

Overview

Childhood skin diseases are associated with severe burden on patients, families, and health care providers. Despite this burden, effective treatments are sparse, the pace of research is slow, and board-certified pediatric dermatologists remain few-in-number. To support the development of the next generation of clinician scientists in the field, the Pediatric Dermatology Research Alliance (PeDRA), together with the Society for Pediatric Dermatology (SPD), is offering the **William Weston Career Development Award (CDA)** to support one early career investigator in the conduct of an innovative research study under the direction of a senior mentor. Applications may be submitted by a pediatric dermatologist no more than seven years out of training, or a clinical fellow in pediatric dermatology, for **\$40,000 per year** to support salary and research activities for up to two years.

Goals

The Weston CDA is driven by PeDRA's and SPD's commitment to support both research and researchers in the field of pediatric dermatology. It is intended to provide protected research time, resources, and expert mentorship for an early career clinician scientist. Ultimately, the Weston CDA is expected to help position the recipient for a long-term career in the field with the potential to obtain funding from the Dermatology Foundation, NIH, or other agencies in future.

Application

Applications to the Weston CDA must be submitted online (<https://pedraresearch.org/weston-career-development-award/>) and will include the following:

1. Applicant, Mentor, Institution, and Project Information
 - To include proof of IRB, REB, or IACUC (or equivalent) approval if applicable.
2. Abstract (*1500 character maximum*)
3. Layperson Summary (*1000 character maximum*)
4. Impact Statement (*1000 character maximum*) – to explain how this award would meaningfully impact the applicant's personal and/or professional trajectory.
5. Cover Letter (*1 page maximum*)
6. Career Development Plan (*2 page maximum*) - Should describe the applicant's career development plans and plans for future funding.
7. Project Proposal (*5 page maximum, not including references*) must include:
 - Specific Aims (*one page*)
 - Background and Rationale
 - Project Description
 - Methods and study/experimental design
 - Primary and secondary outcome measures (*if applicable*)
 - Statistical analysis
 - Potential pitfalls
8. Budget (*2 page maximum*) – Provide a detailed budget for the proposed research, including brief justification.
9. Letter(s) of support – Must include a letter from the chair of the department where the award project will be carried out. This letter should describe the department's commitment to the applicant, mentor, and training environment, as well as any relevant departmental resources that will be provided (e.g. lab space, protected time, personnel), and (if applicable) support of a non-dermatology mentor.
10. Biosketches (*5 page maximum per biosketch*) – Provide NIH-style biosketches for the applicant and mentor.

Review

Applications will be reviewed by the PeDRA Grants Committee based on the following:

1. Strength of applicant and his/her commitment to advance the field
2. Strength of research proposal
 - a. Significance
 - b. Innovation and Impact
 - c. Clarity of proposal
3. Strength of budget
4. Strength of mentor
5. Strength of environment, including evidence of institutional support for the project, mentor, and development of the applicant's career

Eligibility

Must be met on or before July 1st, 2027

Applicant:

- Must be a pediatric dermatologist residing in the United States or Canada
- Must be a current member of PeDRA and/or SPD with membership held at least one (1) year
- MD; DO; MD, PhD; or equivalent
- Must be a faculty member in a department/division of dermatology, or fellow with a letter of commitment to be on faculty during the award period.
- Must be an early career investigator, defined as being no more than seven (7) years out of training. Special exceptions may be made for cases such as maternity leave or military service – please email us with any questions about eligibility.
- Must not be a recipient of another federally funded career development award. Those who have also applied for a Dermatology Foundation CDA are welcome to apply but will be ineligible for a Weston CDA if awarded a Dermatology Foundation CDA.

Mentor:

- Must have an academic appointment in dermatology or another program at the sponsoring institution that is approved by the dermatology chair
- Need not be a member of PeDRA and/or SPD

Award

This award provides **\$40,000 USD per year for up to two years (direct costs only)** to support research activities and up to 0.2 FTE of salary support for the applicant. For two-year projects, receipt of funding for the second year will be dependent upon satisfactory progress through the first year as demonstrated in an interim report.

Important Dates

Application deadline:	11:59 PM PT, Thursday, September 17, 2026
Awards made:	no later than December 11, 2026
Earliest start date:	July 1, 2027

Questions

For additional information, please email research@pedraresearch.org.