

In the United States, 300,000 children are afflicted with arthritis and other rheumatic conditions, yet there are only (~300) pediatric rheumatologists across the country available to care for these children and half of children with rheumatic disease are seen by adult providers. Most pediatric rheumatologists are associated with or clustered near academic medical centers, necessitating long distance travel for many patients seeking expert care. According to the Arthritis Foundation, several states have only one board-certified pediatric rheumatologist who treat patients, and eight states, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, West Virginia, and Wyoming, have none. To address the shortage of pediatric rheumatologists and to expose pediatric residents to the field of rheumatology, CARRA has created the Pediatric Residents Program.

### **What is CARRA?**

CARRA (the Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance) is a nonprofit organization of over 515 pediatric rheumatologists and researchers who are working together to find treatments for juvenile idiopathic arthritis and other diseases of the joints, muscles, and bones in children.

### **CARRA's Mission**

CARRA's mission is to conduct collaborative research to prevent, treat and cure pediatric rheumatic diseases.

### **CARRA's Vision**

A world free of limitations from pediatric rheumatic diseases.

### **The goals of the CARRA Pediatric Residents Program are to:**

- Provide pediatric residents with access to the broad pediatric rheumatologic community through participation in CARRA's Annual Scientific Meeting.
- Encourage interested pediatric residents to consider rheumatology as a subspecialty, thus improve patient access to pediatric rheumatologists.

To help achieve these goals, CARRA is providing funds to support pediatric residents' attendance at the Annual CARRA Scientific Meeting at the Hyatt Regency Denver in Denver, CO from April 12-15, 2018. Awardees will be teamed with a CARRA member from another state/institution who will help guide their experience at the meeting.

### **Travel Support**

If you are selected to participate in CARRA's Pediatric Residents Program, you will be eligible to receive reimbursement for the following travel/meeting related costs:

- Coach air travel up to \$500. If you are unable to find a flight under \$500 and it is more than 3 weeks in advance of your travel dates, contact CARRA to seek prior approval for additional airfare support.
- Ground transportation to/from your local airport and to/from the Denver airport.
- Meals in transit to and from the conference (max of \$60/day).
- Hotel up to \$343 if staying at the conference hotel (equal to 50% of the cost of three nights at the conference hotel, including taxes).

We will pair you with another resident to share a hotel room. Individuals who share their hotel rooms have their room charges covered in full. You may stay in a private room if you pay for the other half of your room charges. CARRA will not charge a meeting registration fee and will provide group meals to conference attendees during the conference.

**Requirements/Restrictions**

- Awardees are required to attend the full CARRA meeting and complete a meeting evaluation.
- Travel reimbursement will be provided following completion of the meeting.
- Scanned copies of all receipts are required for reimbursement.
- All reimbursement will be provided after the meeting.

**HOW TO APPLY**

**To apply, please provide your contact information and upload the following items to <https://form.jotform.com/72834959501161>**

1. Your CV
2. A personal statement: This should consist of less than one page describing yourself, your career goals, and reasons you would like to attend the CARRA meeting.
3. Letter of support from your current program director (required). The letter needs to state that you will be allowed to attend the entire CARRA meeting (April 12-15, 2018).
4. Letter of support from a pediatric rheumatology mentor (optional).

**All materials are due by 5pm ET on Wednesday, January 26. All applicants will be notified regarding the outcome of their applications by Friday, February 9.**

**QUESTIONS**

For any questions, please contact CARRA's Meetings and Membership Manager, Nicole Dahms at [ndahms@carragroup.org](mailto:ndahms@carragroup.org) or 414-918-9822.