

Institutional

Research Fellowship

2025 Request for Proposal



RFP release date

October 15, 2024 December 2024

Submission deadline (12pm CT) Anticipated awardee notification

PURPOSE

 The Skin of Color Society Foundation (SOCSF) will continue to support institutionbased fellowship opportunities with a research focus on dermatologic diseases in skin of color, particularly in areas where further clinical, translational, and observational/ prospective research is needed. Programs with either established or emerging areas of research focus are encouraged to apply.

BACKGROUND

- The ethnic and racial demographics of the United States are significantly changing. By the year 2040, people with skin of color will represent more than half of the U.S. population. There is an increasing demand for understanding dermatologic conditions and treatments in patients with skin of color, as well as an accompanying need for education in this growing patient population.
- Physicians must be adept at recognizing and effectively treating dermatologic disease states in patients with skin of color, including understanding the conditions, their patients' viewpoints, and any hinderances to treatment compliance.
- Data and research on skin of color dermatologic diseases are limited. This overall lack of information contributes to the already existing healthcare disparities adversely affecting under-represented minorities. Contributing factors also include a workforce shortage, increased patient load, non-inclusive dermatologic training, and insufficient research involving racial and ethnic minorities.

Given the current dermatology workforce shortage, the increased patient load has the potential to have detrimental and adverse effects on dermatologic care for underrepresented minorities. Additional concerns include the state of dermatologic training and insufficient research involving racial and ethnic minorities.

1) ELIGIBILITY

a) Geographic Scope

i) United States of America

b) Applicant Criteria

i) Applicant must represent an accredited, U.S.-based academic institution.

ii) Grants will be awarded to institutions, not individuals. The name of the potential fellow is not required and should not be provided.

iii) Academic institutions with fellowship programs that include independent research and a strong mentoring program. Clinical training may be included in the program, but it is not required.

(1) "Independent research" includes clinical and translational, prospective, and retrospective or observational studies and outcomes research studies where the primary focus is the scientific understanding of disease, use of screening tools and their impact on improvement of patient health. Research that is not be eligible includes that involving:

(a) the study and/or evaluation of any pharmaceutical product and

(b) basic science and/or fundamental research (in animal model, in-vitro, etc.).

(2) "Clinical training" includes educational time with an interdisciplinary team in review of case examples and relevant didactic training as well as use of tools for improvement in patient health for specific therapeutic areas or conditions.

iv) Fellow time spent in the clinical setting supported through grant funds must not be billed as patient care.





2) REQUIREMENTS

a) Research Focus

i) The IRF intends to support institution-based fellowship opportunities with a research focus on dermatologic diseases in skin of color, particularly in areas where further clinical, translational, and observational/ prospective research is needed.

b) Prospective Fellows

i) Institution must affirm its commitment to offer the fellowship opportunity to an individual who is under-represented in medicine according to the definition adopted by the American Association of Medical Colleges which reads as follows: "Under-represented in medicine means those racial and ethnic populations that are under-represented in the medical profession relative to their numbers in the general population."

ii) Institution must ensure that any fellow that will receive grant funds must be a U.S. Worker (U.S. citizen, permanent resident, refugee, or asylee), or hold an appropriate non-immigrant visa status authorizing employment in the U.S.

c) Budget

i) Funding will be awarded to the institution, not an individual.

ii) Each institution may apply for funding to support one fellow for up to one year at a cost of up to \$80,000 USD. The budget can only include salary and benefit support for the fellow.

iii) Grant funds cannot be used for overhead or indirect costs. Overhead costs include rent, utilities, insurance, office equipment or supplies.

iv) Fellow time spent in the clinical setting that is supported through grant funds must not be billed as patient care.

3) APPLICATION

a) Please visit **skinofcolor.awardsplatform.com** and sign in. First-time users should register and create a password.

b) After log-in, select SOCS Institutional Research Fellowship and complete the application.

c) Submission requirements

i) Complete all required elements of the online application by the assigned deadline.

ii) Upload proposal (see Appendix for more information).





4) QUESTIONS

a) If you have questions regarding this RFP, please email SOCS Project Manager, Allison DeGroff at adegroff@skinofcolorsociety.org. Please use the subject line "SOCS 2025 IRF RFP."

5) REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

a) SOCS will utilize a panel of reviewers to make final grant decisions.

b) The panel will be comprised of professionals from the medical community with advanced degrees and expertise in relevant areas such as skin of color dermatology, clinical research, medical education, continuing professional development or quality improvement.

c) Applicants may be asked for additional, clarifying information during the review period.

6) NOTIFICATION

a) All applicants will be notified via email in accordance with the identified key dates.





APPENDIX

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

The proposal must be submitted as a PDF. The document should be formatted with 1-inch margins on all sides using 12-point font, single spaced. The proposal should not exceed 15 pages in total. The proposal must include all required elements as outlined below.

1) Cover Page

a) Single page; not to exceed 1 page.

b) Title: Include fellowship title and list main participating institutions.

c) Research Focus: Briefly state your research focus. As a reminder, the IRF intends to support

institution-based fellowship opportunities with a research focus on dermatologic diseases in skin of color, particularly in areas where further clinical, translational, and observational/ prospective research is needed.

d) Abstract: Include an abstract summary of your proposal including the goal of the fellowship, methods the institution uses to support the fellow's training, and research and assessment.

2) Overall Goals and Objectives

a) Describe the overall goal of the followship and its relevance to skin of color dermatology, keeping in mind the type of research which is the stated focus of the IRF.

b) Describe the research focus and/or clinical training (if applicable) in general terms based on the categorizations in the application.

3) Methods

a) Describe the mentoring process.

b) Include a description of the methods used to support the fellow and his/her research and/or



4) Resources

a) Describe the institution's academic, clinical training, and research capacity.
b) Describe the facilities and resources, which will be made available to the fellow.
c) Provide a summary of the institution's past work of relevance to this application.

5) Challenges

a) Provide a summary of potential challenges and plans for mitigating those challenges.

6) Institutional Support

a) Letter of Support from Division Head/Department Chair

b) Letter of Support from Primary Mentor

c) Letter of Support from Secondary Mentor (if applicable)

7) Budget

 a) Address any additional sources of funding for this proposal, including current and pending sources of funding.

b) Requests for funds for salary and benefit support should not exceed \$80,000. Other funding requests will not be considered nor provided as part of the award.

8) Project Timeline

a) Provide an anticipated timeline for the research project including project start and end dates.

9) Additional information

a) Applicants may include additional information concerning the importance of the proposed project or other relevant circumstances.

