



## 2021 Program Announcement for LRA-Funded Investigators

### Administrative Supplements to Promote Diversity in Lupus Research

**Release Date:** February 11, 2021

**Due date:** Rolling (until December 31, 2021 or until funds have been depleted)

#### Background

The Lupus Research Alliance (LRA) aims to accelerate innovative research and treatment breakthroughs in lupus research. Success in this endeavor will require a talented and tenacious taskforce capable of addressing the complexity inherent to our understanding of lupus. To harness the collective power of diverse minds and address the underrepresentation of specific groups in lupus research, the LRA has developed several initiatives to foster the development of talented and promising young scientists from these groups.

#### Purpose

The LRA Administrative Supplement to Promote Diversity in Lupus Research (“LRA Diversity Supplement”) is a mechanism to attract highly qualified and promising underrepresented minority trainees and support their research experiences aligned with an active LRA parent award.

#### Eligibility

Principal investigators or “sponsors” who have an active LRA grant in good standing with at least 1 year remaining at the time of application are eligible to apply. The applicant should have a commitment to the goal of advancing ethnic and racial equity in lupus research by providing mentored research experiences for eligible trainees.

An eligible trainee is defined as a person who self-identifies as a member of a racial or ethnic group found to be underrepresented in the science and engineering fields as compared to their representation in the US population as defined by the National Science Foundation (NSF), individuals considered to be underrepresented minority (URM) include Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders. Trainees should either be currently enrolled in a science-focused bachelor, master or other advanced degree program (PhD, MD) at an accredited institution OR within 2 years after receiving a bachelor’s, master’s or other advanced degree (PhD, MD). Prior research experience is not required but the trainee should have an interest in lupus-related research.

#### Budget and Period of Support

Eligible PIs can request a maximum of \$30,000 (up to \$15,000 for pre-doctoral and up to \$30,000 for post-doctoral trainees) for an administrative supplement over one or two years (as long as the parent award is



active). The budget must outline the proposed expenses and their relevance to the trainee's mentored research experience. Allowable expenses include trainee salary, any appropriate research costs, and research-related travel (up to \$2000). Supplement funds may **not** be used for tuition, personal computers, or major laboratory equipment.

### **Application Guidelines**

Applications must be submitted electronically, via proposalCENTRAL (please log into proposalCENTRAL for detailed application instructions). The application should not exceed 4 pages (excluding references, biosketches, and recommendation letter) and should include the following application components:

1. Summary or abstract including specific aims of the funded parent grant (0.5 page)
2. Research Plan for the Candidate (1 page): Provide a description of the proposed research plan, including significance, innovation and approach. The research plan must be within the scope of the active LRA parent award and must be appropriate for the candidate's career stage and level of experience. The plan should detail how the proposed research activities will contribute to the ongoing, LRA-funded research.
3. Career Development Plan (1 page): Provide a detailed description of the specific goals, activities, resources (i.e., applying for grants, internships, fellowships, etc.) and associated timelines that will be used to assist the candidate in advancing toward career goals expressed in the candidate's personal statement. Metrics to evaluate progress towards stated objectives should also be outlined. Provide information about the frequency and nature of interaction with the PI (i.e., topics to be discussed, preparation for scientific meetings, etc.) and/or other supervisory personnel (if candidate will be mentored by individuals other than the PI). The career development plan should include proposed methods for handling unique challenges and difficulties that trainees may face. The plan should also detail any previous mentoring experiences and trainee outcomes (i.e., current status of trainees) that would inform how the candidate will be mentored.
4. Proposed budget and justification (0.5 page)
5. Statement of career goals by the trainee (1 page)
6. Biographical Sketches for PI and Candidate
7. A letter of recommendation assessing the scientific abilities and potential of the trainee must be submitted directly by the referee to the LRA. The letter is confidential and will not be released to the PI applicant and trainee.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

The following criteria will be used to evaluate the applications:

1. Investigator's commitment to mentoring and/or research training of URMs.
2. Feasibility and quality of research plan for candidate and alignment with goals of parent grant.
3. Evidence that the proposed experience will expand and foster the research capabilities, knowledge, and/or skills of the candidate and that a robust mentoring plan is in place.
4. Level of candidate's interest and/or commitment to a career in biomedical/lupus research.
5. Candidate's qualifications including record of academic achievement, prior research experience, and assessment by referee.



## **Timeline**

*Release Date:* February 11, 2021

*Applications Due:* Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis (until Dec 31, 2021) and meritorious applications will be funded until the allocated annual resources have been depleted.

*Response to Applicants:* Applicants will be notified as quickly as possible depending on the number of applications received. Applicants can communicate with the LRA staff to obtain further information about the review timing.

*Earliest Anticipated Start:* Within two weeks of receiving a funding decision by the LRA.

## **Inquiries**

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### **proposalCENTRAL:**

For help with the electronic grant application process, please contact the help desk of proposalCENTRAL [pcsupport@altum.com](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com); +1-800-875-2562, extension 227