



2026 ACR Early Career Investigators Subcommittee Application

This application provides ACR Early Career members the opportunity to apply for the ECI Subcommittee

The ACR Early Career Investigator (ECI) Subcommittee of the Committee on Research is currently accepting applications for new subcommittee members. The ECI is responsible for serving the needs of junior research faculty who are pursuing careers in academic rheumatology. The subcommittee manages, plans and attends the following programs.

The members of this subcommittee plan, manage and attend the following programs.

Creating Adult Rheumatology Mentorship in Academia (CARMA)

CARMA is a mentoring program to support early career investigators interested in research. Through this program, early career investigators participate in a matching mentoring program with established rheumatologists to enhance decision-making and satisfaction for rheumatology research trainees and junior faculty as they transition to independent research after fellowship. <https://rheumatology.org/carma>

Rheuminations on Research Careers (RoRC)

RoRC is an innovative virtual community designed to support early career investigators in the field of rheumatology. RoRC serves as a dynamic space where emerging researchers can network, share experiences, and collaboratively address challenges specific to their career development. The virtual meetings emphasize peer-to-peer interactions and mentorship, fostering an environment where participants can exchange ideas, seek advice, and find solutions to common obstacles in their research trajectories. By facilitating discussions on topics like grant writing, work-life balance, and career progression, RoRC aims to empower young rheumatologists to navigate the complexities of academic research with greater confidence and success. (upcoming sessions will be located here <https://rheumatology.org/research-resources>)

Meet-the-Funders at ACR Convergence

This session is geared towards ACR Convergence attendees who are grant writers of all stages interested in learning about the different types of grants available to young investigators. Attendees will have an opportunity to discuss specific questions with program officers and representatives from various foundations by rotating to each table where the Funders will be seated identified by their organization sign. (updated information will be located here <https://rheumatology.org/research-resources>)

Rheumatology Research Workshop (RRW)

RRW is an invitation only after application, two-day, in-person workshop that promotes interaction between rheumatology trainees, early career investigators, and established investigators to foster collaboration and facilitate career mentoring. The workshop will include scientific lectures, oral abstract presentations, and opportunities for early career investigators to interact with senior investigators. Sessions will focus on the skills needed to be successful in research, including improved communication and presentation, work-life balance, tips for grant application, how to build a research team, and more. <https://rheumatology.org/meetings/rheumatology-research-workshop>

This is your chance to get involved with the ACR!

Eligibility:

- Must be an ACR or an ARP member
- Must spend greater than 70% of time in research
- Must currently be employed as faculty/staff at an academic institution or in industry
- Must be within 5 years after finishing fellowship or post-doctoral training equivalent at the time of application **(last training completed by September 2020 or later)**

The following items must be included with the application (please have all documents ready when completing the application):

- A CV (NIH format) limited to the equivalent of five pages of text
- A Letter of Support from your Division Head or equivalent supervisor
- A half page personal statement explaining why you want to be a member of the ECI Subcommittee and how you intend to contribute to the subcommittee

Selection Process

The Early Career Investigators (ECI) Subcommittee will make the final selections and notifications by early-October 2025.

* 1. First Name

* 2. Last Name

* 3. Degree (s)

* 4. Title (e.g., Associate Professor)

* 5. Institution Name and Address

Institution

Address *

Address 2

City/Town *

State/Province

ZIP/Postal Code *

Country

Email Address

Work Phone Number *

Eligibility Criteria

* 6. Are you an ACR or ARP member

Yes

No

*7. Are you currently employed by an academic institution or industry?

Yes

No

* 8. Do you spend greater than 70% of your time in research?

Yes

No

* 9. Are you within five years of finishing your fellowship or post-doctoral training at the time of this application? (last training completed by September 2020 or later)

Yes

No

* 10. Are you currently a faculty member at the Instructor/Assistant Professor level or equivalent in academia or equivalent position in industry?

Yes

No

* 11. If selected for ECI Subcommittee, you will be able to get support from my Division Head or equivalent supervisor to attend RRW.

Yes

No

* 12. Are you willing to serve a term of 3 years?

Yes

No

* 13. Upload your CV (NIH format) limited to the equivalent of five pages of text

Choose File

* 14. Upload your Letter of Support from your Division Head or equivalent supervisor.

Choose File

* 15. Upload your personal statement

Please tell us why you want to be on the ECI subcommittee, and what experiences, skills, and/or ideas you will bring to the table to help ACR better develop and support early career investigators. This could be an example of a changes to existing programs, ideas for specific sessions or workshops, or how your own career development could have been better supported by efforts such as the ECI subcommittee.

Clicking "Done" below submits your application. Notifications will be sent by late-September 2025. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Latonya Trower, Senior Specialist, Research & Training, ltrower@rheumatology.org. Thank you!