Rheumatology Research Foundation
Advancing Treatment | Finding Cures

Rheumatology Future Physician Scientist Award

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

Award purpose: The purpose of this pre-doctoral scholar award is to enhance the research training of promising students who are matriculated in a combined MD/PhD or DO/PhD dual-doctoral degree training program and who intend careers as physician-scientists. This grant mechanism aims to support the nation's top emerging physician scientists and promote their interest in basic/translational investigative careers in rheumatology. This award will support dissertation research projects in scientific health-related fields relevant to the mission of the Rheumatology Research Foundation. The research training experience is expected to tangibly enhance the individuals' potential to develop into a productive, independent physician-scientist in the field of rheumatology.

Award Duration: 2 years

Award Amount: Up to $30,000 per year in <u>direct costs</u> (maximum $60,000 over 2 years).

All applications must be submitted by 5:00 PM ET on December 1, 2018. Submissions will be accepted through the WizeHive application portal located at:

https://app.wizehive.com/appform/login/MDPhD

Application Deadline
December 3, 2018
Notification
February 1, 2019
Award Term Begins
July 1, 2019

Eligibility

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

Eligibility

The Foundation encourages applications from students early in the research training phase of their dual degree training so that they can substantively benefit from the mentored research training opportunities.

➢ Applicant must meet citizenship and other eligibility requirements as outlined in the Awards and Grants policies.

➢ The applicant must have a baccalaureate degree, show evidence of high academic performance in the sciences, and commitment to a career as an independent physician-scientist. Applicants should demonstrate a strong interest in pursuing a career in rheumatology research.

➢ This program is specifically designed to support combined, dual-degree training leading to award of both a health professional doctoral degree (MD, DO) that would make the awardee eligible for future training as a rheumatologist; and a research doctoral degree (PhD) from an accredited program. Thus, the applicant must be enrolled in an MD/PhD or DO/PhD program. The entirety of the award period must be devoted to full-time graduate research training leading to the doctoral research degree. This award will not support clinical training during the years of the MD/PhD or DO/PhD program.

➢ To encourage timely completion of dual degree training, this award is generally not intended to support students after year 5 of their training program. Ideally, support will be for 2 years during years 3-6 of the dual degree program (after the initial 2 years of classwork but prior to the clinical rotations/medical training).

➢ The applicant must have identified a dissertation research project and a primary mentor. The primary mentor must be a faculty member actively engaged in basic or translational research with a strong record of peer-reviewed research relevant to rheumatology.

➢ The primary mentor must be a member of the [American College of Rheumatology](#) (ACR) at the time of the application and for the duration of the award. Once awarded the applicant will be expected to become a member of the ACR. Student memberships are free of charge and can be obtained [online](#).

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

Each application will be reviewed on the following criteria:
➢ Aptitude and potential for success of the candidate as a researcher

➢ Commitment to a career in rheumatology

➢ Scientist merit of the research training plan

➢ Quality of the mentor and research environment

Award Terms and Funding

The award will be paid directly to the sponsoring institution and will be disbursed in two equal installments each award year. Up to $20,000 per year may be allocated towards a stipend and tuition fees. An additional $10,000 may be allotted to research expenses and travel (such as animal costs, patient samples, reagents, travel to scientific meetings, computer hardware or software, etc.). The total amount of the award will be a maximum of $30,000 per year. Financial support will be provided as outlined below.

	Year 1	Year 2
Payment 1	July 2018	July 2019
Payment 2	January 2019	January 2020

Additional Award Terms:

➢ Recipients of this award must remain in good academic standing and be pursuing their training on a full- time basis throughout the duration of the award funding.

➢ Recipients must agree to serve as ambassadors on behalf of the program in order to attract other prospective MD/PhD or DO/PhD students (e.g. providing feedback to program organizers to enhance recruitment activities, speaking at a recruitment activity on behalf of the program, disseminating information regarding the program to peer networks.).

➢ Recipients must have a primary mentor who is engaged in basic and/or translational rheumatology-related research. The laboratory mentor may be a junior or senior faculty member. Preference will be given to applicants/mentors focused on laboratory-based research or analytics of large datasets (informatics/analytics, computational/systems biology, etc.).

➢ Recipients are expected to attend the American College of Rheumatology's (ACR) Rheumatology Research Workshop and/or the ACR's Annual Scientific Meeting and preferably submit an abstract by year 2 of the award. Travel to at least one ACR hosted conference must be included in the budget.

➢ The recipient must provide the Foundation with a progress report identifying accomplishments towards the aims of the proposal in the first year. Failure to submit required reports by the deadline may result in institutional penalties, including funding delays and/or grant cancellation.

➢ At the close of the award term, the recipient must provide the Foundation with a final report describing completion of deliverables accompanied by a final financial reconciliation.

➢ The award must be relinquished if overlapping funding is obtained during the award period such as an NIH Individual Research Fellowship (e.g. F30 award or similar) or appointment to an institutional training grant (e.g. T32 grant or similar).

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 a NIH biographical sketch (five page limit).

Mentor Information

The applicant must identify a primary mentor who will supervise the proposed mentored research. The primary mentor should ideally be a rheumatologist or rheumatology professional specializing in the area of the proposed research training and be committed both to the applicant's research training and to direct supervision of his/her research. This individual would be required to meet regularly with the applicant during the tenure of the award.

You will be asked to upload your mentor's biographical sketch (NIH format, five page limit) in this section. An applicant may have more than one mentor; however, the primary mentor must be a faculty member actively engaged in basic or translational research with a strong record of peer-reviewed research relevant to rheumatology and a fellow member of the ACR or ARHP. Applicants with more than two mentors (e.g. a mentoring team) need only to identify the primary and secondary mentors. Additional mentors may be listed in the application, but biosketches are not required for these individuals.

Project Information

Please upload a project proposal that is a maximum of 5 pages. Please ensure that the proposal includes the following information:

- ➢ Description of the applicant's current and future research interests

- ➢ Experimental hypothesis

- ➢ Specific aims of the proposed project and address how each aim will be accomplished during the project period

- ➢ Study design

- ➢ Description of the research environment

- ➢ Description of how the proposed project relates to applicant's ultimate career goals

Program Director's Statement

The MD/PhD (or DO/PhD) Program Director must provide a statement of support (2 page limit) detailing the following (as applicable):

➢ Features of their dual degree training program and the institutional environment that will be relevant to the application

➢ Description of the structure of the dual degree program, and required milestones and their usual timing (e.g., number of courses, any teaching and clinical requirements, and qualifying exams)

➢ Description of the frequency and method by which the program formally monitors and evaluates a student's progress.

➢ Financial and other resources available to support the applicant specific to their project

Mentor's Statement

The primary mentor must provide a statement of support (2 page limit) including the following (as applicable):

➢ Details of their previous experience as a mentor

➢ Description of how they will provide mentoring to the applicant and promote rheumatology as a career

➢ The roles of any additional mentors mentioned in the application

➢ Agreement to participate in the project and confirmation regarding availability of time to commit to the project

➢ Description of applicant's qualifications and track record of productivity

Budget

Download, complete and submit the Budget Template.

The budget should indicate the expected amount to be allocated towards stipend and tuition fees (maximum $20,000 per year). In addition, research costs and travel can be included up to $10,000. Travel to at least one ACR hosted rheumatology conference must be included in the budget.

Additional Uploads

Please use this space to upload any additional letters of recommendations, references, etc., up to 10 pages.

Checklist of Uploads
Use this for reference when finalizing application materials.
Note: after a document is uploaded, you will not be able to view. Please double check all documents prior to upload. A PDF of your complete application will be emailed to you following the submission deadline for your reference.

☐ Applicant biosketch (NIH format, 5 page limit)

☐ Mentor's biosketch and secondary mentor's biosketch, if applicable (NIH format, 5 page limit)

☐ Project proposal (5 page limit)

☐ Program Director's statement

☐ Mentor's statement

☐ Budget

BUDGET – FUTURE PHYSICIAN SCIENTIST YEAR 1 *DIRECT COSTS ONLY*		FROM: 07/01/2019	THROUGH: 06/30/2020

APPLICANT NAME:	INSTITUTION:	STIPEND REQUESTED:	TUITION FEES:	TOTAL COST: (not to exceed $20,000)

ITEMIZED OTHER EXPENSES *(not to exceed $10,000)**

Budget Justification:

OTHER EXPENSES SUBTOTAL →	$
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS FOR BUDGET PERIOD (NOT TO EXCEED $30,000)→	$

Applications must include an itemized budget indicating the expected amount of stipend and/or tuition fees from this award, up to a maximum of $20,000 annually. Up to $10,000 per year may be requested for research costs and travel (such as animal costs, patient samples, reagents, computer hardware or software, etc.). Travel to one ACR meeting must be included within the budget.

BUDGET – FUTURE PHYSICIAN SCIENTIST YEAR 2 *DIRECT COSTS ONLY*		FROM: 07/01/2020	THROUGH: 06/30/2021
APPLICANT NAME:	INSTITUTION:	STIPEND REQUESTED:	TUITION FEES:	TOTAL COST: (not to exceed $20,000)

ITEMIZED OTHER EXPENSES *(not to exceed $10,000)**	
Budget Justification:	
OTHER EXPENSES SUBTOTAL →	$
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS FOR BUDGET PERIOD (NOT TO EXCEED $30,000)→	$

Applications must include an itemized budget indicating the expected amount of stipend and/or tuition fees from this award, up to a maximum of $20,000 annually. Up to $10,000 per year may be requested for research costs and travel (such as animal costs, patient samples, reagents, computer hardware or software, etc.). Travel to one ACR meeting must be included within the budget.