



Announces

**The 2016  
Career Development Award**

**Purpose:**

To facilitate the professional development of rheumatology, nephrology and dermatology fellows, in the U.S. and Canada, interested in lupus research towards a career as an independent clinician-scientist at an academic, medical, or research institution, with a research program having considerable focus on the investigation of basic, clinical, translational, behavioral or epidemiological lupus research.

**Award Amount: up to \$70,000 per year**  
(for a maximum of 2 years; grants will be awarded based on the availability of funds)

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**Application Deadline: April 8, 2016 at 5 p.m. ET**

**Earliest Award Date: May 16, 2016**

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## **ABOUT THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD**

The purpose of the LFA Career Development Award is to facilitate the professional development of **second or third year** rheumatology, nephrology and dermatology fellows in the U.S. and Canada, interested in lupus research towards a career as an independent, clinician-scientist at an academic, medical, or research institution, with a research program having considerable focus on the investigation of basic, clinical, translational, behavioral or epidemiological lupus research.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible to apply, applicants must hold an M.D. (or equivalent) from an accredited institution, be a U.S. citizen or legal resident of the U.S. or Canada at the time of application submission, be a **second** or **third** year Fellow in an adult or pediatric fellowship program in rheumatology, nephrology or dermatology accredited by either the American Council on Graduate Medical Education (in the U.S.) or Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons (in Canada). In addition, to be eligible, applicants must have a documented history of conducting lupus research or must have submitted a lupus-specific abstract to the American College of Rheumatology or similar scientific meeting (or plan to do so) during the fellowship period.

Applicants who currently or previously have been awarded any of the following grant awards are ineligible to apply: a mentored award (such as a K award) or NIH research grant (such as an RO1, RO3, R21, PO1, P50, or any similar award), VA Career Development Award, American College of Rheumatology (ACR) REF Rheumatology Scientist Development Award, ACR REF Rheumatology Investigator Award, ACR REF Career Development Bridge Funding Award or Arthritis Foundation Clinical to Research Transition Award.

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

The LFA Career Development Award will provide 1 or 2 grant awards in the amount of up to \$70,000 each. The grants will be awarded based on the availability of funds. The fellowship funding may be renewable for a second year of up to an additional \$70,000 depending upon progress, including a consideration about whether a lupus-specific abstract has or will be submitted, and the availability of funds.

## **APPLICATION MATERIALS & ONLINE SUBMISSION**

Visit the LFA's National Research Program RFA homepage: <http://www.lupus.org/rfa> for more details.

The Lupus Foundation of America, Inc. (LFA) utilizes an electronic grant submission process. All interested grant applicants must submit their full application packages through Altum's proposalCENTRAL online system: <https://proposalcentral.altum.com/Login.asp>. Paper applications will not be accepted.

Applicants are encouraged to register and complete a professional proposalCENTRAL profile as soon as possible. Applicants should ensure that their grants and contracts office has registered their institutional, financial, and signing officials with proposalCENTRAL.

A proposalCENTRAL helpline is available to answer questions from applicants, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. ET. Customer support is available via phone at 1-800-875-2562 or by email at [pcsupport@altum.com](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com).

## **REQUIRED COMPONENTS OF GRANT APPLICATION**

Complete online application packages (with all required attachments and supportive documentation) must be submitted by **5:00 P.M. ET on April 8, 2016** via Altum's proposalCENTRAL online system. Hard copies will not be accepted under any circumstances.

The online application **must** include the following components:

1. Cover letter (printed on institutional letterhead), including:

- Name, date, address, and original signature of the applicant
- Project title and dates of proposed project
- Status of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and/or Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval
- Statement that at least 75% of the applicant's full-time professional effort will be dedicated to conducting research relevant to that described in the LFA-funded lupus-specific proposal
- Statement that all proposed research will be conducted according to the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services relevant to the ethical conduct of research on humans and animals (Note: This cover letter cannot be a scanned image file (e.g. JPG) or non-Word file scanned into a PDF document)

2. Grant application cover page, including:

- Project title and dates of proposed project
- The following must be provided for the applicant, as well as the institutional official and signing official: name, highest degree, title, email address, direct phone and fax numbers, and institutional street address
- Dated original signatures from the applicant and institutional signing official (Note: All dated signatures must be obtained on the same grant application cover page)
- IRB and/or IACUC approval date, as well as Human Subjects Assurance Number and/or Animal Welfare Assurance Number (If these are not available at the time of application submission, they will be required upon acceptance of the award and prior to disbursement of any funds to the sponsoring institution)
- Institutional grant administrator's (if different from the institutional official and signing official) name, highest degree, title, email address, direct phone and fax numbers, and institutional street address

3. Research proposal abstract and lay summary:
  - Scientific abstract (2000 characters or less)
  - Lay summary of proposal for LFA's use in press releases (2000 characters or less)
4. NIH-formatted Biosketches from the applicant, sponsor, and any other research personnel that will have a major role in the design, execution, analysis, interpretation, or writing related to the proposed studies (these should include Positions and Honors, Peer-Reviewed Publications, as well as Current and Pending Research Support)
5. A lay biography of the applicant's education and research background (3-5 paragraph maximum)
6. A letter from Fellowship Program Director (either in rheumatology, nephrology, or dermatology), certifying fellow's status in the fellowship program and a brief description of the program of study
7. A statement from the sponsor (an M.D. or equivalent who is a clinician-scientist specialized in lupus) about the applicant and his/her academic achievements and future professional aspirations, as well as about his/her potential to implement the proposed studies (this statement will be viewable by the applicant) and about the mentorship that the applicant will receive during the research experience in the laboratory of the Principal Investigator (Note: This letter cannot be a scanned image file (e.g. JPG) or non-Word file scanned into a PDF document)
8. A letter of recommendation from an investigator (other than the applicant's sponsor) who knows the applicant well and can appropriately comment on the applicant and his/her academic achievements and future professional aspirations, as well as on his/her potential to implement the proposed studies (this letter of recommendation must be submitted electronically via Altum's proposalCENTRAL online system by the individual who wrote it and will not be viewable by the applicant) (Note: This letter cannot be a scanned image file (e.g. JPG) or non-Word file scanned into a PDF document)
9. A Career Development Plan, written in a collaboration between the applicant and sponsor, which clearly indicate how this award would facilitate the applicant's progress towards a career as an independent clinician-scientist with a considerable focus on lupus

10. A single-spaced proposal narrative (with one-inch margins, typed in 12-point Times New Roman font) of no more than five pages (excluding the Literature Cited pages), including each of the following sections:
  - Specific Aims (1-page maximum)
  - Research Strategy (4-page maximum)
    - a) Background & Significance to lupus research or treatment
    - b) Innovation
    - c) Approach (including preliminary data, if any; commentary about the mentorship that the applicant will receive during the research experience in the laboratory of the Principal Investigator is acceptable as part of this section)
  - Literature Cited (not included in 5-page limit)
11. A brief but specific budget and proposed breakdown of how the funds are to be used (keeping in mind the specifications and restrictions indicated on p.11)



## **SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

Online application packages must be submitted in their entirety via Altum's proposalCENTRAL online system and must be accompanied by all required documentation, including a signed and dated cover letter from the applicant (printed on institutional letterhead; see cover letter requirements on p. 6), grant application cover page with dated original signatures from the applicant and institutional signing official, no later than **5:00 P.M. ET on April 8, 2016**. No application materials will be accepted after this deadline. Only one proposal per applicant will be accepted.

Earliest notification of grant awards will be made in writing by **May 16, 2016**.

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Each proposal will be reviewed according to a modified version of the 9-point NIH review system and will be reviewed by experts in lupus research familiar with rheumatology, nephrology, and/or dermatology fellowship training.

Each proposal will receive an overall impact score (1-9) as determined by the reviewers' assessments of the following aspects of the proposal:

1. Mentor
2. Training Program
3. Institution
4. Research Proposal
5. Applicant

See this web page for more detailed information regarding the 1-9 scoring system:  
[http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer\\_review\\_process.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer_review_process.htm).

## **USE OF FUNDS & CONDITIONS OF AWARD**

1. Applications will be accepted from rheumatology, nephrology, and dermatology fellows, in the U.S. and Canada. Applicants performing their fellowship in Canada are required to be in collaboration with a US-based investigator. The US-based collaborator must be added as a key personnel in proposalCENTRAL.
2. Funds from this award must be utilized to support research-related activities of the awardee. Funds from this award cannot be used for any other reason, including indirect costs. Any unused funds must be returned to LFA.
3. This award will fund 1 or 2 rheumatology, nephrology, or dermatology fellows for a maximum of 2 years. The funds can be spent on salary, fringe benefits, travel to a scientific meeting to deliver an abstract or presentation, and/or research, as needed. If the funds are to be used for salary, and if the fellow has other sources of salary support, then the fellow's salary cannot exceed the standard national or institutional (whichever is greater) level for his/her tier of credentials. Indirect costs are not allowed. Applicants currently being funded by an institutional T32 are eligible to apply but can only use these funds for non-salary purposes if the T32 is fully supporting salary during the award period.
3. Each applicant must assure LFA of his/her home institution and intended work location. LFA must be advised at the time of application of all moves, contemplated or real. The institution at which the proposed project will be completed must be given at the time of application.
4. An interim and final progress report (originally signed and dated by the applicant, but not the co-PI(s)) documenting the nature and outcomes of the research conducted must be submitted electronically to Anita Roach, M.S., LFA Research Program Manager ([roach@lupus.org](mailto:roach@lupus.org)), by the mid- and end-points of the grant award, respectively. A formatted progress report form will be provided to awardees simultaneously with award letters. Each award payment will be disbursed only after LFA's receipt of specific deliverables indicated in the award letter, such as progress reports.
5. All publications (including primary and review-type peer-reviewed journal articles, abstracts, commentaries, magazine articles, as well as national and/or local media coverage, or any such coverage at the home institution or that of a collaborator on the project) resulting from research funded either wholly or partially by this grant award must acknowledge financial contributions from the LFA's Career Development Award. In addition, copies of such publications must be provided to the LFA within 30 days of final production. Moreover, all publicity and information disseminated by the home institution of the awardee or sponsor about such research must acknowledge financial contributions from the Lupus Foundation of America, Inc.
6. Each applicant must indicate on his/her cover letter (printed on institutional letterhead, as well as originally signed and dated by the applicant) that all proposed research will be conducted according to the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services relevant to the ethical conduct of research on humans and animals. Also, each applicant's institution must agree to hold the LFA harmless from any and all claims which may arise from research-related activities funded either wholly or partially by the Lupus Foundation of America, Inc.

7. Applicants proposing to conduct research on animals must provide the LFA with a letter (printed on institutional letterhead, as well as originally signed and dated by an appropriate university official) from the sponsoring institution's IACUC documenting current approval of the proposed research and its compliance with NIH guidelines for the care and use of animals in research. Applicants proposing to conduct research involving human subjects must provide the LFA with a letter (printed on institutional letterhead, as well as originally signed and dated by an appropriate university official) from the sponsoring institution's IRB documenting current approval of the proposed research and its compliance with NIH guidelines for the use of human subjects in research. IRB and/or IACUC approval are not required upon the date of application submission, but are required upon LFA's offer of the award. No award funds will be disbursed until written IRB and/or IACUC approval have been received by LFA. All IACUC and IRB approval documents must contain the full name, title, address, phone number, and email for the IACUC or IRB Chair in order for LFA funding to be disbursed.
8. Each award is for one-time use only and cannot be postponed, extended, modified, or transferred to another individual or institution. No additional funds will be provided beyond the amount stipulated in the award letter, but the award may be renewable for a second year of funding depending on progress.
9. Each award payment will be made in the form of a check payable in U.S. dollars to a designated institutional grant official authorized to receive, deposit, and appropriately manage funds from such a check at the sponsoring institution. Under no circumstances will a check be made payable or available to an applicant, sponsor, or other individual associated with the proposed research.
10. Any patentable discoveries resulting from research funded either wholly or partially by LFA must be reported to LFA's Research Program Manager ([roach@lupus.org](mailto:roach@lupus.org)) as soon as any relevant decisions to pursue a patent are made. A patent application resulting from any such research-related activities cannot be made without the prior written consent of the LFA.