



Rheumatology Research Foundation

Advancing Treatment | Finding Cures

Medical and Graduate Student Preceptorship

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

The purpose of this preceptorship program is to introduce medical and graduate students to rheumatology by supporting a 4-week or 8-week, full-time clinical or research experience in the broad area of rheumatic disease.

Applicants have the option in selecting a Clinical or Research preceptorship when applying. The research preceptorship may include research seminar(s) attendance; rheumatology rounds; provisions for relevant coursework; or participation in research activities. Clinical preceptorships are not designed to replace a clinical clerkship in rheumatology. Programs should be designed as a "shadow" experience with the student observing the preceptor. The student should not be expected to perform independent patient management. Examples of such experiences may include observing patient contact in the clinical office, accompanying the preceptor on rehabilitation facility visits, hospital rounds and/or conferences at the preceptor's institution.

The Foundation's Medical and Graduate Preceptorships are supported through multiple generous Named Funds and Endowments:

- Majithia Family Endowment
- Marc R. Chevrier, MD, PhD, FACR, Lupus Research Memorial Fund
- Daniel J. Wallace, MD Graduate Student Preceptorship Endowment

To learn more about these commitments visit: <https://www.rheumresearch.org/endowments-and-lectureships>

Award Amount: \$4,000 for an at least 8-week research or clinical preceptorship **or** \$2,000 for an at least 4-week clinical preceptorship. An additional \$1,000 reimbursement for travel expenses (including air fare, hotel, and meals) to attend ACR Convergence.

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

Applications are accepted 4 times per year as detailed below:

| Applications Open | Applications Due | Notifications |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------|
| March 1 | May 1 | June 16 |
| June 1 | August 1 | September 15 |
| September 1 | November 1 | December 15 |
| December 1 | February 1 | March 15 |

Guidelines

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

Eligibility

- The preceptor must be an [ACR](#) or [ARP](#) member at the time of submission and for the duration of the award (students are not required to be members).
- A preceptor may be eligible to receive the award multiple times; however, they must work with a different student each time. Previous student/preceptor pairs are not eligible to apply again.
- Awarded students/preceptees are may only receive the award once.
- Students enrolled in U.S.-based ACGME or AOA COCA accredited medical schools, undergraduate students who have been accepted into medical school, students enrolled in an accredited graduate school, or undergraduate students who have been accepted into graduate school, are eligible to apply.
- Students may apply during any year of their medical or graduate studies and must have identified a preceptor by the time of the application.
- Preceptors who have a familial relation with a proposed student are not eligible to serve as the student's preceptor.

Interested students can search the [ACR/ARP member directory](#) for a rheumatologist or rheumatology health professional in their geographic area.

Review Criteria

Each application will be reviewed on the following criteria:

1. Project's relevance to rheumatic disease field
2. Preceptor's credentials as related to the project and previous experience(s) as a mentor/sponsor
3. Appropriateness and feasibility of student's role in the experience or project
4. The clinical or institutional environment, including experiences specifically designed for students

All awardees will be notified within 6 weeks of the application deadline, and all award payments will be made within 2 weeks receipt of required paperwork.

Award Terms and Funding

Students must complete the 4 or 8-week preceptorship within 12 months from the award start date. The project must be completed within the proposed project dates. Students will receive a stipend **or** may waive the stipend and receive the preceptorship as a college elective credit. Preceptors will receive funding that may serve as a stipend or be used to cover related project expenses.

| Preceptorship Type | Preceptorship Length | Student Funding | Preceptor Funding |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Clinical | At least 4 weeks | \$1,500 | \$500 |
| | At least 8 weeks | \$3,000 | \$1,000 |
| Research | At least 8 weeks | \$3,000 | \$1,000 |

Students are also eligible to receive complimentary* registration to attend ACR Convergence. Students are eligible to attend ACR Convergence in the year that they were awarded the preceptorship, OR the following year to allow time for abstract submission. Students must notify the Foundation prior to attendance to receive these benefits. A \$1,000 reimbursement will be provided for travel expenses (including air fare hotel and meals) to attend ACR Convergence.

ACR Convergence

The ACR Convergence meeting features the latest innovations, science, clinical and business best practices in rheumatology. Awardees will get first-hand access to the latest discoveries and research transforming rheumatic disease care and the clinical applications that will improve the health of patients. It is an opportunity to experience personalized learning that allows awardees to expand their knowledge to new areas of interest and focus in rheumatology. For more information about ACR Convergence check out [ACR Convergence 2023](#).

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

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

Applicant/Preceptee 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:

Preceptee [Biosketch](#) or CV

Limit to 5 pages.

Preceptor Information

You will be asked to identify your preceptor and provide contact information in this section.

You will be asked to upload the following documents:

Preceptor/Other Faculty [Biosketch](#) or CV

Limit to 5 pages.

Letter of Recommendation - Limit 1 page

A letter of recommendation is required from the preceptor describing the institutional environment (i.e., potential interactions with other trainees, other laboratories, etc.) and any proposed plans/experiences intended for the student during this preceptorship.

Required Documents

Project Proposal - Up to 3 pages

- Description of student's current and future interests.
- Goals and expectations to be achieved in the preceptorship.
- Description of preceptor's previous mentoring experience (past five years). Please include any awards or recognition received and any teaching activities.
- Description of experience intended for the student and address how they will be accomplished during the preceptorship.
 - For clinical experiences: include clinical seminar(s) attendance, rheumatology rounds, provisions for relevant coursework, or participation in limited clinical activities.
For research experiences: include research seminar(s) attendance; rheumatology rounds; provisions for relevant coursework; or participation in research activities.

- Provide a list of other faculty/investigators the student may encounter regularly during this preceptorship. Please include names, explanation of their relationship and declaration of rheumatology related interests. Additional preceptors included in the proposal must provide a written statement citing awareness of their responsibilities and support of the proposal. If applicable, this statement can be uploaded in the “Review Attachments/Additional Uploads” section of the application.

Letter(s) of Recommendation from Additional Preceptors (Optional)

Additional preceptors included in the proposal must provide a written statement citing awareness of their responsibilities and support of the proposal.