Rheumatology Research Foundation
Advancing Treatment | Finding Cures

RISE Pilot Project Award

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

The RISE Pilot Project Award was jointly established by the Rheumatology Research Foundation in coordination with the American College of Rheumatology and its RISE ([Rheumatology Informatics System for Effectiveness](#)) registry. This award was established with the aims of:

- Supporting trainees interested in pursuing rheumatology research utilizing the RISE research database
- Increasing the supply of rheumatology professionals with knowledge of analytics using real-world data
- Building the rheumatology research workforce

Award Amount: Up to $30,000 for four months
- Awardee support (salary, travel, etc.) = $15,000
- Research support (fees to be paid directly to the Data Analytic Center) = $15,000

This award provides resources to support the training and career development of early-career researchers and clinicians interested in pursuing research using real world electronic health data in the field of rheumatology. Eligible candidates for this mentored award include trainees and junior researchers or health professionals with no current or prior K-level funding (at the K level or higher, including institutional K, Foundation career development award) or equivalent funding.

Applicants must propose a project to be carried out during a 12-month award period. Projects must focus on scientifically important questions that can be answered using [data collected through the ACR's RISE registry](#). **The project should result in an abstract submitted for Convergence 2023** and, if appropriate, provide preliminary data to strengthen a funding application for a project that would lead to a manuscript.

Post Award Process: All funded projects will be completed in a collaborative manner with the assistance of a RISE Data Analytic Center (DAC). The awardee will NOT have direct access to RISE data. **The actual data analysis will be executed by the DAC.** Post award, the RISE projects will be completed in three to four phases (depending on results of abstract submission to ACR Convergence):

- Phase I – Analytic Plan
  - Relevant feedback from the review process will be shared with the awardee and mentor (awardee team).
  - The awardee team will use their application and review feedback as the basis to draft a detailed analytic plan for the project, including information on definitions for relevant data elements (e.g. diagnoses codes for the disease of interest). Awardees will be provided with a template to assist in development of the detailed analytic plan.
  - RISE staff will connect the awardee team with their assigned DAC to discuss the analytic plan draft and address any questions the DAC may have.
  - The awardee team will make the necessary updates to the analytic plan followed by DAC review.
  - If necessary, the DAC can run one basic query to assist in finalizing the analytic plan.

- Phase II – Execution of the Analysis
  - o Once the analytic plan is finalized and approved by the awardee team and the DAC, the staff at the DAC will prepare the data and build the code to execute the analysis. The DAC may have some additional questions for the awardee team during this work.
  - o The DAC will execute the analysis and populate the necessary tables with initial results of the analysis.
  - o The DAC and awardee team will review the results and discuss if any adjustments need to be made to the analysis. The awardee team is allowed to request one revision of the analysis based on the review of the initial results.
  - o Once the analysis has been finalized, the DAC will share the results and an overview of the methods with the awardee team.

- Phase III – Abstract Development
  - o The awardee team will use the documentation and output provided by the DAC to write a draft abstract detailing the analysis and the results.
  - o The DAC will conduct one round of edits to the abstract and one round of review to finalize the abstract.
  - o Once the abstract is finalized, the awardee team will submit the abstract to ACR Convergence.

- Phase IV – Convergence Presentation (dependent on abstract acceptance)
  - o If the submitted abstract is accepted for presentation at ACR Convergence, the awardee team will develop appropriate materials to support the abstract presentation.
  - o The DAC will conduct one round of edits to the presentation materials (including, if required, basic updates to completed analyses) and one round of review to finalize the materials.
  - o Once the materials are finalized, the awardee team will complete any additional requirements for the abstract presentation.

All applications must be submitted by 5:00 PM ET on the deadline day through Proposal Central at:
https://proposalcentral.com/

Applications are accepted 1 time per year as detailed below:

Application Deadline: October 3, 2022

Peer Review: October/November 2022

Notification: November 15, 2022

Award Term: December 1, 2022 - November 30, 2023

Abstract Deadline: June 2023

Guidelines

All award recipients must abide by Foundation Awards and Grants Policies and RISE Data Analysis Request and Report Guidelines at all times.

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. **All applicants are also strongly encouraged to contact RISE staff at RISE@rheumatology.org to schedule a consultation about the proposed project and feasibility given data available through RISE.**

Eligibility

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

➢ Applicant and mentor must both be an ACR or ARP member at the time of submission and for the duration of the award.

➢ Applicant must be affiliated with an accredited graduate or medical school.

➢ Former or current recipients of research grants (at the K level or higher, including institutional K) and past awardees of this or equivalent Foundation grants are NOT eligible to apply.

➢ Individuals who are training or employed at institutions that are affiliated with RISE Data Analytic Centers are ineligible to apply.

Additional Details

➢ This is a pilot award and not intended to be the sole method of supporting a candidate's research effort. The institution should describe in a letter of support any additional research support, including institutional support or protected time for research.

➢ Applicant must also have received acceptance from a mentor who will oversee the training and research experience. If the candidate does not have a rheumatology research mentor with sufficient expertise, the candidate may propose a partnership between an external subject matter expert and rheumatology mentor, and each should provide a letter of support and biosketch.

Award Terms and Funding

Awards are funded for 12 months. No continued support is available. The amount of $15,000 will be paid directly to the sponsoring institution and an additional $15,000 will be paid directly to the Data Analytic Center. Award funds paid to the sponsoring institution may be used toward salary, fringe, tuition, conference fees and travel. If used for salary, salary levels should be set by the institution. The project must be completed during the defined award term.

Funding Source

Funding for this award is jointly made possible through the American College of Rheumatology and the Rheumatology Research Foundation.

Review Criteria

Each application will be reviewed on the following criteria:

➢ Relevance of the proposal on the Foundation's mission to improve the health of people with rheumatic disease

➢ The proposed project's scientific merit, rigor and novelty, including the uniqueness of the project as compared to research previously done using RISE data.

➢ Feasibility and clarity of the proposed project (e.g., using validated published ICD algorithms or other definitions of proposed inclusion, one main explanatory and outcome variable for RISE/EHR-sourced data) given available data in the RISE registry and the number of available hours of analytic support (i.e., if the requested analysis can reasonably be completed by the DAC given the number of staff hours that can be committed for the $15,000 fee)

➢ Appropriateness of the proposed project as a mechanism for developing the applicant on a pathway to become a rheumatology investigator including future mentored research or a career development application.

➢ The environment in which training will be conducted, specifically the mentor(s), the unit, the available facilities, and the potential for inter- and extra-departmental interactions (if applicable)

➢ The applicant's background, training, prior productivity, and potential to develop into a productive research scientist

All applicants are strongly encouraged to contact RISE staff at RISE@rheumatology.org to schedule a consultation about the proposed project and feasibility given data available through RISE.

Application Instructions

Before starting the online application, you will be required to create a Professional Profile in Proposal Central. If you have not already done so, visit this link to begin creating your account.

Note: This application does not require official signature from an authorized institutional research office at the time of application. Institutional signature will be required if award is received by applicant.

Applicant Information

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:

Awardee Biosketch or CV

Limit to 5 pages; should include any current or pending support.

Abstract/Project Information

Project Title
Make your title specific and detailed. It should clearly state the topic of your proposal and is limited to 200 characters, including spaces between words.

Abstract – limit 2,000 characters
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)
Briefly describe how your proposed project is relevant to the Foundation's mission to improve the health of people with rheumatic disease.
Specifically, please explain how your program addresses at least one of the following:
- Increase patient access to care
- Develop future treatments and cures
- Demonstrate or improve the value of rheumatology care
- Expand the impact of rheumatology

Keywords
Enter **three keywords** that accurately describe the project.

Mentor Information

You will be asked to identify your primary mentor and provide contact information in this section.   You will be asked to upload the following documents:

Mentor Biosketch or CV

Limit to 5 pages; should include any pending support.

Budget Detail & Justification

Applications must include an itemized budget indicating how the funds in the amount of $15,000 will be spent over the award term. Award funds may be used toward salary, fringe, tuition, conference fees and travel. Summarize expenditures and provide a brief justification for each item.

Required Documents

Project Proposal

Limit to 4 pages including references.

Applicants should submit a description of their project that includes the following (although additional information may be provided):
1. Goals and objectives of the proposed projects
2. Methodology and approach
    a. Proposed statistical methodology
    b. Inclusion/exclusion criteria for patient cohort
    c. Primary outcome, main explanatory variable and data elements of interest (e.g. diagnosis, prescribed medications, etc.)
    d. Potential limitations, pitfalls and alternative strategies
3. Description of the training environment
4. Selected references

Applicant Statement (Limit 1 page)

Statement must include:

    a. Statement of applicant's long term career goals and background.

    b. Rationale for selection of mentor. Statement of how the mentor adds value to both the project and the applicant.

    c. Specific detail about the applicant's role in the project and the amount of time that will be dedicated to it.

    d. Specific detail on how the proposed project will improve the applicant's skill as a rheumatology researcher.

    e. Specific detail about how the results of the project may be used to apply for greater funding that would lead to a publication-worthy manuscript.

Mentor Statement (Limit 1 page)

Statement must specifically speak to the mentor's involvement in the project and must include:

    a. Description of previous experience as a mentor and with similar research.

    b. Financial and other resources available to support the applicant specific to the project.

    c. The amount of time (e.g., 1 hour weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, etc.) allocated for meetings to discuss project status, evaluation and ongoing tasks.

    d. Type of structure proposed/in place to support mentoring process.

    e. Formal documentation stating participation agreement in the project.

Additional Uploads

Additional documents which support the application may be uploaded.