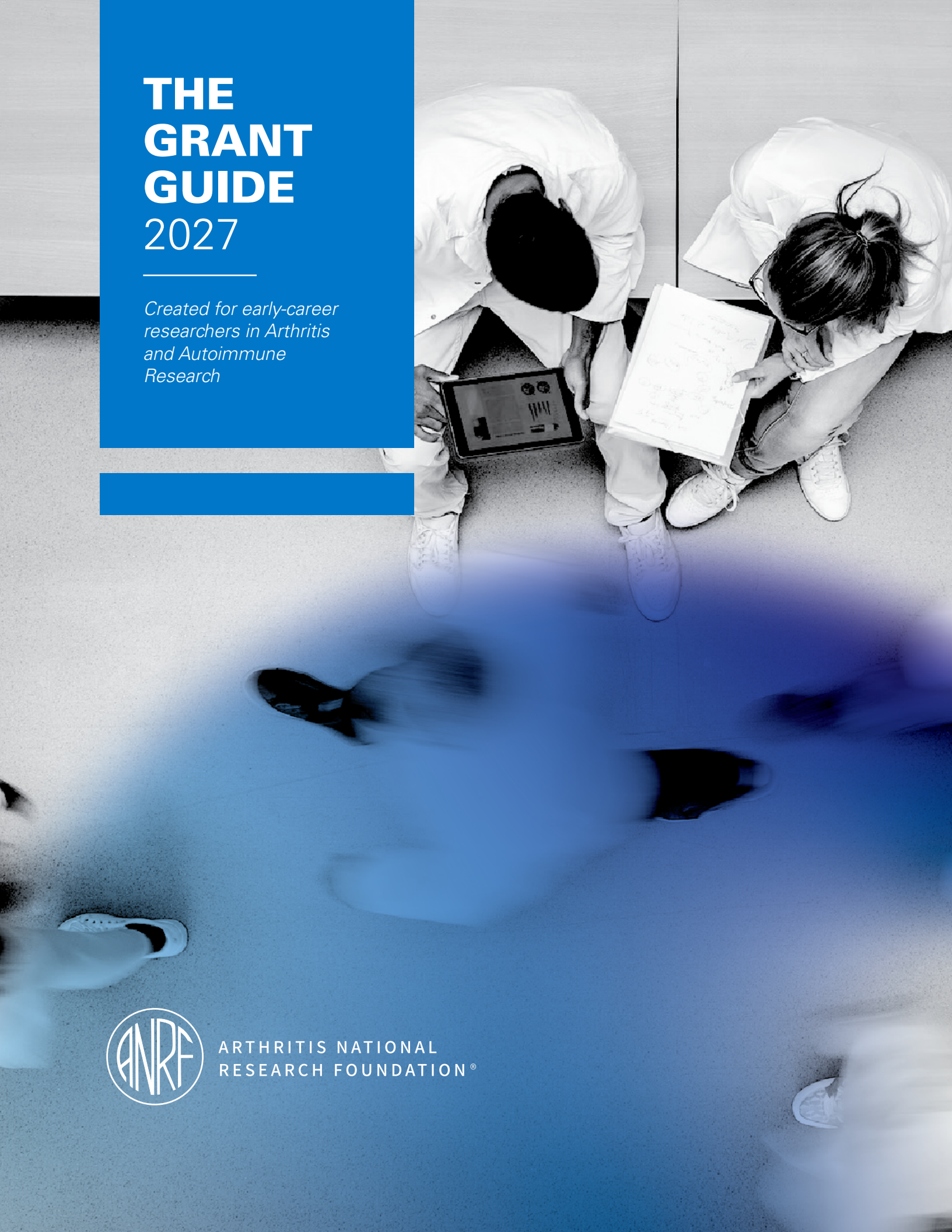
THE GRANT GUIDE 2027

Created for early-career researchers in Arthritis and Autoimmune Research



ARTHRITIS NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION®

Laura Douglas
Senior Manager of Grants and Impact

Welcome to the ANRF Grant Guide! I'm so excited to share the 2027 grant opportunities with you. Applications open **October 1, 2026 and close January 8, 2027**, and this guide is designed to walk you through each step of the process.

Inside, you'll find clear details on our four grant mechanisms, tips for crafting a strong application, and resources to help you put your best foot forward. Whether you're applying for the first time or coming back with fresh ideas, you'll have everything you need in one place.

At ANRF, we're passionate about fueling early-career researchers at the moment when support can make the biggest difference. That's why 100% of our grant funding goes directly into research—and why our commitment extends far beyond the award itself.

From mentorship and networking to professional development workshops and collaborative research sharing, we're here to help you build a career that lasts and leads.

This guide is also about helping you navigate your options and find the grant that's right for you. We've included an easy "Which Grant is Right for Me?" section, plus real-world tips from our alumni community, so you can approach the application process with clarity and purpose. You'll also find opportunities to connect directly with our team, whether in person at ACR Convergence or during our virtual office hour in December.

Our goal is to support you at every step—not just as applicants, but as future leaders in arthritis and autoimmune disease research.

I hope this guide gives you the confidence and clarity to dive into your application and share your vision with us. We can't wait to learn about your work, your ideas, and the impact you hope to make in arthritis and related autoimmune disease research. You're the future of this field, and we're honored to be part of your journey.

We are excited to announce the opening of the 2027 Application Period beginning on **October 1st, 2026**. To be considered for an award, all applicants must submit their application through Proposal Central by **January 8th, 2027**. This year, ANRF is seeking applications for 4 grant mechanisms:

Arthritis and Related Autoimmune Disease Research Grant

Grant Amount

$250,000
over 2 years

The Arthritis and Related Autoimmune Disease Research Grant supports highly qualified, promising U.S.-based MD and/or PhD investigators on a clear upward trajectory—ideally just before or within a few years of establishing their own independent research groups—who have not yet received an RO1 and are committed to making significant contributions to arthritis and related autoimmune disease research. Eligible projects may include basic or clinical studies, with clinical research incorporating a translational component to uncover underlying disease mechanisms or responses to therapy.

Psoriatic Arthritis/ Ankylosing Spondylitis Research Grant

Grant Amount

$250,000
over 2 years

The Psoriatic Arthritis/Ankylosing Spondylitis Research Grant is designed for highly qualified, promising U.S.-based MD and/or PhD investigators who are on a clear upward career path—ideally just before or within a few years of establishing their own independent research groups—who have not yet received an RO1 and are committed to advancing research in psoriatic arthritis or related underlying mechanisms.

Postdoctoral Physician Scientists Fellowship

Grant Amount

$50,000 over 1 year

The Postdoctoral Physician Scientists Fellowship supports highly qualified, promising U.S.-based MD physician-scientists at an early stage of their careers who are dedicated to advancing research in arthritis and related autoimmune diseases. Applicants must be enrolled in or have completed an ACGME-accredited clinical rheumatology fellowship program and conduct their work under the guidance of a sponsoring mentor committed to providing a supportive training environment and professional development opportunities.

The Rheum for Kids: Pediatric Skin and Joint Research Grant

Grant Amount

$50,000 over 1 year

The Rheum for Kids: Pediatric Skin and Joint Grant supports highly qualified, promising U.S.-based MD and/or PhD investigators within seven years of completing their latest stage of training who are dedicated to advancing research in pediatric skin and/or joint diseases. Applicants must demonstrate a strong mentorship support system and have not yet received an RO1 award.

To learn more and apply, **visit curearthritis.org/research-grants/**

Grants at a Glance

	Arthritis and Related AI Disease	Psoriatic Arthritis/ Ankylosing Spondylitis	Postdoctoral Fellowship	Rheum for Kids
Disease Interest	Any arthritis or related disease	Psoriatic Arthritis/ Ankylosing Spondylitis	Any arthritis or related disease	Those affecting the pediatric skin & joints
Funding Amounts	$250,000 over 2 years	$250,000 over 2 years	$50,000 over 1 year	$50,000 over 1 year
Degree Criteria	MD and/or PhD	MD and/or PhD	MD; ACGME rheumatology fellow or recently completed	MD and/or PhD
Stage of Career	Within a few years of transition to independence	Within a few years of transition to independence	Within 5 years of latest stage of research training	Within 7 years of latest stage of research training
Research Type	Basic or translational (clinical must have a transl. component)	Basic or translational (clinical must have a transl. component)	Basic, translational, or clinical	Basic, translational, or clinical
Requires Sponsoring Mentor	No	No	Yes	No
Participation in Cohort	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Enrollment in Alumni Scholar Society	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

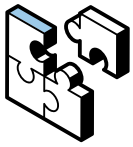
To learn more and apply, **visit curearthritis.org/research-grants/**

Which Grant is Right for Me?

Find the pathway that best fits your career goals.

Are you an early-career researcher with an MD and/or PHD?

No–sorry at this time we only provide funding support to early career researchers with a doctoral degree.



Yes–Are you located in the United States of America and working in a US based non-profit institution.

No–Sorry at the time we only support US-based researchers affiliated with non-profit institutions.

Yes–Have you recently or are you beginning to consider starting your own lab?

No–Are you a **physcian-scientist** who is enrolled in or has recently completed an **ACGME accredited fellowship**?

Yes–Are you studying...

Yes–You may be a candidate for the **Postdoctoral Physician Scientists Fellowship**.

No–Direct to "are you studying?"

Pediatric Skin and Joint Disease: You may be a candidate for the ANRF/ **PeDRA "Rheum for Kids" Research Grant**

Psoriatic Arthritis or an underlying mechanism: You may be a candidate for the **Psoriatic Arthritis/Ankylosing Spondylitis Research Grant**

Another autoimmune disease: You may ben a candidate for the **Arthritis and Related Autoimmune Disease Research Grant**

To learn more and apply, **visit curearthritis.org/research-grants/**

Resources

THE GOOD STUFF

Documents:

- ANRF Grant Guidelines and Policies
- ANRF Grant Application Scoring Criteria
- ANRF Grant Writing Guide
- Watch: 2023 Interview with SAB Member, Dr. Michelle Kahlenberg

Questions:

- In-Person: Meet the Funders at ACR Convergence; November 6-11, in Orlando, FL
- Virtual Office Hours: December 4th
- Email: grants@curearthritis.org

Whether you're an early-career investigator or a seasoned researcher entering a new field, tapping into these resources can give you the clarity and confidence to submit a truly competitive application.

We want your grant application to shine, and we've pulled together a set of resources to guide you every step of the way. Whether you're exploring our opportunities for the first time or refining your submission, these tools can help you understand what we fund, how your proposal will be evaluated, and strategies for putting your best work forward. You'll find everything from detailed guidelines and scoring criteria to a practical grant writing guide and an insightful interview with Dr. Michelle Kahlenberg, a member of our Scientific Advisory Board.

We're also here to connect with you directly. You can meet us in person during "Meet the Funders" at ACR Convergence (November 6-11, in Orlando, FL), join our virtual office hours in December, or email us anytime at grants@curearthritis.org. Our goal is to make sure you have the information, feedback, and support you need to submit a competitive, well-prepared application.

SCHOLAR STORIES
Early-Career Researcher Moment

"The [application] process is very easy and straightforward compared to others, like federal funding... [the ANRF team] is very helpful in communicating and facilitating the process to make it as easy as possible."

Ramadan Ali, PhD
ANRF Scholar 2023–24

ANRF allocates **100% of grant funding** to support exceptional early-career researchers at a crucial point in their careers as they transition to independence.

But our support far exceeds funding. We provide career support to our grant awardees and alumni through many other avenues:

Workshops

We provide biannual workshops based on professional development topics requested by our community. These can be in the form of coffee chats with our long roster of esteemed alumna, live Q&As with topic-specific experts, or presentations that share how to navigate a challenging career path.

Symposium

All current ANRF awardees join us annually for the ANRF Symposium. There, the cohort presents their work, learns from their peers, and has the opportunity to network with the ANRF Scientific Advisory Board and other key opinion leaders in the field.

Research Sharing

ANRF believes in fostering connection and collaboration among researchers to ensure continued success as they navigate their careers post-award. ANRF dedicates multiple, ever-expanding resources for sharing research among alumni to ensure that we can help scientists use this shared information to get us closer than ever to a cure.

Cohort Connections

Current ANRF awardees dedicate time each year to guided networking amongst their peers and live Q&As with experts. These Q&As range in topic based on the feedback of the cohort and are designed to help early career researchers plot a career path that leads to success.

Networking

ANRF alumni form a supportive community that fosters knowledge exchange, professional growth, and lasting impact. Through networking and mentorship, ANRF helps alumni collaborate and share expertise.

Mentorship

Our premiere mentorship program is designed to help researchers in all stages of their career navigate the complexities of an ever-changing field. Mentorships are paired thoughtfully based on the needs of each individual and are intended to create lasting collaborative relationships.

Grant Writing

The ANRF Aims Committee is a rotating and alumni-exclusive program that allows researchers to submit their specific aims pages for a mock panel review. The reviewed pages are provided real world feedback that can help shape their grant proposals prior to submission and help improve their chance for an award. Those that would like to 'cut their teeth' as reviewers are also encouraged to participate to gain valuable first-hand experience.

Support

ANRF is here to support our alumni! Whether that's help getting resources, making connections with thought leaders, or providing professional development opportunities, we recognize that when ANRF Scholars succeed, we succeed as well and together, we can continue to advance the field of arthritis research and make a lasting impact.

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