



Rheumatology Research Foundation

Advancing Treatment | Finding Cures



CHOOSE RHEUMATOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP – WORKFORCE EXPANSION

Request for Applications

FY2027



Issued
April 1, 2026



Foundation@rheumatology.org



RheumResearch.org



OUR MISSION

Advance research and training to improve the health of patients living with rheumatic diseases.

Purpose

Workforce expansion efforts are critically needed for meeting the growing patient demand for rheumatologists and rheumatology health professionals. The Rheumatology Research Foundation is working to address the growing shortage by offering awards aimed at recruiting the next generation of rheumatology care providers. As part of the broader Choose Rheumatology campaign, this scholarship encourages medical students, graduate students, and residents representing geographically underserved areas of the United States and/or those demonstrating unique perspectives or backgrounds reflective of the rheumatology patient population, to pursue careers in the field.

The purpose of the Choose Rheumatology Scholarship -Workforce Expansion is to introduce students and residents to the field of rheumatology by supporting their in-person attendance at [ACR Convergence 2026](#), the world's premier rheumatology experience. Applicants for the scholarship must demonstrate a commitment to increasing patient access to care and articulate their future professional plans to join the rheumatology workforce.

Participation at this meeting will introduce recipients to the specialty of rheumatology and rheumatology-related health care to better serve patients with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases. Awardees will be invited to attend several invite-only networking and learning opportunities with other students and residents as well as leaders in the rheumatology community. This includes:

- Invitation to the Foundation's award recipient's luncheon
- Attendance at an exclusive half-day Choose Rheumatology Experience (see below)
- Invitation to the Fellows-in-Training (FIT) program

Award Amount

\$2,000 for travel expenses, complimentary registration to ACR Convergence 2026, plus a one-year [ACR/ARP Membership](#).

ACR Convergence (November 6-11 in Orlando, FL.)

The meeting features the latest innovations, science, clinical and business best practices in rheumatology. Attendees will get first-hand access to the latest discoveries and research that are transforming rheumatic disease care, as well as clinical applications that can improve the health of patients. It is an opportunity to experience personalized learning and networking that allows attendees to expand their knowledge and to develop new areas of interest and focus within rheumatology. For more information about ACR Convergence, check out [ACR Convergence 2026](#).

Choose Rheumatology Experience

The event will take place during ACR Convergence and involves a breakfast and introductory educational session followed by an opportunity for students and residents to network with rheumatology fellows-in-training, subject matter experts, and other rheumatology professionals. Additional details will be provided at a later time.

All applications must be submitted by 5:00 pm ET on the deadline day through [ProposalCentral](#).

Questions about your eligibility or submitting your application? Please contact Award & Grants staff at 404-365-1373 or foundation@rheumatology.org.

Timeline

Application Open	Application Deadline
June 1, 2026	August 3, 2026

Award Eligibility and Guidelines

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

Eligibility

- The applicant must be a currently enrolled graduate student; medical student; or internal medicine, pediatric, or combined medicine/pediatrics resident at a U.S. based institution.
- Previous recipients of this award are not eligible to apply.

Review Criteria

Each application will be reviewed based on meeting **at least one** of the following criteria:

- The applicant is a permanent resident of or is enrolled at an accredited institution in an area that has been designated as "underserved", based on definitions provided by [IDeA](#) and [HRSA](#) programs.
- The applicant exhibits a personal commitment to furthering the goal of increasing the rheumatology workforce in underserved areas.
- The applicant demonstrates a unique perspective or background reflective of the rheumatology patient population in which they serve or hope to serve.

All applicants should exhibit a strong interest in learning more about the field of rheumatology and a personal interest in pursuing a career path within the field.

Award Terms and Funding

This is a one-year award and awardees will receive the following:

- \$2,000 award for travel expenses to attend ACR Convergence 2026
- Complimentary* registration to ACR Convergence 2026
- One-year [ACR/ARP membership](#)
- Invitation to attend exclusive networking events onsite at ACR Convergence 2026

***ACR membership is required to receive complimentary registration to attend the ACR Convergence. Membership is free to all student and resident awardees. Join ACR online at [ACR Membership](#).**

Attendance at ACR Convergence 2026 is required, or award funds must be returned to the Foundation within 30 days.

Based on federal tax guidelines, individuals receiving an award or grant of at least \$600 will receive a [Form 1099-MISC](#) for the calendar year in which payment was disbursed. Submission of travel receipts totaling the amount of \$2,000 post Convergence will eliminate the need to issue a 1099 tax form.

Application Instructions

Before starting the online application, you will be required to create a Professional Profile account in Proposal Central to begin creating your account [at this link](#).

All files must be saved as a PDF. Documents that do not have a required template should be formatted with ½ inch margins, 11-point Arial Font, and single-spacing (does not apply to figures and tables). All applications and documents must be written in English and avoid use of jargon. If terms are not universally known, spell out the term the first time it is used and note the appropriate abbreviation in parentheses. The acronym may be used thereafter.

Note: The Foundation does not require an official signature from an authorized institutional research office at the time of application. However, many institutions require an application to be reviewed prior to submission. Please check with your research office for your institution's requirements.

Applicant Biosketch

You will be asked to confirm your eligibility and provide contact information in this section. In addition to the applicant information requested, you will be asked to upload the following documents:

Applicant Biosketch

Applicant must submit a Biographical Sketch using the provided template. A SciENcv-generated biosketch will also be accepted. The biosketch is limited to five (5) pages, regardless of format.

Statement of Need (Limit 1 page)

The applicant must include the following:

- Description of current career plans and interest in rheumatology
- Explanation of why this award is needed
- Statement regarding eligibility and personal commitment to further expand the rheumatology workforce, particularly in underserved areas, and representation of the patients being served.

Letter of Recommendation (Limit 1 page)

Letter of recommendation from a faculty member from the applicant's institution confirming their enrollment at the institution and availability to attend ACR Convergence, as well as the Choose Rheumatology Experience.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Applicants should provide the following information. This information may also be requested for Co- Principal Investigator, Key Personnel, Other significant contributors, and mentors. Follow this format for each person.
DO NOT EXCEED FIVE PAGES.

NAME:

POSITION TITLE:

EDUCATION/TRAINING (Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	COMPLETION DATE MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY

- A. Personal Statement
- B. Positions and Honors
- C. Contributions to Science
- D. Additional Information: Research Support and/or Scholastic Performance

CONTACT US



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404-365-1373



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Website:
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