



NOTICE OF SPECIAL INTEREST

The Rheumatology Research Foundation is issuing a notice of special interest (NOSI) to highlight the availability of funds for projects exploring the relationships between rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases and SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Please note that this NOSI complements but does not replace the Foundation's annual programs.

The Foundation accepts submissions within the following scientific categories:

- Basic Science
- Translational Science
- Clinical Science
- Health Services Research
- Patient- or Practice-Centered Research

Examples of studies relevant to this NOSI include, but are not limited to:

- Immune responses to SARS-CoV-2 and pathogenesis of COVID-19 in patients with RMDs
- Influence of DMARDs, biologic agents, or other medications, on SARS-CoV-2 immune responses
- Studies of DMARDs or biologic agents used in RMDs on outcomes of SARS-CoV2 infection in animal models or in vitro
- Epidemiology, clinical characteristics, and outcomes of COVID-19 course in patients with RMDs, including the influence of therapeutic agents or other interventions in pragmatic trials
- The effects of COVID-19 on access to rheumatology care, including telehealth, digital tools, social determinants of health, etc.
- Analyses of the economic impact of COVID-19 on the care of patients with RMDs

Applications for large-scale trials are not appropriate for these grant mechanisms and will not be considered for funding.

Given the urgency to acquire new knowledge on COVID-19 in patients with RMDs, applicants submitting projects within this focus area may request an expedited start date. The Foundation will, to every extent possible, shorten the timeline to project implementation and funding for approved applications.

AVAILABLE FUNDING

ACR/ARP members are encouraged to submit applications [online](#) through the following mechanisms:

SCIENTIST DEVELOPMENT AWARD

This mentored career development award is designed for individuals in the early stages of their career (typically Fellows) or those without significant prior research experience who plan to embark on careers in biomedical and/or clinical research in rheumatic diseases.

Award Amount: Up to \$225,000

Award Term: 3 Years

Letter of Intent Deadline: June 1, 2020

Application Deadline: July 1, 2020

INVESTIGATOR AWARD

This award is intended to support early career investigators (with a faculty appointment) engaged in research relevant to the rheumatic diseases for the period between the completion of post-doctorate fellowship training and establishment as an independent investigator.

Award Amount: Up to \$375,000

Award Term: 3 Years

Letter of Intent Deadline: June 1, 2020

Application Deadline: July 1, 2020

INNOVATIVE RESEARCH AWARD

The purpose of this award is to provide independent academic investigators with funding to pursue ideas that could lead to important breakthroughs in discovering new treatments and cures for rheumatic diseases. This award provides essential support for innovative studies focused on generating new insights into the cause, progression, treatment, and outcomes of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases.

Award Amount: Up to \$400,000

Award Term: 2 Years

Letter of Intent Deadline: June 1, 2020

Application Deadline: July 1, 2020

INNOVATIVE RESEARCH AWARD FOR COMMUNITY PRACTITIONERS

The purpose of this award is to enable research with potential to improve the treatment of rheumatic diseases, patient outcomes, and/or quality of care. This award is targeted to community practitioners who, in addition to being engaged in patient care, conduct or are interested in conducting research. The community practitioner is encouraged to partner with an academic investigator for the project.

Award Amount: Up to \$400,000

Award Term: 2 Years

Letter of Intent Deadline: June 1, 2020

Application Deadline: August 3, 2020

KEY DATES

April 29, 2020 Applicant Webinar

June 1, 2020 Letter of Intent Due

July 1, 2020 Applications Due for Scientist Development, Investigator, and Innovative Research Awards

Aug 3, 2020 Applications Due for Innovative Research Award for Community Practitioners

July 1, 2021 Project Start Date*

** Expedited Start Date for Approved Projects will be no later than December 31, 2020*

QUESTIONS

If you have questions about your eligibility, or the application process, please inquire by email to foundation@rheumatology.org or by phone at 404-365-1373 before preparing your application. A member of our team will be happy to walk you through the process!

Visit www.rheumresearch.org to learn more about funding opportunities from the Rheumatology Research Foundation.