
presentations**

**Present a
work-in-progress
poster of research**

**Network with other
trainees, awardees,
and leadership**

Applicant Eligibility



Citizenship and Tax Requirements

- ✓ Must be a U.S. Citizen, Permanent Resident, or Non-Citizen U.S. National
- ✓ Permanent Residency must be established by Sept. 26, 2025
- ✓ Temporary visa holders (F1, J1, H1, etc.) are **ineligible**
- ✓ Accepted candidates must be able to submit a W-9 form

Participation Restrictions

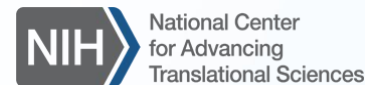
- ✓ Current/former AIM-AHEAD program participants (awardees, fellows, trainees, mentors, advisors, coaches) are **ineligible**
- ✓ Applicants may apply to more than one AIM-AHEAD Training Program but can only be selected for one

Special Cases

- ✓ AIM-AHEAD Coordinating Center personnel and Federal employees may participate, but will not receive a stipend or travel allowance

Note: Please refer to the full CFA on AIM-AHEAD.net for all eligibility requirements.

Education & Experience



Education Requirements

- ✓ **Minimum:** Bachelor's degree in physical sciences, life sciences, math, statistics, data science, engineering, health sciences, or public health
- ✓ **Eligible applicants include:** Post-baccalaureate and graduate students, postdocs, medical students/residents, allied health trainees, early-career investigators, and early-career professionals in non-academic institutions

Required Skills

- ✓ Possess a clinical background, including those with limited exposure or experience with data science, statistics, or programming (e.g., Python or R),
and/or
- ✓ Proficient in data science, statistics, or programming (e.g., Python or R), including those with limited exposure or experience with clinical medicine, public health, or ethics training related to clinical data

Strongly Recommended Skills:

Foundational understanding and hands-on experience in:

- ✓ Health research/public health
- ✓ Health data management
- ✓ Translational science and real-world data

- ✓ Coding/programming with R or Python
- ✓ Probability and statistics
- ✓ Multidisciplinary or interprofessional teams

Note: Please refer to the full CFA on AIM-AHEAD.net for all eligibility requirements.

Eligibility Requirements



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Eligible Organizations

Higher education institutions

Nonprofits

(with or without 501(c)(3) status)

**For-profit businesses and
organizations**

**Local, state, and tribal
governments**

Other U.S.-based organizations

(e.g., school districts, housing
authorities, faith-based,
community-based, and regional
organizations)

Note: Please refer to the full CFA on AIM-AHEAD.net for all eligibility requirements.

Application Requirements



Submission Deadline: September 26, 2025 by 11:59 PM EST

Required Application Elements*

- **Profile Information** (basic applicant details in InfoReady portal)
- **Letters of Support & Recommendation (two letters)**
 - Supervisor letter confirming protected time
 - At least one faculty recommendation (additional letters optional)
- **Academic Transcript** (undergraduate and, if applicable, graduate)
- **Biographical Sketch** (NIH biosketch or CV, max 5 pages)
- **Statement of Rationale** (≤ 2 pages) describing health AI/ML goals, current experience and need for training, example(s) of research interests, and long-term plans and commitment for using health AI/ML

**This is just an overview. Please see the CFA for the full list of application requirements*

Important Note

- Applicants may apply to more than one program but can only be selected for one
- Applicants will rank program preferences in the application

How to Apply



National Center
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Translational Sciences



Applications must be submitted between September 02, 2025 and September 26, 2025 at 11:59 PM EST

Note: Please use Chrome, Firefox, or Edge browsers.

1

Familiarize
yourself with the
program
requirements
outlined in the Call
For Applications

2

Gather all of the
required
application
materials

3

Create an
account on
AIM-AHEAD
Connect and
register as a
“mentee/learner”

4

Submit
application for
review using the
InfoReady
platform



Up to 50 trainees will be selected

Key Administrative Dates



National Center
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Call for Applications Posted

September 02, 2025



Application Deadline

**September 26, 2025
by 11:59 PM EST**



Notices of Award Posted

November 10, 2025



Program Start Date

November 17, 2025



**Deadline to complete N3C
Registration**

December 10, 2025



AIM-AHEAD Annual Meeting 2025

July 2026



Program End Date

July 31, 2026

Questions?



Please raise your hand or type your question in the chat. We will update the FAQ document with commonly asked questions from this webinar.



FAQs & Program Comparison Matrix

Click the [NCATS FAQ](#) & [Program Comparison Matrix](#) links provided in the webinar chat.

Want to Learn More?

Scan the QR code to view the full [Call for Applications](#).

SCAN HERE



Still Have Questions?

Please contact the [AIM-AHEAD Training Programs Helpdesk](#) if your question was not addressed during this webinar session.