



Rheumatology Research Foundation

Advancing Treatment | Finding Cures

CLINICIAN SCHOLAR EDUCATOR AWARD

Request for Applications
FY2028



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

The purpose of the Clinician Scholar Educator (CSE) Award is to enhance education in rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases for future doctors and rheumatology health professionals. Recipients of the award have demonstrated that they want to develop a career in education and are devoted to providing effective and efficient training. Recipients of the CSE Award devote themselves to developing products and processes using new technologies and methods to better train future rheumatologists.

Prior to applying, it is recommended to review the history of the [Clinician Scholar Educator Award](#), [previous award recipients](#), and portable [products](#) from the award.

AWARD AMOUNT

Up to \$70,000 per year
(maximum \$210,000)

AWARD TERM

3 years

All applications must be submitted by 5:00 pm ET on the deadline day through Proposal Central.

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

Timeline

Application Opens	Application Deadline	Notification	Award Term Begins
April 1, 2026	June 1, 2026	September 4, 2026	July 1, 2027

Notice(s) of Special Interest (NOSI) or Highlighted Topics

Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Education & Training in Metabolic Bone Health

The Rheumatology Research Foundation is issuing a notice of special interest (NOSI) to highlight the availability of funds for projects aimed at providing robust education and training materials for rheumatologists and health professionals in the areas of osteoporosis and metabolic bone disease.

For more information, please visit this link.

These funds are made available via the Andrew J. Laster, MD Fund for Education and Training in Metabolic Bone Disease.

Award Eligibility and Guidelines

All award recipients must abide by Foundation [Awards and Grants Policies](#) at all times. Applications must have relevance to the Foundation's mission to improve the health of people with rheumatic disease.

- Applicant must be an [ACR](#) or [ARP](#) member at the time of submission and for the duration of the award.

ACR Members must meet the following criteria:	ARP Members must meet the following criteria:
• Have earned a DO, MD, (or equivalent degree) or MD/PhD degree and completed a Rheumatology fellowship by the time of award start, • Have experience in the education or training of medical students, and/or residents and/or fellows, • Be licensed to perform clinical care, • Have experience seeing patients AND currently see patients	• Have earned an advanced degree (Masters or above) • Have experience in the education or training of health professionals • Have experience seeing patients AND currently see patients

- Must propose educational projects related to rheumatic disease.
- Applicant must be affiliated with an accredited graduate or medical school.
- Applicant must be able to devote at least 25 percent full-time effort (including this project and related educational endeavors) to educational and scholarly activity for the duration of the award. Note: this time is independent of any program administrative time for teaching faculty, Assistant Program Directors or Program Directors.
- Previous Clinician Scholar Educator awardees are not eligible to apply. *(With the exception of applications being considered for the NOSI: Education & Training in Metabolic Bone Health)*

Foundation Strategic Plan

The Foundation seeks to support the best basic, translational, clinical, outcomes, and implementation research in rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases. Applications directly addressing the current [Strategic Plan](#) are particularly encouraged.

Review Criteria

Applications will be peer reviewed and scored based on overall merit. This award will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- Relevance of the proposal to the Foundation's mission to improve the health of people with rheumatic disease.
- Plan for career development with the goal of development into an educational scholar.
- Strength and innovation of project proposal, including specific aims, background, project design and methods, final product (if applicable), program assessment and significance to education in rheumatic disease.
- Applicant's educational portfolio, including experience and quality of past teaching activities.
- Institutional support provided to the applicant.

Applicants should carefully review [current and previously funded projects](#) for models that may be adapted to other settings, or may propose new projects that add to the cadre of educational products and methods in rheumatology training.

In order to provide support for scholars, particularly those who do not have access to educational scholars in their own institution, a mentoring component is built into this award. The ACR Committee on Training has created an Advisory Panel composed of former Clinician Scholar Educator awardees to serve in this role. If there are specific questions about your project; please contact the [Foundation staff](#) and you will be placed in contact with a member of the Clinician Scholar Educator Advisory Panel for assistance.

Award Terms and Funding

Awardees are required to devote at least 25 percent full-time effort to educational and scholarly activity for the duration of the award. Awards are funded for up to three years. The second and third year of support is conditional upon substantial accomplishments during year one. Progress reports, including updated benchmarks and progress toward goals, will be used to measure success, and will be reviewed annually by the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Council.

The total amount of the award is up to \$70,000 per year. At least \$50,000 per year must be directly applied to the applicant's salary and is intended to support direct salary costs for each year of the award. An additional \$20,000 per year may be used to help cover the costs of tuition for a formal educational training program, advanced degree program, travel to educational meetings, development of an educational product, or as additional salary support for the PI. The award will be paid directly to the sponsoring institution. Payments will be disbursed in two equal installments in July and January. Indirect costs to the sponsoring institution are not permitted.

In order to help disseminate the scholarly work accomplished during the award period to the broader rheumatology community, awardees are expected to present the results of their project in the third year during the Foundation's CSE session at the ACR Convergence.

ORCID provides a persistent digital identifier (an ORCID ID) that you own and control, and that distinguishes you from every other researcher. Applicants are required to connect their ORCID Identification Number with ProposalCentral at the time of application. If the applicant does not have an ORCID Identification Number, one should be created and connected to the application prior to submission. If selected for funding, the applicant will be required to "Trust" the Rheumatology Research Foundation as an organization to optimize tracking of project metrics. For instructions on how to link your ORCID ID with your application in ProposalCentral, visit [this link](#) and scroll to page 35.

Application Instructions

Before starting the online application, you will be required to create a Professional Profile in ProposalCentral, if you have not already. To do so, [visit this link](#) to begin creating your account.

All files must be saved as a PDF. Documents that do not have a required template should be formatted with ½ inch margin, 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.

Applicant/Principal Investigator

You will be asked to confirm your eligibility and provide contact information in this section.

Educational Portfolio

You will also be asked to download, complete, and submit the Educational Portfolio template. See example of template below. This document is limited to 6 pages.

Abstract/Project Information

The information in this section is general information about the grant submission.

- **Project Title (limit to 200 characters including the spaces):** Make your title specific and detailed. It should clearly state the topic of your proposal.
- **Abstract (limit to 2,000 characters including spaces):** Succinctly describe the hypothesis to be tested, the specific aims or global objectives of the project and the expected results.
- **Relevance to Foundation's Mission (limit 1,000 characters including spaces):** the mission of the Foundation is to improve the health of people with rheumatic disease. How will your project directly contribute to the mission and improve patient's lives?
- **Keywords:** Choose three keywords that accurately describe the project. If the application focuses on a specific disease, please include it as a keyword.

Budget Period Detail/Justification

Applications must include an itemized budget indicating the expected amount of salary from the award, in the amount of at least \$50,000 annually (this includes fringe, if requested).

If requesting the additional \$20,000, include this in the budget and provide a justification. This supplement may be used for:

- Tuition for a formal educational training program
- Advanced degree program
- Travel expenses to educational meetings
- Development of an educational product
- Additional PI Salary (please provide a justification for requesting additional salary)

Note that all awardees are expected to attend the Clinician Scholar Educator Meeting held in conjunction with the [ACR's Educators Conference each Spring](#), as well as the [ACR Convergence each Fall](#). Please build these expenses into the CSE budget if not covered elsewhere.

Required Documents/Uploads

Project Proposal

Limit to 5 pages including references.

The proposal must describe the following:

- **Specific Aims** – Describe the specific aims of the proposed project.
- **Background** - What is the need addressed by the proposal? What background information serves to justify the approach selected? What is innovative about the approach? Include preliminary data, if applicable.
- **Project design and methods** – Provide a detailed description of the project proposed. This should include where and how the project is to be accomplished; what resources are already available or will be developed; and the target population (students and mentees involved). If the intervention is intended to continue after completion of the current award, please detail how it will be sustained.

Detailed milestones of the project and metrics of success should be detailed in the Benchmarks for Success template. A description of how the impact of the intervention will be assessed should be included (importantly, outline how the project will be analyzed through program assessment to determine if the design and result achieve the initial aims).

- **Final product (if applicable):** Projects may include a final product (i.e., a tangible instrument/item used for educational purposes, such as teaching curriculum, lectures, measurements, webinars and websites, etc.). If a product is proposed, describe plans for product dissemination.
- **Significance:** Include a statement on the relevance of the proposed project to education in rheumatic diseases. Describe any generalizable innovations. Describe the potential impact of the award on the career development of the applicant as a clinician educator and the applicant's anticipated future work.
- **References**

Career Development Plan

- Submit a detailed plan for career development over the next three to five years, with the goal of developing into an educational scholar. This should include explicit plans for advanced educational training and identification of a mentoring committee composed of a minimum of two (2) mentors. Please include how the proposed project will play a role in the career development of a clinician educator.

Limit to 2 pages.

****For established educational scholars applying for the NOSI: Education & Training in Metabolic Bone Health NOSI, this document is optional.***

Benchmarks for Success

Download, complete and submit the Benchmarks of Success template. See an example of the template below. These benchmarks should be applied to all relevant aspects of the proposal and must be measurable. If a final product is proposed, dissemination of the product is a required benchmark.

Distribution of Time/Effort

Download, complete and submit the Distribution of Time chart. See an example of the template below.

Distribution of Time/Effort

Download, complete and submit the Distribution of Time chart. See an example of the template below.

The applicant's institution or clinical practice representative should review the Distribution of Time chart.

The awardee must devote **at least 25 percent full-time professional effort** (including this project and related educational endeavors) for educational and scholarly activity for the duration of the award.

Letter of Institutional Support

The applicant's institution or clinical practice setting must provide a letter of institutional support including:

- Support of the candidate's qualifications for this award.
- A detailed explanation of the candidate's current salary support and how this award will restructure the candidate's salary support. This award is **not** intended to replace existing salary support for educational activities.
- Explicit assurance of protection of at least 25 percent of the applicant's time for educational and scholarly activity for the duration of the award and support for the applicant's plan to develop a career as an educator and to be promoted within their institution on the basis of educational performance and scholarship.

Training Program Director Letter (if applicable)

A signed letter of support from any training Program Director (medical school, residency, etc.) whose curriculum is included in the proposal must also be included. This letter of support must include an explicit agreement to implement the proposed curriculum changes and specify the proposed changes.

Additional Uploads

Additional documents which support the application may be uploaded.

Educational Portfolio

NAME

POSITION TITLE:

INSTITUTION

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, and include Postdoctoral)*

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

The Educational Portfolio may not exceed six pages. Follow the format and instructions in the sample below. Supplemental material will not be considered during the review process.

Note: Anticipating a diverse applicant pool, the portfolio is intended to be sufficiently broad to capture educational achievements from a large and varied group. Many individuals will not have activities for every category; therefore, candidates are only expected to complete those areas that pertain to their experience.

Your Educational Portfolio should summarize your professional educational achievements over the past three to five years and provide insight into your personal philosophies regarding education. Please provide a statement supporting your expertise in the following areas that pertain to your experience.

Please complete all sections (A – J). If a section does not apply to you, put, “Not Applicable,” and why this section does not apply.

A. Background information: A brief summary of employment history, work experience, publications and professional memberships.

B. Educational philosophy: A very brief description of the applicant’s personal theory of learning and teaching in the clinical practice setting as well as the educational theory that guides you. (This can include general principles and/or educational theory that relates directly to learning and teaching in the clinical practice setting, depending on the project)

C. Design, development and/or evaluation of curricula/programs

D. Teaching skills: Documentation of teaching experience. Include the level of the target audience, year, duration and topic/clinical setting.

E. Assessment of learner performance: The construction and implementation of assessment measures with their associated evidence of reliability, validity and other psychometric indices.

F. Educational administration: Educational leadership and management positions in your home institution, committee and task force service, and accomplishments/outcomes of those activities.

G. Regional/national scholarship: Membership and leadership in educational organizations, relevant educational publications, extramural support for educational activities, the development of instructional materials with data regarding quality, peer review and dissemination.

H. Continuing education and professional development: Documentation of growth in knowledge and skills as an educator.

I. Honors and Awards: Recognition by peers, students, and/or patients with description of award selection process.

J. Long-term goals: Reflection on portfolio and future plans, often linked to continuing education. You may include portions of your career development plan here.

Benchmarks for Success

The benchmarks (expected status of the project at various points in time) included in your application will be used to evaluate progress. The benchmarks should reflect the specific aims of the proposal and be presented within the context of measurable outcomes. If a final product is proposed, dissemination of the product is a required benchmark.

Benchmarks (Should be listed chronologically)	Metrics for Success (Projected end points)	Expected Completion (Specific dates or months into project)

Distribution of Time/Effort

The awardee must devote at least 25 percent (including this project and related educational endeavors) full-time professional effort for educational and scholarly activity for the duration of the award. **Note:** This time is independent of any program administrative time for teaching faculty, Assistant Program Director or Program Director.

Activity	Current (%)	During Award (%)	Decription
Clinical w/Students,Mentees			
Clinical w/o Students, Mentees			
Teaching - funded			
Teaching - unfunded			
Administrative			
Other (Explain Below)*			
Total (Must Equal 100%)	100%		
*Other Explanation			

Definitions

During award: Time applicant would spend on activities if award is received

Teaching-funded: Teaching activity in a non-clinical setting that is or will be supported

Clinical w/o students, mentees: Clinical activity done without a student or mentee

Teaching-unfunded: Teaching activity in a non-clinical setting that is or will be unsupported

Clinical with students, mentees: Clinical activity done with a student or mentee, including clinical teaching activities

CONTACT US



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