



American
Urological
Association

AMERICAN UROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

2023 AUA Data Research Program

IMPORTANT DATES

Letter of Intent Submission Opens: May 1, 2023

Letter of Intent Deadline: June 24, 2023, 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time

Invitation to Submit Full Application: August 1, 2023

Full Application Deadline: September 21, 2023, 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time

Award Notification: December 5, 2023

Award Term: January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

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I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. AMERICAN UROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION DATA RESEARCH PROGRAM

The mission of the American Urological Association is to promote the highest standards of urological clinical care through education, research and the formulation of health care policy. The AUA is a leader in helping to identify gaps in knowledge and communicating urology research needs to key stakeholders in the Urology community. The AUA, with the support of the AUA Data Committee has been building a comprehensive data repository in urology which would allow researchers to conduct studies from clinical, workforce, and policy perspectives. Having recognized a major need to support the future of urologic research, the AUA instated the AUA Data Research Program (formerly AUA Data Grants) with the aim of connecting the urology research community to vast AUA resources. The AUA Data Research Program will encourage the broad use of AUA data, with the assistance of AUA Statisticians and the AUA Data Committee.

The newly approved Data Research Program is also intended to stimulate the use of AUA data sources for knowledge generation and dissemination. The AUA Annual Census and the AUA Quality (AQUA) Registry are invaluable data sources for urology clinical and workforce research initiatives and will be the primary data sources for the AUA Data Research Program. Data to be used in the Program include:

- Practice, provider, and patient data in the AQUA Registry.
- Disease-specific patient cohorts with well-documented information on initial and follow-up diagnoses, treatments, and outcomes.
- AUA Annual Census datasets from 2014 to the most recent year.

The AUA Data Research Program is administered by the AUA Data Management and Statistical Analysis Department, under the guidance of the AUA Data Committee. The AUA is committed to promoting diversity within the urologic research workforce. The AUA does not discriminate as to age, race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, disability, citizenship or national origin in the employment and promotion of staff or in the selection of participants in the AUA Data Research Program.

B. AWARD INFORMATION

Urologic research is critically important to advancing patient care and requires a diverse array of talented, dedicated individuals. AUA Data-focused research has the potential to address key knowledge gaps related to urology care and workforce development, and to transform clinicians into physician scientists through exposure to diverse data sources, and the building of mentoring relationships with experts in the AUA Data Committee.

Through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process starting in May 2023, a total of six projects (two projects using AQUA Registry data and four using AUA Census data) will be selected and funded each year in the form of:

- Complimentary access to the Annual Census or the AQUA Registry data.
- Full statistical analysis support (25 hours per Census project and 100 hours per AQUA project).
- Assistance with developing the methodology section for abstracts and publications.
- A \$2,000 stipend to cover your costs for knowledge dissemination. Covered costs include travel to conferences and presentation/ publication costs.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

All AUA members are eligible and encouraged to apply. One application per applicant is allowed during a competition year.

AUA member ID will be required during the application process. Additional information about AUA membership can be found at: <https://www.auanet.org/membership>.

D. AVAILABLE DATA SOURCES

The AUA's mission to advance the science of urology through research is exemplified by the continuous expansion of the AUA Urology Data Repository. The repository is comprised of urology-related datasets that are well-documented, integrated and readily available for research and insight generation. The AUA Quality (AQUA) Registry data and the AUA Annual Census are key components of the repository and invaluable data sources researchers can use within the AUA Data Research Program to conduct their research projects, and develop abstracts and publications.

AUA Quality (AQUA) Registry

Developed by urologists for urologists, the AUA Quality (AQUA) Registry is a national Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR) designed to measure, report and improve healthcare quality and patient outcomes. The Registry collects real-world data directly from your electronic health record (EHR) system urology practices to participate in quality improvement activities, contribute to national urology benchmarks, and access quality measures meaningful to urologists.

The AQUA Registry is a collection of over 220 practices spread across the United States and US territories. The registry itself was started in 2014 and contains data from 2013 up until 2023. Using data collected in the AQUA Registry, the AUA is developing data modules each centered on a major urologic condition, and include curated information on patient demographics, diagnoses, treatments, outcomes, as well as provider and practice information.

Applicants are encouraged to use the existing data modules to formulate their research questions and develop their research proposal. Urologic conditions not listed below (i.e., data modules not yet developed) can be considered if patients of interest and the associated procedures and outcomes are well-defined by ICD/ CPT codes.

The five modules currently available for use in the AUA Data Research Program are:

- Overactive Bladder (OAB)
- Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH)
- Kidney and Ureteral Stones
- Male Stress Urinary Incontinence
- Erectile Dysfunction (ED)

AUA Annual Census

First launched in May 2014, the AUA Annual Census provides clinicians, policymakers, payers and patients with important information about urologic providers' geographic distribution, demographic characteristics, education and training and patterns of urology practice. It also identifies cross-sectional and longitudinal variations across the specialty nationwide. The Census is a specialty-wide survey of all members in the urology community across the globe. This critical survey will provide important information on urology

workforce and practice to clinicians, policymakers, patients, payers and the general public. The AUA Census data is thus a great resource for urologic care researchers to conduct research and generate publications in the field of urology.

During the application process, applicants will be asked to designate which data source they will use for the research proposal. Applicants can review the data dictionaries for the available AQUA data modules and the Census questions by visiting <https://www.auanet.org/DataResearchProgram>.

E. OVERLAP IN FUNDING

Being a current or previous recipient of a funding award from extramural organizations or government agencies does not disqualify application and participation in the AUA Data Research Program. Applicants are however required to report previously received and active funding within their biosketch during the application process.

F. ALLOWABLE USE OF STIPEND

The intent of AUA Data Research Program stipend is to provide minimally restricted support to cover the costs of research dissemination for a selected AUA Data Research Program research project. Covered costs include travel to conferences (registration, lodging, flights), printing of posters and other materials, as well as presentation/ publication costs.

The AUA Data Research Program stipend cannot be used for institution indirect costs, applicant salary support, or costs related to any personnel other than the awarded principal investigator.

G. DISTRIBUTION OF STIPEND

The AUA Data Research Program stipend will be paid directly to the principal investigator via wire transfer in one installment in July, contingent upon receipt of receipt of the mid-year progress report. The AUA does not withhold taxes from stipends (federal withholding, social security, local or state taxes, etc.). It is the responsibility of the awardee to ensure that appropriate federal and local taxes are accounted for.

II. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

The AUA Data Research Program application process consists of a letter of intent (LOI) followed by a full application. Applicants should review this Program Announcement in its entirety to understand and begin preparing the required components. Questions on eligibility, application materials, etc. should be directed to the program administrator via email at dataservices@auanet.org.

Applicants are responsible for composing, compiling, and submitting complete materials. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all required items are submitted in full electronically via the proposal submission system in advance of submission deadlines.

A letter of intent is required, and must be received by June 24, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern time. Information in the letter of intent undergo administrative compliance review and is used to gauge applicant eligibility, document compliance, and to prepare for peer review of full applications. Following administrative

review, LOIs are reviewed by the AUA Data Research Program Scientific Review Panel for project feasibility, merit of the proposal and potential impact in the field of urology.

Only one letter of intent can be submitted per applicant and applicants are not bound to complete a full application upon submitting a letter of intent. Following administrative and scientific review, selected letter of intent submissions will receive access to the full application submission portal. Invitations to submit full applications will be sent to selected applicants on August 1, 2023, and the deadline to complete the full application is September 21, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern time.

Full applications will undergo administrative review to gauge document compliance, followed by a peer-review by the AUA Data Research Program Scientific Review Panel. Applications will be evaluated for overall impact and significance to the field of urology, innovation, approach and principal investigator's environment. Following review and deliberation, applications will be notified on December 5, 2023, and studies will begin in January 2024.

Electronic Registration

Applicants must submit a letter of intent, full application, and all required documents electronically via ProposalCentral at <https://proposalcentral.com/>. Submission of materials via email, fax, or postal mail will not be accepted.

To prevent emails from ProposalCentral from being identified as spam, it is strongly recommended that applicants add pcsupport@altum.com to their address books or safe sender lists. Applicants requiring technical support related to the grant submission portal should contact ProposalCentral directly.

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Applicants will be required to provide brief description of the project during **the letter of intent** submission process. The project description should contain the following elements:

Project title (do not use all capital letters)

Provide a title for your proposed research project. The project title should paint a quick picture of the main focus and key ideas of your project.

Data Source

Specify whether your proposed project will be based on the AQUA Registry Data or the AUA Census Data. If using the AQUA Registry data, specify the data module or urologic condition you wish to study. If your project is based on the Census data, specify the Census year(s) and the question(s) you wish to study.

Project Aims (1000-character limit)

Briefly introduce the problem to be addressed, provide a brief background, and discuss what you intend to accomplish.

Project Impact (500-character limit)

Discuss why the problem of interest is an important problem in urology, and how your research will potentially improve urology practice.

Project Approach (3000-character limit)

Discuss what overall strategy and methodology you will use to accomplish your aims. Specify which elements of the supporting data you plan to use. Discuss the methodology in enough details that reviewers can determine the feasibility of your proposed project.

C. APPLICANT BIOSKETCH

Applicants are required to submit an NIH-style biosketch with the **full application**, strictly limited to five pages, including descriptions of any research experience, pending or awarded grants, as well as research interests and career goals. A sample biosketch can be found at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/2590/biosketchsample.pdf>. Submissions that do not include the applicant's biosketch and/or documents that exceed the page limitations will be deemed noncompliant and will not advance to review or receive consideration for an award.

D. RESEARCH PROJECT NARRATIVE

Applicants are required to submit a Research Project Narrative during submission of the **full application**. The research project narrative is strictly limited to four pages, inclusive of figures and tables, and must use the section headers in sequence as ordered below. Applications that exceed the page limitation will be deemed noncompliant and will not advance to review. The project narrative must be submitted as one PDF document. DO NOT include any personally identifying information in your project narrative.

Project narrative

- I. Research project title
- II. Research project summary/abstract (<350 words)
- III. Specific aims: The specific aims should (1) state concisely and realistically what the research project intends to accomplish and (2) should list measurable objectives for the proposed project.
- IV. Significance/impact and background:
 - What is the knowledge gap that your research project addresses? Describe the background literature.
 - What is your hypothesis?
 - Why is this topic important to the field of urology?
- V. Innovation:
 - How does your approach differ from current practice or knowledge?
 - How will it potentially improve urology practice or workforce?
- VI. Approach, implementation, environment and evaluation:
 - What is the overall strategy and methodology you will use to accomplish the specific aims of the research project? (Please describe design, sample, instruments, and procedure.)
 - Describe the resources you will use to complete the research project.
 - How will data be analyzed and interpreted?
 - Describe the timetable for the project.
 - Describe the potential barriers to the project's success and any alternative strategies.
- VII. Sustainability and scalability:
 - How will you demonstrate the success of your research project?
 - How will you disseminate the knowledge learned?
 - What are the next steps after the award period?

E. CITED REFERENCES

References should be in American Psychological Association (APA) format and uploaded in a pdf format. References cited page(s) and abbreviation/acronyms lists do not count against the page limit for the project narrative and are uploaded as a separate document in ProposalCentral.

F. FORMATTING GUIDELINES

Letter of Intent

The following guidelines are applicable to all documents submitted for the letter of intent. During the letter of intent submission process, applicants have the option to upload complete project description as a MS Word or pdf document in the Supporting Documentation section, in lieu of inputting project information in the text fields in ProposalCentral. Applicants choosing to upload their project description must follow the character limit and formatting guidelines.

Length: The project Aims have a 1000-character limit. Project Impact is limited to 500 characters, and project approach is limited to 3000 characters.

Style: Use an Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype, or Georgia typeface, a black font color, and a font size of 12 points. Single spaced with a maximum text font of 12 points (Arial); margins must not be smaller than 0.5" on any side.

Full Application

The following guidelines are applicable to all documents submitted for the full application. All applications must be submitted in accordance to the requirements and instructions of the Program Announcement. Proposals must demonstrate high-impact objectives and hypotheses, rigorous research methods, appropriate timelines, and clearly-defined deliverables.

Length: The project narrative is limited to 4 pages. This limit does not include contact information, biographical sketches, references, or supporting documentation. Narratives exceeding 4 pages will not be considered.

Style: Use an Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype, or Georgia typeface, a black font color, and a font size of 12 points. Single spaced with a maximum text font of 12 points (Arial); margins must not be smaller than 0.5" on any side.

G. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Applications violating any of the following conditions are deemed noncompliant and thus will not be advanced for review and are ineligible for award consideration. Final determination is at the sole discretion of the AUA Data Research Program Scientific Review Panel.

- Noncompliance with formatting guidelines.
- Applicant and/or collaborators are not current members of the American Urological Association.
- Required elements of the project description not included in submission of the letter of intent.
- Applicant biosketch not included in submission materials for the full application.
- Required elements of the project narrative not included in submission materials for the full application.

- Incomplete application materials after the submission deadline; letter of intent or application not meeting administrative compliance review.

H. CONFIDENTIAL LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Confidential letters of support are **NOT** required to apply to the AUA Data Research Program.

III. LETTER OF INTENT AND FULL APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

A. LETTER OF INTENT

After creating a ProposalCentral account and logging into the system, the applicant can locate the AUA Data Research Program by clicking on the “Grant Opportunities” tab and searching for the American Urological Association as the Grant Maker. The letter of intent can be accessed by clicking the “Apply Now” button. Letter of intent sections are listed below with additional guidance on how to complete each section. Applicants are responsible for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of all materials, and that materials are received in full before the letter of intent deadline.

1. Project Title

Provide a title for your project (do not use all capital letters)

2. Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal

This section enables applicants to give other users access to the letter of intent but is not required.

3. Eligibility

Only current AUA members can participate in the Data Research Program.

- AUAID – Applicants should enter their AUA member ID.

4. Applicant/ Principal Investigator (PI) Information

Applicants will need to toggle between their “Professional Profile” in ProposalCentral and sections of the letter of intent to reference and complete the required information.

- Name (Last, First, Middle)
- Current position or title at applicant organization
- Applicant Organization
- Academic credentials
- Contact Information (address, phone, email)

5. Key Personnel

Applicants have the option to identify up to 2 collaborators on the proposed project. Collaborators must be current members of the AUA as well.

- Are you submitting a LOI with a Co-PI or other collaborator?
- If yes, provide:

Collaborator #1:

- AUA ID
- Name (Last, First, Middle)
- Current position or title at applicant organization
- Applicant Organization

- v. Academic credentials
- vi. Contact Information (address, phone, email)

Collaborator #2:

- i. AUA ID
- ii. Name (Last, First, Middle)
- iii. Current position or title at applicant organization
- iv. Applicant Organization
- v. Academic credentials
- vi. Contact Information (address, phone, email)

6. Project Description

Applicants are required to provide a brief description of the proposed project. Applicants have the option to upload complete project information as a MS Word or pdf document in the Document Upload section, in lieu of inputting information in the text fields below. Applicants choosing to upload their project description must follow the character limit and formatting guidelines.

- a. Data Source – Will your project use the AQUA Registry Data or the AUA Census Data?
- b. Project Aims – What do you intend to accomplish? (1000-character limit)
- c. Project Impact – Why is this an important problem in urology, and how will your research potentially improve urology practice? (500-character limit)
- d. Project Approach – What overall strategy and methodology will you use to accomplish your aims? What data sets do you plan to use? (3000-character limit)

7. Upload Supporting Documentation (optional)

- a. Project Description (including data source, project aims, project impact and project approach)
- b. References
- c. Other Relevant Document (e.g. Personal information of collaborators)

8. Validate

This section will check for any required information or files missing from the letter of intent.

9. Preview Letter of Intent

Signature of the title page by the PI is not required. Please disregard this guidance.

10. Submit

Submit your letter of intent.

B. FULL APPLICATION

After review of the letter of intent, selected applicants will be granted access to the full application submission portal. Much of the full application submission will be populated with information provided in the letter of intent. The application sections are listed below with additional guidance on how to complete each section. Applicants are responsible for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of all materials, and that materials are received in full before the application deadline.

Sections 1-4. Project Title, Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal, Eligibility, Applicant/ Principal Investigator (PI) Information will be pre-populated from the LOI submission.

1. Project Title

Provide a title for your project (do not use all capital letters)

2. Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal

This section enables applicants to give other users access to the letter of intent but is not required.

3. Eligibility

Only current AUA members can participate in the Data Research Program.

- a. AUAID – Applicants should enter their AUA member ID.

4. Applicant/ Principal Investigator (PI) Information

Applicants will need to toggle between their “Professional Profile” in ProposalCentral and sections of the letter of intent to reference and complete the required information.

- a. Name (Last, First, Middle)
- b. Current position or title at applicant organization
- c. Academic credentials
- d. Contact Information (address, phone, email)

5. NIH-Formatted Biographical Sketch (BioSketch)

- a. Upload your BioSketch in pdf format.

6. Project Narrative

Leave out any identifying information such as names, organizations, etc.

- a. Upload your project narrative in pdf format.

7. References

References should be in American Psychological Association (APA) format.

- a. Upload your References

8. List of Collaborators/ Team Members

List all team members who will work on the project and briefly describe the pertinent qualifications of each research team member.

- a. Upload your list of collaborators

9. Upload Supporting Documentation (Optional)

Items may be uploaded as supporting documentation if they are critical to the review of the application. Examples include a clinical protocol or survey instrument that will be used in your study; a letter of collaboration from a person or organization providing project expertise. Do not include materials that are not essential to the review of your project proposal.

10. Applicant Checklist

A complete application will contain the following application materials:

- a. Applicant’s contact information
- b. Applicant’s biographical sketch (pdf format)
- c. Project Narrative (four pages maximum, pdf format)

- d. References (in APA format)
- e. List of collaborators with qualifications and roles in the project specified (in pdf format)
- f. Supplemental materials (if relevant)

11. Preview Application

Signature of the title page by the PI is not required. Please disregard this guidance.

12. Submit

Submit your full application.

By submitting an application to the AUA Data Research Program I certify that the statements and information included in my application package are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If selected as a participant in the AUA Data Research Program, I agree to all requirements as described in the Program Announcement. I understand that the award will be for a period of up to one year and is contingent on my fulfillment of the reporting requirements.

IV. LETTER OF INTENT AND FULL APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

A. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

Letters of intent (LOIs) and full applications are blind reviewed by a Scientific Review Panel, composed of members of members of the AUA Data Committee. The members are accomplished physician-scientists, who are expert in conducting research using the AUA Annual Census and the AQUA Registry data. Each letter of intent and full application is considered according to established criteria for determining merit as described below.

All review processes are conducted confidentially to maintain the integrity of the selection process. Following the review and deliberation by the Scientific Review Panel, the most highly meritorious applications will be selected to participate in the AUA Data Research Program.

B. LETTER OF INTENT REVIEW CRITERIA

All letters of intent will be evaluated for feasibility and will receive an overall impact score, following the NIH scoring guide below:

Overall Impact	Score	Descriptor
High	1	Exceptional
	2	Outstanding
	3	Excellent
Medium	4	Very Good
	5	Good
	6	Satisfactory
Low	7	Fair
	8	Marginal
	9	Poor

C. FULL APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA

All applications will be evaluated against the following review criteria:

Overall Impact and Significance (40%)

- Does the proposed project address a meaningful knowledge gap in urology?
- Does the project have potential to change clinical practice, reduce medical costs and waste, improve patient outcomes, or result in substantial changes in health care policy?
- Does the project address an important problem or barrier to progress?
- How will the field of urology be improved with the results of this project?
- What will the urology community learn from this study?

Innovation (20%)

- Is the proposed investigation novel?

Approach (20%)

- Does the applicant describe an overall strategy, methodology, and analyses that are well-reasoned, methodologically valid, and appropriate to accomplish the aims?
- Does the applicant address potential barriers to completion of the study and provide a mitigation strategy to overcome these challenges?
- Does the applicant support the rationale for his/her study with appropriate literature?
- Does the applicant propose to obtain data that sufficiently represents the study population?
- Is the sample size and controls properly justified?

Environment (20%)

- Does the principal investigator possess sufficient credentials and a record of successful research projects?

D. NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION REVIEW RESULTS

AUA Data Research Program applicants will be notified of funding decisions through ProposalCentral and/or in writing via email. To prevent emails from the proposal submission system from being identified as spam, it is strongly recommended to add pcsupport@altum.com to your address book or safe sender list. Please note that results will not be given over the phone.

Applicants selected for participation in the AUA Data Research Program must:

- Send an email to dataservices@AUAnet.org to confirm or decline the award within 48 hours.
- Submit a high-quality headshot (file size typically ≥ 1 MB) in professional dress or laboratory/white coat via email to dataservices@auanet.org within a week of accepting the award. With the submission of this photo, the applicant thus gives consent for its use in AUA publications, advertising, fundraising, or other media activities.

V. AWARD AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Awardees are expected to provide reports to the AUA and communicate their findings in scholarly venues, such as at the AUA annual meeting and in high-impact, peer-reviewed journals. Moreover, investigators must complete the proposed deliverables on time.

All AUA Data Research Program recipients must adhere to the following reporting requirements:

A. INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB)

IRB letters of approval are **NOT** required from participants, as all research supported by the AUA Data Research Program will be based on AUA data.

B. LAY LANGUAGE STATEMENT

All awardees must submit a 5-6 sentence lay-language statement about their research projects to be posted under current AUA-supported research at www.auanet.org, in press releases, and other promotional materials for the AUA Data Research Program. Statements will be due no later than **February 1, 2024** and should be submitted via e-mail to dataservices@auanet.org. This information will only be used for promotion purposes described above.

C. AWARDEE PROGRESS REPORTS

By July 31 and November 1 of the awarding year, awardees must submit interim progress reports. The reports must be submitted to the AUA Data Research Program Scientific Review Panel by e-mail (dataservices@auanet.org). A final progress report is due by the end of February after the study end date. Reports should be approximately two pages and address these areas:

- Summarize the main focus of the research and clearly state the findings.
- Specify how the research results met the objectives established in the application. If not, why not?
- What is the impact of the research on the current understanding of this research area?
- What further research remains?

D. PUBLICATION AND PRESENTATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Awardees are required to send electronic copies of articles published based on AUA Data Research Program funded-research to the AUA Data Committee at dataservices@auanet.org. Any abstract, publication, poster or presentation arising from work supported in whole or in part by this program must include the following acknowledgment:

“This work was supported in part or in full by the American Urological Association Data Research Program.”

E. AUA DATA RESEARCH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Each year, AUA coordinates several events designed to advance urology research and provide educational opportunities. Attendance at AUA Data Committee meetings, AUA Science & Quality Council meetings, AUA Board of Directors meetings, and AUA annual meeting is required upon request for all investigators awarded by AUA Data Research Program. Unless prior approval is given, failure to attend an event will disqualify the awardee from receiving future awards.

F. CHANGES TO CONTACT INFORMATION, PROJECT, PERSONNEL, INSTITUTION

Any changes impacting the research project (i.e., applicant contact information, project information, key personnel, etc.) that occur after the proposal submission deadline MUST be reported to the AUA Data Research Program via email at dataservices@auanet.org. All changes will be reviewed to determine whether the submitted proposal may continue to the Scientific Review Panel review or must be withdrawn.

VI. CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions related to the AUA Data Research Program Announcement or submission requirements should be directed to the AUA Data Research Program administrator. The preferred method of communication is by email at dataservices@auanet.org. Assistance is typically available Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern time. Please allow two business days for response time.