

Diversity in Lupus Research (DLR) Program

Background

- The Lupus Research Alliance (LRA) aims to **accelerate innovative research** and **treatment breakthroughs** for lupus.
- Success in this endeavor will require a talented, tenacious, and diverse workforce capable of addressing the complexity of lupus.
- Several studies have shown that **diverse teams consistently outperform homogenous groups** in solving complex problems. In a report on the science and engineering workforces, the National Science Foundation detailed that Black/African Americans, Pacific Islanders, Native Americans, and Hispanic individuals make up just over 10% of the scientific workforce, despite constituting more than 25% of the general population.
- To harness the collective power of diverse minds and address the underrepresentation of specific groups in lupus research, the LRA has developed the **Diversity in Lupus Research Program** to promote an outstanding diverse scientific pool of lupus research professionals.

Goals

The aims of the LRA Diversity in Lupus Research Program are to:

- 1) **Identify** outstanding underrepresented minority (URM) talent at various stages in the scientific career development process.
- 2) **Encourage** URM talent to pursue research in lupus and autoimmunity, ideally retaining them in the field long term.
- 3) **Support** the career growth of URM scientists and clinicians.
- 4) **Retain** talent by providing access to a supportive network of peer scientists, mentors, and potential collaborators to help combat barriers the investigators may face at critical junctures of their training.
- 5) **Establish** a robust community of URM scientists and clinicians working in the field of lupus and autoimmunity.

Funding Mechanisms

- **Career Development Award:** Provides up to \$600,000 over four years to outstanding early-career underrepresented minority investigators establishing an independent research program in lupus.
- **Postdoctoral Award:** Provides up to \$200,000 over two years to promising underrepresented minority scientists to help them generate the scientific data and unique research ideas necessary to transition to independence.
- **Administrative Supplement to Promote Diversity in Lupus Research:** Provides up to \$30,000 for up to two years to promising trainees working with LRA-funded researchers or lupus investigators supported by the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, or equivalent grants in good standing.

Letters of Intent are currently being accepted for the 2025 Career Development and Postdoctoral Award.

Due Date: September 6, 2024

Applications for the 2024 Administrative Supplement are accepted on a rolling basis until **October 10, 2024**.

For more information, please contact:

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For additional information on LRA grant mechanisms, scan here: