



**Rheumatology
Research
Foundation**

Corporate Engagement: Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Rheumatology Research Foundation?

The Rheumatology Research Foundation is committed to advancing research and training to **improve the health of people with rheumatic disease**. As the **largest private funder of rheumatology research**, thanks to the generosity of our donors, the Foundation has committed more than \$192 million since 1985 with the help of supporters like you.

Why support the Rheumatology Research Foundation?

When over 54 million people are living with a rheumatic disease, someone you know could be one of them. And with only 1% of total NIH funding being allocated to rheumatology, we will not be able to fulfill our mission without continued investment in research.

Foundation funding has resulted in:

- \$16,200,000 in fellowship training to **497 fellows**
- **81% of recipients** have gone on to receive **additional funding** for their projects
- **85% of recipients received a promotion** during their award period

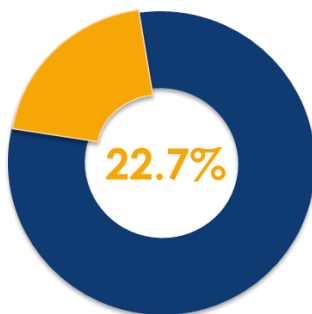


"The rheumatologist is how we finally had a diagnosis for our daughter. We watched her cross the finish line of her cross-country meet and that's a result of the doctors. A result of the investigators that made her whole again. **The implications of the work being funded by the Foundation are significant.**"

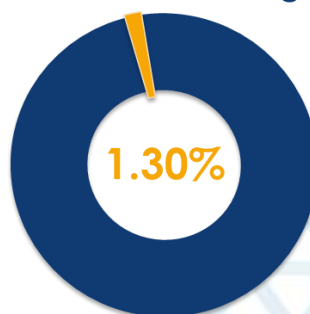
- Steve and Debbie Russell

Click the image or [here to watch](#) the video about their story.

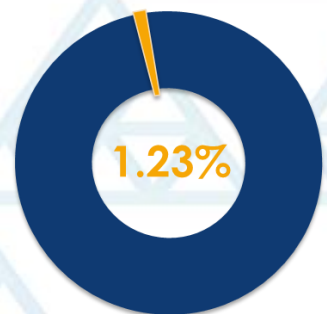
Percent population affected by rheumatic disease vs. federal funding



Adults with rheumatic disease



Federal funding to rheumatology community



Federal grants to rheumatology community

QUESTIONS?

Connect with Kate Adams, National Director of Corporate Philanthropy
kadams@rheumatology.org



What exactly does the Foundation do?

- Foundation funding is awarded to programs that educate and train medical and graduate students, residents, fellows, physicians and health professionals. Foundation grants are also awarded to researchers who investigate all types of rheumatic disease, including gout, juvenile idiopathic arthritis, lupus, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, spondylarthropathies, systemic sclerosis and vasculitis.

What is the process for awarding a grant?

- Rheumatology professionals interested in receiving Foundation funding must apply for an award. Once the applications are received, the Foundation uses a peer-review process, modeled after the National Institutes of Health, to determine which applicants are awarded Foundation grants. Expert scientists examine applications, score them against rigorous criteria and rank them. The rankings and evaluations are then sent to the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) for review, which makes recommendations on which applications to fund to the Foundation's Board of Directors. The Foundation's Board of Directors reviews and approves the SAC's funding recommendations. The Foundation notifies and distributes funds to the chosen applicants. While some awards are multi-year, this process happens on an annual basis.

What happens during the peer-review process?

- During peer review, a diverse group of scientists who are experts in particular aspects of the field examine applications and score them against rigorous criteria. Each application is assigned a primary and secondary reviewer with extensive knowledge of the subject matter. Both reviewers independently evaluate and score the application. All reviewers then meet to discuss each application's score and its scientific merit and give them all rankings. The results of the peer-review process are then sent to the Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) for evaluation. After that, the SAC makes recommendations to the Board of Directors on which applications to fund. The Board of Directors then reviews and approves the SAC's funding recommendations for the year.

Does the Foundation provide funding for patients?

- No, the Foundation does not provide funding for patients directly, but all funds go toward improving patient treatment and ultimately, finding a cure.

Where is Foundation research being conducted?

- The Foundation provides funding to researchers at institutions all across the U.S. and their global collaborators who study rheumatic diseases. No research is conducted by the Foundation.



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Corporate Engagement: Impact of the Foundation

The Foundation is the largest private funding source of rheumatology research and training in the United States.

Established by the American College of Rheumatology in 1985 to support the needs of the rheumatology community.

Since 1985, the Foundation has committed

\$192M

directly to

RESEARCH + TRAINING

COMMITTED TO FUND \$12,836,250 IN FY2022:



- Innovative Research \$4,455,750
- Education & Training \$1,950,000
- Recruitment \$510,500
- Education Career Development \$420,000
- Research Career Development \$5,150,000
- Fellows Education Fund \$350,000



INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Platinum
Transparency
2022

Candid.





Corporate Engagement: Impact of the Foundation

IN THE LAST 5 YEARS, INVESTIGATORS WHO HAVE RECEIVED FOUNDATION FUNDING HAVE:



published
378 papers



received
\$92.4M in
additional
NIH funding



given **188**
presentations
worldwide

How has the Foundation already made an impact within the rheumatology community?

As a result of Foundation funding from generous donors in 2020, recipients completing Foundation funded projects shared the following research outcomes:

- 14 defined new pathways
- 10 new insights into clinical associations
- 8 new epidemiologic findings
- 7 new drug targets identified and 7 new collaborative networks
- 4 novel gene signatures and 4 novel educational products developed
- 2 better diagnostic tests and 2 new biomarkers
- 2 new patient databanks
- 1 new informative cell line developed and 1 new PRO (patient-reported outcome) measure

Additionally, these same recipients also shared the following career-specific outcomes:

- 81% of recipients have gone on to receive additional funding for their projects.
- 85% of recipients received a promotion during their award period.

What are the current priorities of the Foundation?

- Accelerating Discoveries
- Expanding the Rheumatology Pipeline to Improve Patient Outcomes
- Leveraging Relationships to Grow Rheumatology

How does the Foundation prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusion?

- The Foundation prioritizes diversity, equity, and inclusion through our Student and Resident ACR Convergence (ACR/ARP Annual Meeting) Scholarship, several research projects, the Mentored Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant Award for Workforce Expansion, the Fellowship Training Award for Workforce Expansion, and anticipate a continued focus on these efforts as we solidify our upcoming strategic plan.



Corporate Engagement: Workforce Development

Relative demand vs.
supply of rheumatology care



● Adult
● Pediatric

The reality illustrated here is that the demand for rheumatologists is only increasing, and since only 1,738 rheumatologists will be treating more than a projected 78,000,000 living with rheumatic diseases within the next 10-15 years, it is critical we substantially improve the workforce pipeline now.

How does the Foundation expand the rheumatology pipeline to improve patient outcomes?



Fellowship Training Awards were created in 2002 to ensure a robust supply of rheumatology providers. Fellowship graduates have increased by 53%.

The Foundation aims to increase availability of care by rheumatologists and healthcare professionals (HPs) through increasing the number of physicians and HPs choosing rheumatology and pursuing relevant training opportunities. By increasing the number of providers of all backgrounds, we plan to increase patient accessibility to appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic rheumatologic care by broadening geographic distribution, decreasing patient wait times, and exploring new models for care delivery.

Within the timeframe of the previous strategic plan (FY17-22) focus on workforce development, the Foundation has:

- Committed almost \$2,700,00 to recruit the best and brightest into the field of rheumatology
- Committed over \$11,300,000 to provide robust education and training opportunities
- Created new programs focused on building the rheumatology workforce to satisfy the growing demand for rheumatology providers, including:
 - ChooseRheumatology! half-day workshop
 - Student and Resident ACR Convergence Scholarship
 - Fellowship Training Award for Workforce Expansion
 - Mentored Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant Award for Workforce Expansion
 - Support for students and residents to attend the Pediatric Rheumatology Symposium

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Corporate Engagement: Innovative Research



“I can tell you specifically in my institution at Tufts Medical Center that our hospital stopped supporting our rheumatology fellowship and without the support of the Foundation, we likely would have had to decrease or even stop the funding of our fellowship program entirely.”

William F. Harvey, MD, MSc, FACR
Clinical Director, Rheumatology; Tufts University School of Medicine

Learn more about the [importance of recruiting more people into rheumatology care and research careers here.](#)

How does the Foundation support innovative research?

- The Foundation supports research that leads to improved treatments and cures by funding the best science, encouraging innovation, and broadening the scope of investigation beyond traditional areas. Notably, we explore new research directions in rheumatology by demonstrating and/or improving the value of rheumatologic care, which expands the impact of rheumatology nationwide.

Within the timeframe of the previous strategic plan with a focus on innovative research, the Foundation has:

- Committed \$25,700,000 to support career development research (FY17-22)
- Committed \$23,300,000 to support innovative research (FY17-22)
- Became a proud supporter of the NIH's Accelerating Medicine Partnership in RA/SLE

Adjusted existing programs and created new ways to support research leading to improved treatments and cures:

- Broadened the scope of the innovative research program
- Established a health services research track
- Expanded grant eligibility to include community practitioners
- Promotion of RISE/developed application deadline structure to expedite RISE approval for Foundation apps
- Issued Notice of Special Interest RE: COVID-19 and RMDs
- Issued Notice of Special Interest RE: Telehealth



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Corporate Engagement: Partnership Opportunities

Join the Corporate Roundtable

The Corporate Roundtable (CRT) brings together the Foundation and pharmaceutical industry leaders (listed to the right) in a dynamic partnership. As a direct result of the exemplary support of Corporate Roundtable donors, the Foundation continues to increase funding for research and training.

Support the Early Career Investigator Initiative

This fundraising initiative provides support for a board-certified rheumatologist who is a clinical investigator engaged in research relevant to rheumatic diseases. This award will give the potential clinical scientist the support to ultimately reach the goal of becoming an independent investigator.

Partner through Rheum2Collaborate

Rheum2Collaborate is an opportunity to create a custom research proposal based on your priorities. The proposal would launch with all other Foundation opportunities and follow the same respected process to select award recipients.

Example: [Rheum2Collaborate: Telehealth](#)

Fund a Foundation Award

BIG 4 INITIATIVE	Innovative Research	Career Development	Education & Training	Recruitment
Example Award (not inclusive of all award opportunities)	<u>Innovative Research Award</u>	<u>Scientist Development Award</u>	<u>Fellowship Training Award for Workforce Expansion</u>	<u>Pediatric Rheumatology Fellow Research Award</u>

Leadership

abbvie AMGEN

Principal

AstraZeneca  Boehringer Ingelheim  Lilly 
 Genentech  gsk 
 NOVARTIS  Pfizer  ucb 

Partner

Bristol Myers Squibb  GILEAD 
 Janssen  Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals 

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