



ARTHRITIS NATIONAL
RESEARCH FOUNDATION®



Pediatric Dermatology Research Alliance

Rheum for Kids: Pediatric Skin and Joint Disease Research Grant

2027 Program Guidelines, Applications Instructions, and Policies

Grant Application Administered by:

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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.

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

About the Pediatric Dermatology Research Alliance:

The Pediatric Dermatology Research Alliance (PeDRA) is a collaborative research network, providing a platform from which pediatric dermatologists organize studies and collaborate, while also supporting individuals embarking on early-stage research that may or may not benefit from collaboration in future. Pooling resources and linking investigators together multiplies the power of each individual clinician scientist many-fold. With more than 600 members representing more than 180 institutions, PeDRA is accelerating research and bringing us closer to new treatment opportunities for children and families living with dermatologic conditions and diseases.

PeDRA's mission is to create, inspire, and sustain research to prevent, treat, and cure childhood skin disease.

About the Rheum for Kids: Pediatric Skin and Joint Grant:

ANRF and PeDRA are pleased to announce the release of the 2025 Rheum for Kids: Pediatric Skin and Joint Grant Application. This grant aims to provide financial support to **early career researchers studying diseases affecting pediatric joints and skin, who are within seven years of obtaining a post-baccalaureate doctoral-level degree (excluding clinical training).**

Grants will be **funded for 1 year and awarded up to a total of \$50,000.** We invite researchers and innovators from diverse fields to submit their grant applications for this funding opportunity.

Key Dates:

October 1 st , 2026	Application opens through ProposalCentral
January 8 th , 2027	Deadline to submit application (11:59 PM, PT)
January-April	Grant review period
May 15 th , 2027	Outcome notifications sent to all applicants
July 1 st , 2027	Research term begins
June 30 th , 2028	Research term concludes

Important Notes:

Individuals and labs are limited to submitting only one application per annual cycle.

An applicant can be awarded this grant only once.

This is a career development award. Applicants should expect to participate in an active cohort with the Arthritis National Research Foundation designed to help researchers meet their career goals.

Priority consideration will be given to applications that focus on a project that impacts both the skin and joints from an investigator team with expertise in both pediatric rheumatology and pediatric dermatology. *Best practice is to overtly state what the overlap is and how it benefits both rheumatology and dermatology.*

This grant will give preference to clinical studies or applications exploring basic research.

Applicants may not have, or ever had, an NIH R01 grant or equivalent.

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:

Juvenile skin and joint diseases affect millions of children in the United States each year. This group of diseases are incredibly complex and require innovative research to better understand their underlying mechanisms. There is a pressing need for talented investigators and teams to conduct more research that unravels this complexity and addresses the numerous unanswered questions related to pediatric rheumatology, dermatology and immunology. Therefore, ANRF and PeDRA have joined together to dedicate grant funding for early career researchers looking to make impacts towards cures of these disease states.

Goal:

PeDRA and ANRF are committed to nurturing the next generation of leaders in pediatric skin and joint 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 advance high-impact research endeavors by cultivating cross-disciplinary research teams spanning pediatric dermatology and pediatric rheumatology.

Scope:

This call is for all types of applications relating to pediatric rheumatology and dermatology, including but not limited to basic science investigations into shared pathogenic pathways, translational research on biomarkers for disease activity, and clinical studies evaluating the efficacy and safety of multidisciplinary therapeutic approaches.

Candidates for the Rheum for Kids: Pediatric Skin and Joint Grant are qualified, promising investigators with a clear upward trajectory, ideally within seven years of their latest stage of training, and can demonstrate a strong mentorship support system.

How to Apply

All grant applications must be submitted online by **January 8, 2027, at 11:59PM, Pacific Time** through the ProposalCentral website at 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.

In order to submit a complete application, applicants must enter information directly into the online platform and 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 application in ProposalCentral.

Research Plan:

The scientific content (body) of the proposal may not exceed 5 pages and must contain:

- **Specific Aims** – specific goals of the research project including relevance to arthritis/autoimmune disease (one page recommended).
- **Research Strategy** – briefly discuss how your project is significant, feasible, and innovative.
- **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 Information:

Additional items which **MUST** be included in the proposal. This information is separate from the 5-page scientific content limit and is 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 applicant, mentor, and any co-investigators 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.
- **Related Funding** – please share if your mentor, or another senior investigator in your laboratory, has submitted, received, or plans to submit funding for research that is related to

the work proposed in this application. If they have, discuss the funding source, relation to the PI, application status, in a brief description of how the projects are related.

If there are changes to the information provided during the review process, please email grants@curearthritis.org to keep ANRF informed.

Because funds are intended to support those seeking to move on to independent research careers, it is essential that any overlap with the mentor's funding is clearly delineated in the Project Ownership Plan particularly with regard to how funds will enhance opportunities for independence.

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 7th grade reading level.
- **Scientific Abstract** – provide a technical 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. Please do not include support for which you are not the PI or Co-PI, institutional support, or support from your mentor in this section; doing so may disqualify your application.

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. Additional letters of support from co-investigators or collaborators are also encouraged.
- **References** – complete reference with title of article.

Additional Resources:

- [Documents available on curearthritis.org:](#)
 - ANRF Grant Application Scoring Criteria
 - ANRF Grant Writing Guide
 - ANRF Grant Toolkit
- Questions:
 - In-Person: Meet the Funders at [ACR Convergence](#); November 6-11, in Orlando, FL
 - Virtual Office Hours: [December 4th](#)
 - Email: grants@curearthritis.org
- Watch: [2023 Interview with SAB Member, Dr. Michelle Kahlenberg](#)
- Listen: [ANRF's In the Rheum Podcast on Spotify](#)
- Website: <http://www.curearthritis.org/research-grants/>
- Submit: [ProposalCentral](#)

Grant Policies

How to Apply:

Applicants must apply through [ProposalCentral](#) to be considered. Applicants must set up an account in Proposal Central to be able to access the application. Any required templates are provided within the ProposalCentral Application.

Applications:

1. Clinical, translational, and basic/foundational studies will be considered.
2. One (1) application may be submitted per individual or lab annually. It is highly encouraged that interested applicants discuss the desire to apply with their lab and mentor or supervisor. If multiple applicants from the same lab submit an application, only the first application submitted will be reviewed.
3. Investigators must possess either an MD and/or PhD degree or equivalent. Please reach out to grants@curearthritis.org to determine if your degree would be considered an equivalent.
4. Applicants are not required to be U.S. citizens.
5. Applicants must be affiliated with, and complete all grant-funded research, at a qualified U.S. nonprofit research institution.
6. Preference will be given to postdoctoral investigators, fellows, and early career researchers transitioning to independent investigator status, who are within seven (7) years of their postdoctoral training.
7. Applicants may not have, or ever had, an NIH R01 grant or equivalent.
8. Applicants may not receive more than \$300,000 of funding per year at the time of award from other sources. Any other support must be for a research project that differs significantly in aims, methodology and scope.
9. Applicants may not apply for funding if they have already received the Rheum for Kids: Pediatric Skin and Joint Grant.
10. Applicants awarded a Rheum for Kids Grant should refer to ANRF or PeDRA's respective policies regarding eligibility to apply for other funding programs in the same year.
11. The grant will be funded each year based on funding availability and number of acceptable applications.
12. An additional administrative review may be rendered to determine priority for funding when multiple proposals are received from a single laboratory, division or department.

Funding:

1. Rheum for Kids: Pediatric Skin and Joint Grants are awarded for 1 year, for up to \$50,000.
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 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 PeDRA and ANRF.
12. Any funding remaining at the end of the grant term must be immediately returned. Email PeDRA at research@pedraresearch.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 and PeDRA are 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 ANRF cohort meetings – 1-hour meetings held virtually in July, October, January, and April
- ANRF Annual Symposium – held in-person on a Saturday in March
- PeDRA Annual Conference – held in October or November each year.

Please note: ANRF provides a stipend to attend their 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 and PeDRA will welcome all non-member recipients of this grant as members of PeDRA with one year of complementary membership. Please contact the respective organizations for more information on these opportunities.

Reporting:

Grantees must complete 1 Midterm Progress Report through their funding period at 6 months. In this report, grantees must document progress made towards their aims and any changes made to the initial proposal.

Within 6 weeks of the final award term ending, the grantee's submission of the following 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 grant 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 their effectiveness in funding research, ANRF and PeDRA may continue to follow up with grantees for up to 5 years after the conclusion of funding. Grantees may be asked to submit progress reports on any additional research conducted from the original 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 PeDRA and ANRF and the grantee will provide an electronic copy of the publication to both organizations.

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](#) or by emailing grants@curearthrtis.org.

No-Cost Time Extensions:

No-cost extensions (NCE) may be approved for grant awards at the discretion of PeDRA and ANRF but should not exceed 6 months. NCE requests from current grant recipients must be submitted on official letterhead via email to research@pedraresearch.org.

Transfer of Grant Awards:

If an investigator changes institutions during the grant award period, the following is required:

- 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 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 Pediatric Dermatology Research Alliance. A new check will then be forwarded (in the amount of the unused funds) to the new institution.

Support of a Safe Workplace:

ANRF and PeDRA are committed to safe work environments free from discrimination and harassment and expect the grantee institution to maintain a safe, nondiscriminatory, and harassment-free work environment at all times. If you feel you are working in an unsafe environment, please contact grants@curearthritis.org for resources.

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

Questions

We are happy to help! Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or comments. Contact grants@curearthritis.org, research@pedraresearch.org, or call 1-800-588-2873 x103.