

MEMBERSHIP POLICY

The Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance (CARRA) is a 501(c)3 organization governed by a Board of Directors. CARRA offers membership to physicians, scientists, research, and health professionals devoted to the study, research and treatment of the pediatric rheumatic diseases.

A. Membership Benefits

Members are eligible for participation in CARRA-sponsored activities including meetings and networking events, and have access to grants and services that facilitate research, research data, biological samples, and practice resources in pediatric rheumatology.

Membership benefits depend on the category of CARRA Membership with details provided in Section B.

A1. Research Meetings and Networking Opportunities

Members may attend the CARRA Annual Scientific Meetings that provide networking, research project development and promotion, education, mentoring and training. The registration fee for this meeting is waived for all members in good standing. Additionally, depending on membership category, a subsidy toward travel expenses may also be available.

Members may also attend the CARRA meeting and Arthritis Foundation-sponsored receptions held during the annual ACR conferences.

A2. Access to Network Research and Resources

Members have access to research resources and to study-specific websites (in which members participate) in the “members-only” section of the CARRA website.

Depending on membership category, members in good standing can serve as PIs for CARRA-sponsored studies which are intended to advance the care of patients with pediatric rheumatic disease.

Moreover, member benefits include preferred access to research tools, including but not limited to

- E-survey tools and the potential to survey the CARRA membership
- Data and/or biological samples from the CARRA sponsored studies; these data can be used for scientific research, or as pilot data for research proposal
- Membership in research/stakeholder committees.
- Opportunity to be part of a community of researchers.

A.3 Awards & Grants

Depending on membership category, members in good standing are eligible to apply for CARRA-Arthritis Foundation research grants and travel awards.

A.4 Other membership privileges

Voting members of CARRA (see Bylaws and Section B for details) have the right to the following:

1. Provide input into the elected positions within CARRA, by voting. Elected positions include the Steering Committee, Finance Committee, Ethics Committee, Elections Committee, and Publications Committee Chair.
2. Sponsor new CARRA members
3. Serve as PI for CARRA-sponsored studies (trainee members also have this right if supported by a voting member)

* Research Coordinator members vote for their representatives to the CARRA Steering Committee; Fellow members vote for the Fellow Co-Chair positions.

B. Membership Categories

The various membership categories, and the benefits available to each membership type, are summarized in Table 1. Note that these benefits are subject to change pending recommendation of the CARRA Membership Committee and approval by the CARRA Steering Committee and are only available to CARRA members in good standing (see Section C for details).

Additional details about CARRA member benefits and categories can be obtained from the CARRA Business Office or reviewed at <http://www.carragroup.org>

C. Membership in Good Standing

Only members in good standing have access to the full benefits of their membership category. To remain a member in good standing all members must abide by the CARRA Code of Ethics and renew their membership annually, including payment of relevant dues and updating relevant profile information. Additional expectations based on member category are described in Table 1 below.

CARRA members should not engage in illegal, unethical or unauthorized activities. These activities include but are not limited to ones that are not appropriate and not in accordance with CARRA bylaws, COI and COC statements, and other documents addressing the responsibilities of CARRA members. Failure to abide by the CARRA Code of Ethics and other governing policies may result in revocation of membership and membership benefits.

D. Membership Dues

Membership dues differ by Membership category. The current fee schedule is summarized in Table 1 below. Note that this schedule is subject to change.

Membership calendar follows the standard calendar year and runs from January 1 to expiration on December 31.

Members can take advantage of discounts on membership fees as described in Table 3. Partial payments will not be accepted and dues will not be prorated.

If membership dues are not paid prior to February 1, membership dues will be considered late. If membership dues are not paid and/or member contact information has not been reviewed and updated by April 1, the membership will be considered lapsed.

Membership dues can be paid as follows:

- Secure online payment by credit card:
<https://carragroup.org/members/join-or-renew>
- Make the check payable to “CARRA Inc.” and send it along with the application or dues renewal invoice form to:

CARRA Inc.

Attention: Membership Manager

555 East Wells St. 1100

Milwaukee WI 53202

All payments must be received at the CARRA Business Office by the payment deadline. Discounts are only provided to those whose payment is received at the CARRA Business Office by the required deadline. Payments received after the mentioned deadline will not be eligible to receive discounts.

Table 1: Membership Categories, Expectations, and Dues

Category	Member Benefits	Member Expectations	Dues (After 2/1)
Voting Members			
Voting Member, Pediatric Rheumatologist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel subsidy to annual meeting available for members in good standing • Can apply for Intramural grants • May join research/stakeholder committees and workgroups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join at least one Research Committee • Participate in surveys and elections 	\$150 (\$200)
Sponsored Voting Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel subsidy to annual meeting available for members in good standing • Can apply for Intramural grants (must have a pediatric rheumatologist as a Co-I on the grant) • May join research/stakeholder committees and workgroups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join at least one Research Committee • Participate in surveys and elections 	\$150 (\$200)

Emeritus Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel subsidy to annual meeting available for members in good standing • Can apply for Intramural grants (not as PI) • May join research/stakeholder committees and workgroups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join at least one Research Committee • Participate in surveys and elections 	\$0 (\$0)
Non-voting Members			
Research Professional Member - Investigator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel subsidy to annual meeting available for members in good standing • Can apply for Intramural grants (must have a pediatric rheumatologist as a Co-I on the grant) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join at least one Research Committee • Participate in surveys 	\$50 (\$75)
Research Professional Member - Research Coordinator Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel subsidy to annual meeting available for members in good standing • Can apply for Intramural grants (must have a pediatric rheumatologist as a Co-I on the grant) • Voting for Research Coordinator Network (RCN) representatives to the CARRA Steering Committee • Participation in the RCN • May join research/stakeholder committees and workgroups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in surveys • Participate in the Research Coordinator Network (RCN) (which is a Stakeholder Committee) • Participate in election for RCN Leadership 	\$0 (\$0)
Research Professional Member - Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May join research/stakeholder committees and workgroups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in surveys 	\$0 (\$0)

Associate Physician Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel subsidy to annual meeting available for members in good standing • Can apply for Intramural grants (must have a pediatric rheumatologist as a Co-I on the grant) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join at least one Research Committee • Participate in surveys 	\$100 (\$125)
Health Care Professional Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May join research/stakeholder committees and workgroups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in surveys 	\$0 (\$0)
Trainee Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can apply for Intramural grants (must have a pediatric rheumatologist as a Co-I on the grant) • Residents are eligible to apply to the Pediatric Residents Program to attend and participate in the Annual Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in surveys 	\$0 (\$0)
Fellow Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel subsidy to annual meeting (including participation in the fellows pre-conference program) available for members in good standing • Intramural fellow grants (for upcoming 3rd and 4th year fellows, only) and travel awards for fellows* *only for fellows participating in accredited pediatric rheumatology or med/peds training programs; international fellows in similar programs are not eligible to apply for intramural funding. • Participate in CARRA Fellows networking events at ACR and at the annual meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in surveys • Participate in the annual election for Fellow Co-Chairs 	\$0 (\$)

E. Lapsed Membership

Membership is considered lapsed if a member does not renew and pay applicable dues by April 1st. Generally, an individual whose membership lapses will lose ALL membership benefits immediately. This includes, but is not limited to, eligibility for CARRA-Arthritis Foundation grants and travel awards, travel stipends for the CARRA Annual Scientific Meeting, voting privileges in CARRA elections, as well as scientific and administrative affairs, access to the CARRA Members Only Collaboration site, and the right to serve as a sponsor for other professionals wishing to join CARRA.

An individual with lapsed membership cannot serve as principal or co-principal investigator, or site PI of CARRA-sponsored studies. The respective positions will be reassigned to a member in good standing. Individuals with lapsed membership cannot apply for endorsement of their studies by CARRA.

Members with active CARRA-Arthritis Foundation grants must remain current on membership renewal and applicable dues. No additional funds will be released until membership is renewed.

F. Reinstatement after Membership Lapse

Lapsed members may be reinstated by paying the relevant dues at the time of their renewal. Members will not be responsible for back dues, however, he/she will be required to pay the full amount due when one renews after February 1 of a given year.

Membership dues will not be pro-rated.