



2022 Administrative Supplements to Promote Diversity in Lupus Research Request for Applications (RFA)

RFA Release Date: December 23, 2021

Application Portal Open: January 3, 2022

Due and Anticipated Start Dates:

Applications Due	Earliest Anticipated Start
March 7, 2022	May 7, 2022
May 15, 2022	July 15, 2022
August 29, 2022	October 29, 2022
November 14, 2022	January 14, 2023

Purpose

The Lupus Research Alliance (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 or with an NIH, DOD or equivalent grant held by a lupus investigator who has peer-reviewed LRA applications in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Background

The 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.

Eligibility

Principal investigators or “sponsors” who have an active LRA grant or have peer-reviewed LRA applications in 2020, 2021 and 2022, and currently hold NIH, DOD or equivalent grant in good standing which addresses major challenges in lupus research, including genetic causes of lupus and disease mechanisms, novel targets and pathways, and/or novel treatment approaches and technologies, There must be at least 1 year of grant funding remaining at the time of application to be 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. There is no citizenship requirement; however, the proposed research must be performed in a US or Canada-based institution.

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, and American Indians, Alaska Natives and Pacific Islanders. Trainees should either be currently enrolled in a science-focused bachelor, master or other advanced degree program at an accredited institution OR within 2 years after receiving a bachelor’s, master’s or other advanced degree (Ph.D., M.D.). 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](#) by 11:59 pm ET on the stated quarterly deadline. The application should not exceed 6 pages (excluding references, biosketches, and recommendation letter) and should include the following application components:

1. Abstract or Grant Synopsis: LRA-funded Sponsors should provide a 0.5-page summary including specific aims of the funded parent grant. Sponsors holding NIH, DOD or equivalent grant should provide a 2-page synopsis detailing grant aims, significance, innovation, approach and how the results of funded research are expected to impact the lupus patient community.
2. Research Plan for the Candidate: A 1-page description of the trainee’s proposed research plan, including *significance*, *innovation* and *approach*. The research plan must be within the scope of the active 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, parent grant-funded research.

3. *Career Development Plan:* A 1-page 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 should be provided by the candidate's sponsor. 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:* A budgetary request not exceeding 0.5 pages.
5. *Statement of career goals:* A 1-page description of candidate's current and long-term research and career objectives should be provided by the candidate.
6. *Biographical Sketches for PI and Candidate*
7. *Recommendation Letter:* One letter of support describing 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 applicant or 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.

Key Dates

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Inquiries

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