

GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM ARE

- To support specific research projects into arthritis and other musculoskeletal disorders
- To support and foster the career development of scientists and clinical investigators committed to research into arthritis and allied disorders

THERE ARE THREE CATEGORIES

- **Fellowships**
- **Scholarships**
- **Project Grants and Grants in Aid**

Please state which category you wish to apply for on the specific application form by selecting the appropriate box. There is no need to make simultaneous applications. The Grants Assessment Committee reserves the right to re-categorise applications and will determine if for instance a 'Project Grant' application can be awarded with partial funding as a 'Grant-in-aid' instead. They may also consider applications across various categories e.g. scholarships and fellowships. There are separate application forms for the various categories. Please be mindful of information required for specific grants and make sure that all information is included in your application.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A RESEARCH AWARD

1. Download and read the Frequently Asked Questions document
2. Download and read the Guidelines and Instructions document
3. Download and complete the appropriate Application Form
4. Submit your completed application as an email attachment to:
researchgrants@arthritisaustralia.com.au
5. Post original copy of the **signed certification page only** to:

Arthritis Australia Research Program Applications
PO Box 550
Broadway NSW 2007

***Note:** this page can be posted at a later date (within two weeks of application submission closing date)

6. Please check your application details before submission

If you need any assistance, please contact Arthritis Australia at: researchgrants@arthritisaustralia.com.au

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FELLOWSHIPS

Research fellowships are available for post-doctoral work or following recently completed rheumatology advanced training and are available for research programs both overseas and in Australia.

***NOTE** In view of limited amounts of funding available, our priority is to encourage new researchers who are then subsequently in a stronger position to apply for an award from other agencies, such as NHMRC. As success in the NHMRC funding program is one of the goals of Arthritis Australia's research strategy, applicants submitting a research proposal which is subsequently awarded NHMRC funding in the same calendar year, will no longer be eligible to receive funds from Arthritis Australia for this proposal. Similarly, recipients cannot hold more than one fellowship in any given year and will no longer be eligible to receive funds from Arthritis Australia should they be successful at receiving another fellowship e.g. from the RACP.

The **Arthritis Australia AFA-ARA Heald Fellowship** is available for post-doctoral research programs both overseas and in Australia. Preferentially, it is available for members of the Australian Rheumatology Association (ARA) or applicants working with a member of the ARA. This is for one year only and there will be no renewals, except in rare circumstances e.g. part-time research (preference for research overseas but Australian-based research will be considered).

The **Victorian ARA Fellowship** is designed to support expansive self-development of trainee/rheumatologists within Victoria. The purpose of the award is to encourage rheumatologists to develop expertise in a clinical or research discipline in rheumatology and to use that expertise in and for the betterment of rheumatology in Victoria. ARA members who are advanced trainees or within five years of FRACP are eligible to apply, in support of higher degree studies, post-higher degree research, or specialized clinical training.

The **Arthritis Queensland Fellowship** is a post-doctoral fellowship to support medical and clinical research into treatments for all forms of relevant musculoskeletal conditions and recognised symptoms arising from the conditions e.g. pain. Preference is for a Queensland based graduate who must be agreeable to developing a partnership with Arthritis Queensland (AQ) e.g. participate in relevant AQ marketing campaigns; be able and willing to communicate with AQ stakeholders.

Arthritis Queensland Fellowship guidelines

1. The grant will be a stipend of **\$50,000** and is not renewable.
2. The recipient **must be based in Queensland** as a preference. If a suitable candidate is not identified from Queensland, candidates from other states in Australia may be considered as a secondary measure.
3. The recipient must be agreeable to developing a partnership with Arthritis Queensland (AQ) e.g. participate in relevant AQ marketing campaigns; be able and willing to communicate with AQ stakeholders.
4. The recipient will provide periodic financial and performance reporting to AQ.
5. Ongoing recipient endorsement of AQ, especially in the event of significant progress in research.
6. Within six months of completion of the fellowship, the recipient will be required to submit a written report in layman's terms about the fellowship (for publication) as well as a full scientific report to Arthritis Australia and to Arthritis Queensland. Copies of any publications resulting from this work are also required.
7. Acknowledgement of Arthritis Australia and Arthritis Queensland in all oral and written presentations/articles associated with the funding.

Application forms for the **AFA-ARA Heald Fellowship, Victorian ARA Fellowship or the Arthritis Queensland Fellowship** can be downloaded [here](#).

NOTE: Please use specific application form for each of the following awards.

The **Leanne Stafford Award** is to support a young Australian rheumatologist or Australian graduate in the pursuit of a year of research or clinical experience in an interstate or overseas institute. To be eligible, the candidate must be a rheumatologist who has completed their advanced training within the preceding five (5) years or an advanced trainee with one more non-core year to complete. The award is in the form of a \$50,000 stipend. It will not be renewable.

Leanne Stafford Award guidelines

1. The recipient must be a member of the Australian Rheumatology Association.
2. The recipient must be a rheumatologist who has completed their advanced training within the preceding five (5) years or an advanced trainee with one more non-core year to complete.
3. The grant will be a stipend to cover all costs related to travel and training interstate or overseas for a period of 12 months. It will not be renewable.
4. Applicants need to provide a detailed plan of the training program including a letter of support from the head of the relevant department in the intended institution. This documentation needs to accompany the application form,

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along with the applicant's curriculum vitae.

5. The successful applicant will normally be expected to take up the training position within one calendar year of the application.
6. Within three months of completion of the training year the successful applicant will be required to submit a
 - a. scientific report that describes the achievements of the grant and includes references for original papers that have been published or accepted for publication, as well as information about meetings at which you may have presented the research and a
 - b. 'plain language' report that not only outlines the achievements of the grant, but places the objectives of the research in a wider disease context and explains the importance of your findings to people with musculoskeletal disease.

The plain language report is of particular importance. It will be published and used to advise the principal donor(s) of the outcomes of the grant, as well as to communicate your research to a broader non-scientific readership. It must be written in 'everyday' language, and scientific terminology should be avoided.

It is vital that you acknowledge the support of the donor(s) and Arthritis Australia in all original papers, meeting presentations (oral and poster) and in any other ways that you disseminate the research.

Application form for the **Leanne Stafford Award** can be downloaded [here](#).

The **Ken Muirden Overseas Training Fellowship** is designed to give a rheumatologist who is about to or has completed advanced training in Rheumatology within the last two years an opportunity to undertake further clinical or research training overseas in an approved institution in any country. This fellowship is funded by the Australian Rheumatology Association Research Trust.

Ken Muirden Overseas Training Fellowship guidelines

1. The recipient must be a member of the Australian Rheumatology Association.
2. The recipient must be in the last year of Advanced Training in Rheumatology in the year the award is taken up or have completed their training in the previous two years.
3. The grant will be stipend to cover all costs related to travel and training overseas for a period of 12 months.
4. Applicants need to provide a detailed plan of the training program including a letter of support from the head of the relevant department in the intended overseas institution. This documentation needs to accompany the application form, along with the applicant's curriculum vitae.
5. The successful applicant will normally be expected to take up the training position within one calendar year of the application.
6. Within three months of completion of the training year the successful applicant will be required to submit a written report in laymen's terms about the project (for publication) as well as a full scientific report to Arthritis Australia and to the Australian Rheumatology Association. We also require copies of any publications resulting from this work as these help in promoting our fundraising efforts.

Application form for the **Ken Muirden Overseas Training Fellowship** can be downloaded [here](#).

SCHOLARSHIPS

Arthritis Australia offers scholarships for young science and medical graduates to undertake thesis studies into arthritis and related disorders at recognised universities. These scholarships provide research training to doctorate or masters level and are designed to develop the intellectual and technical expertise required for a career involving laboratory and clinical investigation. Scholarships are intended, in general, to support basic and clinical research training within Australian research units and as a precursor to more advanced study in Australia and overseas. Scholarships are for one year and are renewable for three years, depending on progress and funding priorities.

Application form for a **Scholarship** can be downloaded [here](#).

PROJECT GRANTS and GRANTS IN AID

Project Grants and Grants in Aid are typically for short-term projects with well-defined aims and budgets which can be achieved in a 12 month period. Grants in Aid (each grant valued up to maximum \$15,000) will be available only for new investigators* or allied health researchers, excluding physiotherapists unless they meet the criteria of a 'New investigator'. A small number of Project Grants (each grant valued up to maximum \$50,000) will be available for musculoskeletal research including grants focusing on rheumatoid arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis.

***(defined as within six years of receiving their PhD)**

Application form for a **Project Grant and Grant in Aid** can be downloaded [here](#).