



Rheumatology Research Foundation

Advancing Treatment | Finding Cures

Fellowship Training Award for Workforce Expansion

The mission of the Rheumatology Research Foundation is to advance research and training to improve the health of people with rheumatic diseases.

The purpose of this workforce expansion award is to help ensure an adequate supply of rheumatology providers meeting the needs of children and adults with rheumatic diseases in all areas of the country, particularly those currently underserved. The *Fellowship Training Award for Workforce Expansion* may be used to support the salary of any fellow in an ACGME-accredited rheumatology fellowship training program meeting the criteria below:

- Program has been unable to fill all of its ACGME-approved slots due to funding constraints
- An existing program that is creating a new slot
- A new ACGME-accredited program (prepared to participate in the NRMP match for the first year of funding)

Award Amount: \$50,000 per year

Award Duration: 2 years for adult training programs, 3 years for pediatric training programs

All applications must be submitted online by 5:00 PM ET on the deadline day through Zengine at:

<https://webportalapp.com/sp/fy2022ftawe>

If you have any questions about your eligibility or submitting your application, please contact Award & Grants staff at 404-365-1373 or Foundation@rheumatology.org.

Application Deadline
May 1, 2020
Notification
September 4, 2020
Award Term Begins
July 1, 2021

Guidelines

All award recipients must abide by Foundation [Awards and Grants Policies](#) at all times.

Eligibility

- The *Fellowship Training Award for Workforce Expansion* may be used to support the salary of any fellow in an ACGME-accredited rheumatology fellowship training program meeting the criteria below:
 - Program has been unable to fill all of its ACGME-approved slots due to funding constraints
 - An existing program that is creating a new slot
 - A new ACGME-accredited program (prepared to participate in the NRMP match for the first year of funding)
- Applicant (Program Director) must be an ACR or ARP member at the time of submission and for the duration of the award
- Only Program Directors at ACGME-accredited institutions in good standing may apply
- The rheumatology fellowship training Program Director at the institution will be responsible for the overall direction, management and administration of the program
- By submitting an application, the Program Director and sponsoring institution agree funds will be used ONLY for salary support of one fellow in their first or second year (or third year fellow in pediatric rheumatology)
- Multiple applications from a single institution will not be permitted unless they are for separate training programs (e.g. adult and pediatric rheumatology)
- Programs may not apply for the Amgen Fellowship Training Award and Fellowship Training Award for Workforce Expansion within the same application cycle. Preference will be given to programs not supported by fellowship training awards granted by other organizations.
- If there is no fellow available to appoint to this award between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022, recipient may request a one-year deferral
- Supported fellows do not need to be U.S. citizens or non-citizen nationals

If you have questions about your eligibility, please inquire by email to foundation@rheumatology.org or 404-365-1373 before preparing your application.

Review Criteria

Applications will be reviewed based on all components of the proposal, including:

- Program is filling a previously unfilled slot (due to funding constraint or creation of a new slot or program)
- Program serves an underserved area
- Academic and/or clinical quality
- Success in achieving the goals of the training program
- Demonstrated financial need

All applications undergo rigorous peer review in their assigned study section, and are scored and ranked according to the review criteria and overall merit of the proposal. Preference will be given to programs not supported by other fellowship training awards. All study section recommendations are sent to the Foundation’s Scientific Advisory Council for review before being presented to the Foundation’s Board of Directors for final approval.

Award Terms and Funding

This is a multi-year award. No trainee may be appointed for less than 12 months during the period of appointment. Upon receipt of this award, the institution will be asked to provide assurance that funds will be used to fill an ACGME-approved slot that has previously gone unfilled (due to funding constraint or creation of a new slot or program) and the funds will be allocated to salary support of one fellow. Funding will not be released until the Foundation receives these documents.

Recipients will receive \$50,000 per year to support the salary and fringe benefits of one trainee. The award is paid directly to the sponsoring institution in two equal installments in July and January as outlined below. Other trainee costs are to be incurred by the recipient’s institutional program.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 (Peds Only)
Payment 1	July 2021	July 2022	July 2023
Payment 2	January 2022	January 2023	January 2024

At the close of the award term, the recipient must provide the Foundation with a final financial reconciliation. All unexpended funds must be returned to the Foundation.

Application Instructions

Before starting the online application, please read the [Instructions for All Awards](#).

Applicant Information

You will be asked to confirm your eligibility and provide contact information in this section. You will be asked to upload the Program Director's Biosketch in [NIH format](#) (limit 5 pages and should include any pending support).

Program Information

Award History

Please indicate which years your institution has received a Rheumatology Research Foundation Fellowship Training Award (including Paula de Merieux Fellowship Training Award) in the last 5 academic years. Please check all years that apply.

Type of Program

Please indicate adult or pediatric program using the checkbox in the online application.

Award Amount

This information is pre-populated in the online application to show the award start/end dates and the total award amount. Please use the dropdown to indicate whether the end date and amounts are for a pediatric or adult program.

Program Description

Describe the fellowship training program, including the following:

- A. Evidence that you are in a geographically underserved area (limit 500 words). Examples that may be referred to in this section include:
 - Proximity to next nearest training program
 - Number of practicing rheumatologists within a 50-mile radius
 - Catchment area, typical distance travelled by patients to see a rheumatologist
 - Reference to [IDeA eligible states](#) (A list generated via the NIH's Institutional Development Award)
 - Reference to [HRSA shortage areas](#) (A list generated by the Health Resources and Services Administration)
- B. Goals of the training program and success in achieving those goals (limit 500 words)
- C. Description of program (limit 1,250 words) including:
 - Participating institutions
 - Patient population
 - Curriculum
 - Areas of strength

- D. Number of ACGME-approved training slots, number of slots entered into the NRMP match, fill rates for the past 5 years, and any plans for future growth/support (**limit 250 words**)
- E. Brief statement of financial need and the impact the award will have on the training program, as well as certification that the fellowship has an ACGME-approved slot that has gone unfilled due to lack of funding (**limit 250 words; there is no need to duplicate information here that you have included in the “fellowship positions questionnaire” at the end of this application.**)

Required Documents

Publications

List publications that include rheumatology fellows among the authors within the last five years. **Please bold each fellow’s name in the author listing.** Only include publications that resulted from work done during the fellowship, not as a resident or junior faculty member. Papers and abstracts should be separated.

Tables completed as part of an application to other funding agencies will be accepted (e.g., NIH T32).

Faculty Information Table

Download, complete and submit the [Faculty Information Table](#) for all faculty members who will have significant interaction with the fellows. See example of the table below.

Tables completed as part of an application to other funding agencies will be accepted (e.g., NIH T32).

Fellow Graduates Table

Download, complete and submit the [Fellow Graduates Table](#). See example of the table below.

Tables completed as part of an application to other funding agencies will be accepted (e.g., NIH T32).

Fellowship Position Questionnaire

Download, complete and submit the [Fellowship Positions Questionnaire](#). See example of the questionnaire below.

Letter of Institutional Support

The division chief, department chair, or equivalent institutional official must provide written assurance of the following:

- The quality of the training program
- Clear support for the program, Program Director and trainees
- Means of funding remaining salary (how the remaining funding for the trainee will be covered in the award cycle)

Additional Uploads

Additional documents which support the application may be uploaded. Limit 10 pages. Means of funding and population information should NOT be in appendix.

Checklist of Uploads

*Use this for reference when finalizing application materials.
Please double check all documents prior to upload. You will be able to
view and print your application once it has been submitted, as well as
download the attachments for viewing.*

- Program Director Biosketch ([NIH Format](#))
- Publications List
- Faculty Information Table
- Fellow Graduates Table
- Fellowship Position Questionnaire
- Letter of Institutional Support
- Additional Uploads (optional)

Faculty Information Table

Please use the template below and add/delete rows as needed. Include a detailed description of each faculty member's involvement in the training program and their specific contributions. Tables completed as part of an application to other funding agencies will be accepted (e.g., NIH T32).

Full name with credentials	Role in training program	Description of involvement
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

Fellow Graduates Table

Provide the requested information on fellow graduates from the last five years. Please use the template below and add/delete rows as needed. Tables completed as part of an application to other funding agencies will be accepted (e.g., NIH T32).

Fellow's full name with credentials	Career choice and current location	Years in training program	<u>Rheumatology</u> ABIM/ABP status	First time pass? (Yes/No)
1. Joseph A. Fellow, MPH, MD	Rheumatology (Adult or Peds) and Clinical Immunology, University of Florida	2012-2014	Rheum. Boards 2014/ Did Not Pass Rheum. Boards 2014 / Passed Certified 2015/Expires 2025	No
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				

Fellowship Positions Questionnaire

Please use the template below

Question	Number
How many total ACGME-approved fellowship positions do you have (whether filled/funded or not)?	
How many total fellows did you have in ACGME-approved slots in your program last year (2018-2019)?	
How many total fellows in ACGME-approved slots do you have in your program this year (2019-2020)?	
If you have not filled all of your ACGME-approved fellowship positions in the last one or two years, was this due to lack of funding? (as opposed to having a slot reserved for a research fellow, for example)	
This upcoming year (2020-2021), how will you be funding your fellows in ACGME-approved slots? (Indicate percentage of funding from each mechanism below).	Percentage of Funding
Hospital, VA, University	
Internal discretionary funds	
Philanthropy	
Pharma	
Rheumatology Research Foundation	
T32	
Other (provide details)	
	Number
If you do receive this RRF fellowship training award, how many fellows in total do you project you will have for 2021 - 2022?	
Comments (optional):	