



MEMBERSHIP POLICY

The Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance (CARRA) is a 501(c)3 organization governed by a Board of Directors. CARRA offers full membership to physicians, scientists, clinical research coordinators, healthcare professionals, and trainees devoted to the study, research and treatment of pediatric rheumatic diseases. CARRA offers associate membership to patients and caregivers, leaders from other nonprofit or government organizations, and business and industry members devoted to the study, research and treatment of pediatric rheumatic diseases.

A. Membership Categories

The current membership categories are available at: <https://carragroup.org/membership/become-a-member/>. Membership types and associated privileges are subject to change based on the recommendation of the Membership Committee and approval of the Board.

B. Membership Benefits

Members are eligible for participation in CARRA-sponsored activities including meetings and networking events (virtual or in person) and have access to apply for 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 on the CARRA website: <https://carragroup.org/membership/become-a-member/>

B.1. Research Meetings and Networking Opportunities

Members may attend the CARRA Annual Scientific Meetings that provides networking, research project development and promotion, education, mentoring and training. Additionally, depending on membership category, a subsidy toward travel expenses may also be available.

Members may also attend the CARRA meeting and receptions held during the annual ACR conference and other conferences.

B.2. Access to Network Research and Resources

Members have access to research resources and to study-specific information through the exclusive CARRA Research Portal.

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:

- Apply for intramural research grants and travel awards.
- Serve as PIs for CARRA-sponsored studies.
- Access CARRA Registry data and biospecimens.
- Request access to the membership directory for research surveys.
- Participate in CARRA committees, workgroups, and leadership opportunities.
- Network and collaborate with other pediatric rheumatology professionals.

- Access mentorship, education, training programs, and professional development resources.

B.3. Awards & Grants

Depending on membership category and grant criteria, members in good standing with no administrative holds are eligible to apply for CARRA-Arthritis Foundation research grants, travel awards, and others offered by CARRA.

C. Membership in Good Standing

Only members in good standing have access to the full benefits of their membership category. To remain in good standing, all members must abide by the CARRA Code of Ethics, Conflict of Interest guidelines, by laws, policies, and renew their membership annually by submitting dues and updating their profile information.

Failure to adhere to CARRA's ethical standards and governing policies may result in a revocation of membership and its benefits.

D. Administrative Holds

An administrative hold may be applied to a member's account under circumstances including, but not limited to, the following:

- CARRA grantees with outstanding final progress report that are more than 6 months past due.
- CARRA investigators with outstanding data/sample share progress reports that are more than 6 months past due.
- CARRA investigators with outstanding invoices that are more than 6 months past due. Invoices may be related to:
 - CARRA grants.
 - Receipt of datasets or specialized data reports, biosamples or biobank-related services (e.g., shipping, supplies, or services such as RNA extraction).
 - Any other unpaid invoices that have been issued to a member for payment.
- CARRA members who are under board review for potential misconduct including but not limited to unresolved conflicts of interests, CARRA policy violations, and unauthorized use of CARRA's name. A full list of CARRA policies is available here: <https://carragroup.org/membership/policies/>.

An administrative hold may restrict a member's access or privileges due to specific issues that need to be resolved. The results of an administrative hold may include:

- Temporarily suspending access to member benefits, services, or platforms
- Halting processing of requests (e.g., data sample share request, survey support, reimbursements, project approvals)

E. Membership Dues & Terms

Membership dues vary by category. Dues must be paid in full to activate or renew membership.

Membership terms are valid for 12 months from the date of payment. For instance, if a member renews on 04/23/2025, their membership will be active through 04/23/2026. Members may renew as early as 30 days before their expiration date. A 30-day grace period follows the expiration date, during which members retain access to their benefits. Partial payments are not accepted. Dues are not prorated.

F. Lapsed Membership

If a member does not renew their membership after the 30-day grace period, access to the membership portal and all associated benefits will be suspended. Membership will remain inactive until the member completes the renewal process and updates their profile information.

During the lapse, members will lose access to:

- All research tools as mentioned in Section B.2
- The membership portal, research portal, communication platforms, and directory
- CARRA-wide communications, including newsletters and monthly announcements
- Committee and workgroup-specific group access and communications
- Eligibility for (NEW) CARRA grants and travel awards
- Opportunities to serve in leadership positions and participation in CARRA elections
- Central information regarding in-person and virtual events

G. Reinstatement after Membership Lapse

Membership can be reinstated at any time by reviewing the membership profile to ensure all information is accurate and submitting full payment of the current dues. No back dues are required. Benefits will resume once payment is processed, and the member will retain active status for 12 months from the new payment date.

For the most current information, including membership categories and dues, visit:

<https://carragroup.org/membership/become-a-member/>