CARRA-Arthritis Foundation Mentored Career Development Award (MCDA)

Grant Project Period Length: 2 years
Total Grant Funding Amount per award: $375,000
Grant Availability: up to 2 awards (1 focusing on JIA and 1 focusing on other disease areas)
Application Deadline: February 28, 2025
Project period: July 1, 2025-June 30, 2027

CARRA's culture of collaboration focuses on facilitating, accelerating, funding, and performing research driven by academicians, clinicians, patients, and families to fulfill its mission: to conduct collaborative research to prevent, treat, and cure pediatric rheumatic diseases. CARRA's peer-reviewed Intramural Grant Program offers various funding opportunities to support investigators at all career levels and advance research that furthers our mission.

Program Description
This mentored career development award is intended to support an early career investigator (Fellow, Assistant Professor) who demonstrates a clear track record and commitment to developing an independent research career in pediatric rheumatology.

This grant program does not allow for CARRA Registry and Biosample use and collection. For any questions you may have, please contact the CARRA grants manager at grants@carragroup.org.

All applications must focus on areas identified in the 2023-2025 CARRA-Arthritis Foundation Inflammatory Arthritis Research Agenda.

Special consideration will be given to applications addressing the specific topics listed below, which were considered among patients, caregivers, and providers to be of critical importance:
- Precision Medicine
    - Biomarker identification; diagnostic and prognostic
    - Starting/stopping medication
    - Safety and the impact of use of specific medications (e.g., TNF-I in non-systemic JIA)
- Patient Outcomes and Outcome Measures
    - PROs, impact on health-related quality of life, health disparities and other related issues
    - Long-term outcomes; impact on childbearing, occupation, college, marriage, delays vs. peers, growth, and reproductive health
        - Transition
        - Health-related quality of life (HRQOL)
        - Environmental factors
        - Patient-reported outcomes (PROs)
        - Tools/outcome measure development, implementation, and ongoing validation
- Epidemiology
    - Use of the Registry (artificial intelligence and data science)

- Representativeness
  - Social determinants of health
  - Equitable participant representation in the Registry
- Treatment Development
  - Working with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on acceptable trial designs in pediatric patients
  - Evidence development (use of Registry and community data)
- Comparative Effectiveness Research
  - Consensus Treatment Plan (CTP) Program (development, revision, and implementation)

All applications must focus on areas identified in the CARRA 2023-2025 Strategic Plan and 2023-2025 CARRA-Arthritis Foundation Inflammatory Arthritis [Research Agenda.](#) The Arthritis Foundation directly supports this award, and priority will be given to proposals with a focus on Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis.

Eligibility
- The project PI for all grants must be a current CARRA member who is up to date on membership dues and has ensured their membership information (location, contact information, and membership status) is current and accurate.
- The following current CARRA members are eligible to serve as Principal Investigators on CARRA-Arthritis Foundation Mentored Career Development Award:
  - Pediatric Rheumatologists
  - MD applicants must be a 3rd year fellow or Assistant Professor
  - Fellows*
  - Residents*
- All grants must be submitted by or include a pediatric rheumatologist named as a Co-Investigator.
- Current or past MCDA grant awardees are not eligible to apply

Additional Information Required for the MCDA
Applicant Statement/Career Development Plan Template
- Describe how the current project is expected to advance the applicants' goals of pursuing a career in research.
- Description of applicant's current and future research interests and commitment to a career in research.
- Describe any further research training the applicant plans concurrent with the proposed project's completion.
- Provide a timeline which includes research project and anticipated training benchmarks.
- The page limit is 3 pages, single-spaced. Margins should be 0.5" on all sides.

Letters of Support/Mentor Statement
- Mentor personal statement and letter of recommendation detailing her/his role in the project and career development plan

- A letter of support from the division chief of the applicant must be submitted guaranteeing 75% dedicated research effort, with at least 50% dedicated to this project, and confirming investigator salary. If the PI is the division chief, a letter from the Department Chair
- There is no page limit.
- Statements must address all the bulleted points below:
  - What will the specific role of the applicant be in this project? Be specific and, as much as possible, describe what the daily activities of the applicant will be as they relate to this project.
  - What specific skills is the applicant expected to acquire with this experience? How will acquisition of these skills advance the applicant's proposed research career? How will you determine that the applicant has acquired these skills?
  - Describe the research environment this project will take place in and the resources available to the applicant.
  - Describe any adjustments that will be made to the applicant's other commitments (clinics, hospital coverage, teaching) if this grant is awarded.
  - Describe your experience serving as a mentor.
  - Describe your mentoring plan (weekly meetings, etc.) to ensure successful completion of this project.

Application instructions and other required information can be found here.

Online Submission through Proposal Central
CARRA uses an electronic grant submission process. All applicants must submit their full application packages through Proposal Central's online grants management system. Paper applications will not be accepted.
- All applicants must register as users on Proposal Central here.
- Click here for Proposal Central's guide on how to set up an account.
- Click here for Proposal Central's Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's).
- Still need help with Proposal Central? Reach out to Proposal Central's Support Desk.

Contact Information:

Program or Administrative Questions:

Emily Klein
Senior Manager, Grants & Awards
grants@carragroup.org

Technical Questions:
 proposalCENTRAL
pcsupport@altum.com
800-875-2562