



Rheumatology Research Foundation

Advancing Treatment | Finding Cures



FELLOWSHIP TRAINING 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 this award is to help ensure an adequate supply of (a) rheumatology providers meeting the needs of children and adults with rheumatic diseases in all areas of the country and (b) rheumatology educators and investigators to train future clinicians and advance research in rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases. The Fellowship Training Award may be used to support the salary of any fellow in an ACGME-accredited rheumatology fellowship training program.

Annually, one Fellowship Training Award will be designated as a *Paula de Merieux Fellowship Training Award*. Established with a generous commitment by Paula de Merieux, MD, FRCP, this award designation supports a trainee from a racial and ethnic population that is underrepresented in the medical profession or is a woman.

Note: New fellowship training programs or programs that would utilize these grant funds to fill a previously unfilled fellowship slot or creation of a new slot should consider applying for the [Fellowship Training Award- Workforce Expansion](#).

AWARD AMOUNT

\$50,000 per year
 (\$100,000 max adult programs,
 \$150,000 max for pediatric programs)

AWARD TERM

2 years for adult training programs
 3 years for pediatric training programs

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 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

Supplemental Award for Education & Training in Metabolic Bone Health

The purpose of this supplemental award is to provide funding to enhance fellows' knowledge and training in osteoporosis and metabolic bone health. Program Directors applying for the Fellowship Training Award or the Fellowship Training Award for Workforce Expansion may elect to receive additional funds to support their fellow(s)' participation in approved training opportunities. These supplemental funds are made possible through the **Andrew J. Laster, MD Fund for Education and Training in Metabolic Bone Disease**.

For more information, please visit the Request for Applications (RFA) at [this link](#).

Award Eligibility and Guidelines

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

- 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 a fellow in their first or second year (or third year fellow in pediatric rheumatology). The name of the fellow supported during the grant period will be requested to be provided in your final award report.
- Multiple applications from a single institution will not be permitted unless they are for separate training programs (e.g., adult and pediatric rheumatology). Med/peds fellows are typically trained, supported, and funded by adult and pediatric divisions, and hence we recommend applying for this award in one of these existing tracks to support potential med/peds trainees. The Foundation will not allow an institution to apply for 3 awards in a single cycle.

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- This award is not eligible for a deferral.
 - Programs may not apply for the *Fellowship Training Award* and the *Fellowship Training Award for Workforce Expansion* within the same application cycle.
 - The FTA and FTA WE are multi-year awards (**two years for adult and three years for pediatric**). A program can only apply in a new award cycle, if the current award is complete, or in its final year.
 - There are no citizenship restrictions for supported fellows.

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

Foundation Strategic Plan

The Foundation seeks to support funding and strategic support for rheumatology fellowship training programs to expand fellow positions and strengthen the research career pipeline. Applications directly addressing the current [Strategic Plan](#) are particularly encouraged.

Review Criteria

Applications will be reviewed based on all components of the proposal with emphasis being placed on the quality of fellowship training program, including:

- Academic and/or clinical quality
- Success in achieving the goals of the training program
- Demonstrated financial need

The additional considerations below will be considered while applications are under review. If the number of qualified applicants exceeds available funds, preference may be given to institutions meeting the following criteria:

- Programs that have not recently received a Fellowship Training Award from the Foundation
- Programs that service underserved populations
- Programs with a track record of training fellows from underrepresented backgrounds.

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. 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 two-year award for adult programs, and a three-year award for pediatric programs. No trainee may be appointed for less than 12 months during the period of appointment. Upon receipt of this award, the institution must complete contractual documents, including a statement assuring that funds will be used for salary support of a fellow in their first or second year (or third year pediatrics). Funding will not be released until the Foundation receives these documents.

Recipients will receive \$50,000 to support the salary and fringe benefits of a trainee. The award is paid directly to the sponsoring institution in two equal installments annually in July and January. Other trainee costs are to be incurred by the recipient's institution.

Payment 1	July 2027	July 2028	July 2029 (Pediatric Programs Only)
Payment 2	January 2028	January 2029	January 2030 (Pediatric Programs Only)

At the close of the award term, the recipient must provide the Foundation with a final financial reconciliation and the name of the fellow(s) supported during the duration of the award period. All unexpended funds must be returned to the Foundation.

Funding Sources

- *The State of Texas Association of Rheumatologists Fellowship Training Award Endowment provides support for one award at a qualifying ACGME-accredited rheumatology fellowship training program in the state of Texas.*
- *Funding for the Paula de Merieux Fellowship Training Award is made possible in part by an endowment from the Paula de Merieux estate.*

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.

Program Information

You will be asked to list the Institution name, program type (pediatric/adult), and confirm eligibility in this section. You will also be asked to indicate which years your institution has received a Fellowship Training Award in the last 5 academic years.

Current & Pending Support

Applicants should list all current and pending financial support, including but not limited to grants and contracts. Indicate any current startup funds. For each entry, specify the overlap between the other awards, applications, and/or sources listed in this application.

Applicant/Program Director

You will be asked to provide contact information in this section, and to upload the **Program Director's biosketch** using the provided template. A [SciENCv-generated biosketch](#) will also be accepted. The biosketch is limited to five (5) pages, regardless of format.

Program Details

Describe the fellowship training program, including the following:

- Goals of the training program **(limit 3,500 characters including spaces)**:
 - For each goal, please specify your success in achieving the goal. For example, if one is to ensure clinicians are well trained, cite your board pass rate; if another goal is to train physician scientists, cite how many graduates are still engaged in research.
- Description of program **(limit 7,500 characters including spaces)** including:
 - Program structure by training year (including number of outpatients clinics, inpatient consult times, electives, research, and training/participating institutions)
 - Curriculum; including didactics, journal clubs, board reviews, ultrasound training, QI experiences, etc.,)
 - Program's strengths: examples of what your program does best
 - Program's weaknesses: explain them and what you or the institution are doing to mitigate them
- 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 1,500 characters including spaces)**
- Brief Statement of financial need and the impact the award will have on the training program **(limit 1,500 characters including spaces)**; there is no need to duplicate information here that you have included in the "fellowship positions questionnaire" at the end of this application).
- Evidence that your program services underserved populations **(limit 2,500 characters including spaces)**. **If this does not apply to your program, please leave this section blank.**
- 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, a ratio of providers to potential patients and/or wait times in your practice for a new patient visit
 - 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)

- Evidence that your program has a history of commitment to medical education and medicine-related careers for individuals from racial and ethnic populations that are underrepresented in the medical profession relative to their numbers in the general population **(limit 2,500 characters including spaces)**. **If this does not apply to your program, please leave this section blank.**

Fellowship Positions Questionnaire

Complete the Fellowship Positions Questionnaire by entering information directly into the application. The percentages of funding sources for the upcoming year must add up to 100%.

Required Documents/Uploads

Publications List

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 from work done primarily during the fellowship training (work originated or happened primarily as a fellow). Papers and abstracts should be separated.

Faculty Information Table

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

Fellows Graduate Table

Download, complete and submit the Fellow Graduates Table. See an example of the table 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 the appendix.

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

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.

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

Fellows 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.

Fellow's full name with credentials	Career choice and current location	Years in training program	Rheumatology 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	<i>Rheum. Boards 2014/ Did Not Pass Rheum. Boards 2014 / Passed Certified 2015/Expires 2025</i>	No
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				

CONTACT US



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404-365-1373



Email Address:
Foundation@rheumatology.org



Website:
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