



ARTHRITIS NATIONAL  
RESEARCH FOUNDATION®

## All Arthritis Research Grant

2025 Program Guidelines, Applications Instructions, and Policies

Arthritis National Research Foundation  
5319 University Drive #10022  
Irvine, CA 92612  
1-800-588-2873  
Website: [www.curearthritis.org](http://www.curearthritis.org)  
Email: [grants@curearthritis.org](mailto:grants@curearthritis.org)

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## Program Summary

### About the Arthritis National Research Foundation:

Since 1970, the Arthritis National Research Foundation (ANRF) has funded arthritis research to understand the causes, prevention and development of new treatments for osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, juvenile arthritis and related autoimmune diseases.

Our mission is to provide initial research funding to brilliant, investigative scientists with new ideas to cure arthritis and related autoimmune diseases.

### About the All Arthritis Research Grant:

The ANRF is pleased to announce the release of the 2025 All Arthritis Research Grant Application. This grant aims to provide financial support to **early career researchers studying arthritis and/or related autoimmune disease, who are within a few years of their transition to independence.**

Grants will be **funded for 2 years and awarded up to a total of \$250,000.** We invite researchers and innovators from diverse fields to submit their grant applications for this funding opportunity.

### Key Dates:

November 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Application opens through <a href="#">ProposalCentral</a>
January 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	Deadline to submit application (11:59 PM, PT)
January-April	Grant review period
May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2025	Outcome notifications sent to all applicants
July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2025	Research term begins
June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2027	Research term concludes

### Important Notes:

Labs are limited to submitting only one application per annual cycle.

An applicant can be awarded this grant only once.

ANRF will consider applications researching basic (a.k.a. 'foundational') or clinical studies. Clinical studies should have a translational component that helps reveal the underlying mechanisms or response to therapy.

Applicants may not have, or ever had, an NIH RO1 grant or equivalent ("or equivalent" is defined as receipt of an NIH K08, DOD or NSF grant or other support totaling more than \$300,000 per year). *Do not apply if you've had an NIH RO1 or equivalent support.*

Applicants must be affiliated with, and complete all grant-funded research, at a qualified U.S. nonprofit research institution. Applicants are not required to be U.S. citizens.

## Purpose and Scope

### Background:

Arthritis and related autoimmune diseases affect over 21% of adults in the United States. This group of diseases are incredibly complex and require innovative research to better understand their underlying mechanisms. There is a pressing need for more talented investigators to join the fields of rheumatology and immunology to tackle these challenges. Therefore, ANRF has spent the last 50+ years dedicating grant funding to early career researchers looking to make impacts towards cures of these disease states.

### Goal:

ANRF is committed to nurturing the next generation of leaders in arthritis and autoimmune disease research. We are pleased to provide the opportunity to support early career researchers in their pursuit of innovative and impactful research projects. Our goal is to support exceptional researchers at the key point in their career as they transition to independence to allow them the resources to make significant advances in research of arthritis and related autoimmune disease.

### Scope:

This call is for all types of applications relating to arthritis and related autoimmune disease research, including but not limited to osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile arthritis, lupus, gout, spondylarthritis, pediatric rheumatology, scleroderma, fibromyalgia, Sjogren's disease, and uveitis (shown in relationship to autoimmune forms of arthritis). If you are studying psoriatic arthritis or an underlying mechanism that may affect psoriatic arthritis, please review the Psoriatic Arthritis Grant Application at <https://curearthritis.org/research-grants/>.

Candidates for All Arthritis Awards are qualified, promising investigators with a clear upward trajectory, ideally just before or within a few years after transition to independence to their own research groups; seeking to make significant contributions in the field of arthritis and related autoimmune disease research.

## How to Apply

All ANRF grant applications must be submitted online by **January 24, 2025, at 11:59PM, Pacific Time** through the ProposalCentral website at [www.proposalcentral.com](http://www.proposalcentral.com). Detailed information, instructions, and the opportunity to register as a user can also be accessed through this link. If you have any difficulties, please see [the ProposalCentral FAQ page](#) or contact Altum customer support by calling 800-875-2562 or emailing [pcsupport@altum.com](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com).

In order to submit a complete application, applicants need to enter information directly into the online platform as well as upload a number of documents. Details about required information and the materials to be uploaded are listed below. Follow all instructions and prompts. All required forms are preloaded and will be available to you upon beginning your ANRF application in ProposalCentral.

### Research Plan:

The scientific content (body) of the proposal may not exceed 6 pages and must contain:

- **Specific Aims** – specific goals of the research project including relevance to arthritis/autoimmune disease (one page recommended).
- **Research** – briefly discuss your history working in this field of study. If this is a new area of interest for you, please list who you will be utilizing as a mentor to assist with the research.
- **Experimental Design** – how the hypothesis will be tested. Include relevant methods, statistical analyses, all figures and tables.
- **Project Timeline.**

**Important note:** All margins in document may not be less than 1 inch. Font size not less than 11-point Arial. No less than standard single-spaced lines. *Applications violating this guideline may not be selected for review.*

### Supporting Documents:

Additional items which **MUST** be included in the proposal. These documents are separate from the 6-page scientific content limit and are not required to follow the formatting requirements of the research plan.

#### Page 8:

- **Career Development Plan** – discuss your future plans in 350 words or less. Include brief history of your (applicant's) association with the research institution, background leading to development of this project, etc.
- **Project Ownership Plan** – in 350 words or less, discuss how the mentor and the applicant agree upon the ownership for the project and resources generated therein. Describe what part of the proposed project belongs to the applicant, and whether the applicant has overall responsibility for and ownership of this portion of the project. Describe what portions (materials, resources, tools, etc.) of the project the applicant will take to an independent research position and use to pursue additional grant funding.

Page 9:

- **Lay Abstract** – provide a summary for the general audience in 250 words or less. Best practice is to keep this information at or below the 7<sup>th</sup> grade reading level.
- **Scientific Abstract** – provide a technical/scientific summary in 250 words or less.

Pages 10 & 11:

- **Budget and Justification** – list all expenses (salaries, supplies, equipment, and travel) to be paid through grant funding. Justify expenses as needed. Please [refer to the funding policies](#) section of this document for a complete list of allowable expenses.

Page 12:

- **Current and Pending Support** – list of all grant support you receive or have applied to receive.

Page 14:

- **Biographical Sketch** – use the [five-page NIH Bio Sketch format](#). Uploads may not exceed 5 pages.
- **Letter(s) of Support** – from your institution and/or mentor indicating their knowledge of and support of your proposed project.
- **References** – complete reference with title of article.

**Additional Resources:**

- Documents: [ANRF Grant Application Scoring Criteria](#)
- Live Questions: Meet the Funders at [ACR Convergence](#); Nov. 14-19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in Washington, DC
- Email Questions: [grants@curearthritis.org](mailto:grants@curearthritis.org)
- Watch: [2023 Interview with SAB Member, Dr. Michelle Kahlenberg](#)
- Website: <http://www.curearthritis.org/research-grants/>
- Submit: [ProposalCentral](#)

## Grant Policies

### How to Apply:

Applicants must apply through ProposalCentral to be considered. Applicants will be asked to set up an account so the completed application may also be uploaded to our secure online system. Any required templates are provided within the ProposalCentral Application.

### Applications:

1. The Scientific Advisory Board and Board of Directors review grant proposals annually.
2. Clinical and basic/foundational studies will be considered. Clinical studies should have a translational component that helps reveal the underlying mechanisms or response to therapy.
3. One (1) application may be submitted per lab annually. It is highly encouraged that interested applicants discuss the desire to apply with their lab and PI. If multiple applicants from the same lab submit an application, only the first application submitted will be reviewed.
4. Investigators must possess either an M.D. and/or Ph.D. degree or equivalent.
5. Applicants are not required to be U.S. citizens.
6. Applicants must be affiliated with, and complete all grant-funded research, at a qualified U.S. nonprofit research institution.
7. Preference will be given to senior postdoctoral investigators transitioning to independent investigator status and new assistant professors.
8. Applications that list a Co-PI will not be accepted.
9. Applicants may not have, or ever had, an NIH RO1 grant or equivalent (“or equivalent” is defined as receipt of an NIH K08, DOD or NSF grant or other support totaling more than \$300,000 per year). *Do not apply if you’ve had an NIH RO1 or equivalent support.*
10. Applicants may not apply for funding if they have already received an All Arthritis or Psoriatic Arthritis Grant from ANRF.
11. The ANRF funds 10-20 grants each year based on funding availability and number of acceptable applications.
12. Additional administrative review may be rendered to determine priority for funding when multiple proposals are received from a single division or department.

### Funding:

1. All Arthritis and Psoriatic Arthritis grants are awarded for up to two years, for up to \$250,000 (\$125,000 max per year).
2. Partial funding may be awarded if the grantee has documentation that the remainder of the funding for proposed research has been acquired.
3. Salaries, supplies and equipment directly related to the proposed study may be included in funding.
4. Salaries funded may not exceed [the NIH salary cap](#).
5. No more than 50% of the applicant’s salary may be funded through the grant.
6. Awardees must commit a minimum of 50% protected research time to total research activities.



7. Post-doctoral researchers and graduate students “to be named” will not be funded.
8. Senior personnel (considered Associate Professor level or above) and mentors will not be funded.
9. Overhead or indirect costs will not be funded.
10. Justified travel to scientific meetings directly related to the proposed studies is an allowed expense.
11. Expenditures for each individual line item on the approved budget shall not vary by more than 10% and any variance within that percentage shall not materially change the scope and focus of the project. Any anticipated change of greater than 10% requires written consent of ANRF.
12. Any funding remaining at the end of the grant term must be immediately returned to ANRF. Contact ANRF at [grants@curearthritis.org](mailto:grants@curearthritis.org) prior to returning any funds.

### **Working with Human and Animal Models:**

Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval for the use of human subjects or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval for the use of animal subjects can be pending at time of submission but must be approved prior to funding.

Researchers are expected to follow their institution’s policies when working with live subjects.

### **Cohort Commitments:**

ANRF is committed to ensuring the success of our cohorts. Therefore, we offer several opportunities to learn more about topics relevant to navigating a successful career. When accepting the grant funding, the grantee agrees to make every attempt to attend the following events:

- Quarterly cohort meetings – 1-hour meetings held virtually in July, October, January, and April
- Annual Symposium – held in-person on a Saturday in March (travel and accommodations through ANRF)

*Please note: ANRF provides a stipend to attend the annual symposium during funded years, any allowable costs that exceed the stipend may be reimbursed through the research grant.*

Additionally, ANRF welcomes all current and former grantees into our alumni program, the Scholars Society. This community is designed to provide opportunities to continue networking, research-sharing, and attaining career goals with other ANRF alums. All grantees are automatically enrolled into the Scholars Society upon completion of the grant agreement and remain in the program in perpetuity, at no cost.

### **Reporting:**

Starting in 2024, grantees must complete 2 Midterm Progress Reports through their 2-year funding period; at 6 months and 15 months. In this report, grantees must document progress made towards their aims and any changes made to the initial proposal.

Within 8 weeks of the final award term ended, the grantee’s submission of the below items is required:

- 1-2-page final project report
- Financial accounting report
- A copy of any publications currently in progress – accepted or in publication
- A list of any public presentations of ANRF-funded work, not limited to lectures, symposium presentations, posters, etc. Include name, location, date, and number of attendees for each event where applicable.

In order to document the foundation’s effectiveness in funding research, ANRF will continue to follow up with grantees 2 and 5 years after the conclusion of funding. At those times, grantees will be asked to submit progress reports on any additional research conducted from the original ANRF grant and share their career journey.

### **Acknowledgement:**

Any publication or presentation resulting in-whole or in-part from this research funding shall give credit to the ANRF and the grantee will provide an electronic copy of the publication to ANRF.

ANRF requests all publications and presentations produced as a result of funding are shared in perpetuity. Presentations and publications can be shared through the research announcement form linked here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ANRFsubmission> or by emailing [grants@curearthritis.org](mailto:grants@curearthritis.org).

### **No-Cost Time Extensions:**

No-cost extensions (NCE) may be approved for grant awards at the discretion of ANRF but should not exceed 9 months. NCE requests from current grant recipients must be submitted on official letterhead via email to [grants@curearthritis.org](mailto:grants@curearthritis.org).

### **Transfer of Grant Awards:**

If an investigator changes institutions during the grant award period, ANRF requires the following:

- A letter from the new institution—preferably the head of the department—stating the investigator will be working on the same project, have the laboratory facilities needed and time available to work on the project. The letter should indicate the start date of the investigator in the new environment, investigator’s contact information, address, e-mail and phone for disbursement of the remaining Arthritis National Research Foundation grant funds. The letter must be co-signed by the responsible business/grants management official of the new institution.
- The original institution is responsible for sending unused funds (prorated depending on the date) to the Arthritis National Research Foundation. A new check will then be forwarded (in the amount of the unused funds) to the new institution.

### **Support of a Safe Workplace:**

ANRF is committed to safe work environments free from discrimination and harassment and expects that the grantee institution to maintain a safe nondiscriminatory harassment-free work environment at

all times. If you feel you are working in an unsafe environment, please contact [grants@curearthritis.org](mailto:grants@curearthritis.org) for resources.

**Applications not in strict compliance with stated policies and guidelines will be subject to administrative inactivation.**

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

### Application:

- Q** I am moving to a new institution during the time my application will be in review. Which institution should I apply through?
- A** We would recommend using your current institution to apply and using the space in the Project Ownership Plan to discuss the transition to the new institution.
- Q** The application mentions mentorship in several places. If I do not work under a mentor, am I still eligible to apply?
- A** Yes, you are still eligible. We have applicants apply from across the spectrum of their transition to independence, and if they are completing work in their mentor's lab, we want to know how they will own the project.
- Q** I am applying for this year's grant cycle with a similar but modified proposal from my application last year. Would that be considered a resubmission or a general submission?
- A** No matter the content of the previous proposal, we suggest submitting the application as a resubmission. This allows our reviewers to see the changes made from previous applications based on the feedback provided.

### Eligibility:

- Q** Is the grant limited to researchers based in the United States?
- A** Yes, all researchers must be affiliated with a US institution, but are not required to be U.S. citizens.
- Q** Would I still be eligible to apply for the grant without a faculty position?
- A** Yes.
- Q** Will associate level professors looking for funding qualify?
- A** ANRF welcomes anyone to apply but gives preference to post-docs or new assistant professors.
- Q** I am considered a mid-career investigator based on my age, but I've never had an RO1. Am I eligible for this award?
- A** Yes, we at ANRF are very understanding that not everyone has a direct career path. Therefore, we do not consider age when reviewing grant applications.
- Q** I'm a full professor but otherwise meet the funding qualifications of the grant. Am I eligible to apply?
- A** We invite everyone to apply, but, because we aim to provide funding to researchers beginning the transition to independence, rarely fund applications from applicants above the assistant professor level.
- Q** Should I be concerned that I have previously received NIH grant funding?
- A** Not necessarily, ANRF policies state that applicants may not ever have had an NIH RO1 grant or equivalent. However, if previous NIH funding is not an RO1 grant or equivalent, and total funding is not currently above \$300,000 per year, the applicant would be eligible.
- Q** I have received a K01 award, does that prevent me from applying for the ANRF All Arthritis grant?
- A** No, ANRF does not consider a K01 award to be an RO1 grant equivalent.

- Q I have received a K23 award, does that prevent me from applying for the ANRF All Arthritis grant?  
A No, ANRF does not consider the K23 award to be an RO1 equivalent.
- Q If the ANRF grant will push my funding above \$300,000 per year, would I be ineligible for funding?  
A No, ANRF funding would not count towards the \$300,000 per year cap on grant funding.

### Key Personnel:

- Q Are applicants required to list their mentors as key personnel?  
A Only if they are receiving salary support. Please keep in mind, ANRF does not fund senior personnel. Please see the ANRF Grant Policies Document for more information on allowable budget items.
- Q Are applicants required to list post docs or technicians as key personnel?  
A No. Post docs and technicians are not considered key personnel.
- Q Should applicants list collaborators as key personnel?  
A Yes, collaborators are considered key personnel and therefore should be listed and their bio sketch should be submitted with the application.

### Budget:

- Q When applying for the All Arthritis or Psoriatic Arthritis grant, should I write the budget for 1 year or 2 years?  
A 2 years. The application in ProposalCentral separates the budget into two periods, with each period spanning one year of the project.
- Q When applying for the All Arthritis or Psoriatic Arthritis grant, can I apply for 1 year of funding instead of 2?  
A Yes, if your research project only warrants 1 year of research you may apply for 1 year of funding.
- Q Are the salaries, supplies, equipment, and travel directly related to the proposed work the only allowable costs available to request?  
A Generally, yes. However, please reach out to [grants@curearthritis.org](mailto:grants@curearthritis.org) with specific questions.
- Q Are publication costs used to disseminate results an allowable expense?  
A Yes.
- Q Are microcopy analysis costs related to the project an allowable expense?  
A Yes.
- Q Are computing, data and data storage costs allowable costs?  
A Yes.
- Q **Would this grant cover the PI salary?**  
A **ANRF grants do not cover the cost of senior level researchers. If the PI meets the criteria dictated in the grant policies, they would be considered for salary funding.**
- Q Are stipends for a specific graduate student (NOT a to be named student) an allowable expense?  
A Yes, stipends for a specific graduate student are an allowable expense.
- Q Is tuition for a PhD student allowed to be funded through the grant?  
A No, tuition may not be funded through the grant at this time.

- Q The documents say that a postdoc or graduate student "to be determined" is not allowable. Is a technician TBD allowable?**
- A Yes, a technician to be named is an allowable cost.**
- Q Can I include the salary for Biostatistician? Does this person need to be "named" or can they be "to be named"?**
- A Yes, a biostatistician, named or to be named, is an allowable cost.**
- Q Should the support from ANRF cover all research related expenses or do I just need to mention the ones I am seeking support for?**
- A The budget only needs to show costs directly relating to the support you are requesting. You may add details noting what is supported through other funding mechanisms to the textbox on page 10 (budget justification) if you would like to explain further.**
- Q What is a person-month and how do I calculate it?**
- A A person month is a metric for expressing the amount of time personnel devote to a project. Information for calculating person months can be found here: <https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2017/03/31/what-is-a-person-month-how-do-i-calculate-it/>**

### Travel:

- Q Can funding be used to travel to conferences?**
- A Justified travel to scientific meetings directly related to the proposed studies is allowable.**

### Support:

- Q Would pending support be limited to anything I have been awarded and are expecting to receive, or would it include applications that are currently in review?**
- A Pending support would include applications currently in review and anything awarded and expecting to receive.**
- Q Do I need to submit the documentation of support for other persons who support me in this grant?**
- A ANRF does not need to know about monetary support from mentors; only how much money in grant funding the applicant has currently and is pending.**
- Q Would both applicant and mentor be required to produce current and pending support?**
- A The applicant is required to produce current and pending support. A mentor would only be required to produce support if they are the PI.**

### IRB/IACUC Approvals:

- Q Would it be acceptable if the IRB or IACUC application was submitted as "to be submitted" instead of "pending"?**
- A Yes, as long as approval for IRB is submitted by the time the grant agreement is signed it would be acceptable for the IRB to be listed as 'to be submitted'.**

## Bio Sketch:

- Q** I faced a personal hardship that prevented me from getting all of the relevant information needed to build a thorough proposal but feel as though I have a well thought out research project. Where can I provide this information to justify my application?
- A** We are very understanding that not everyone has a direct path to their research career and some people may need additional time or resources to build their proposal. Please include any relevant information about your journey in the “Personal Statement” section of your bio sketch.
- Q** Is a bio sketch required for an applicant’s mentor?
- A** No, not unless they are a PI or collaborator.
- Q** I am a permanent US resident with a green card, where should I clarify this?
- A** Please add this information to your bio sketch.
- Q** Should I submit bio sketches for post docs or technicians?
- A** No, bio sketches are only required for key personnel.
- Q** If I am including a biostatistician “to be named”, do I need to include the bio sketch for this person?
- A** A bio sketch would not be required for this person.

## General Policies:

- Q** Do ANRF awards have terms and conditions related to Intellectual Property?
- A** No, ANRF does not seek a percentage of IP earnings.
- Q** **Can you provide more information on protected research time, how should I calculate my time if I have a 9-month appointment?**
- A** **The purpose behind the 50% ‘protected research time’ policy is to ensure applicants with other responsibilities (such as practicing MDs) are able to devote a reasonable amount of time to research with the funding provided by the grant. We are looking to see that the applicant spends at least half of their work time on research in general – not just ANRF research.**

## Questions

We are happy to help! Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or comments. Contact [grants@curearthritis.org](mailto:grants@curearthritis.org) or call 1-800-588-2873 x103.

*The Arthritis National Research Foundation is committed to discovery and innovation in the search for effective therapies and lasting cures for arthritis and related autoimmune diseases.*