skin of color SOCIETY

Observership Grant

The SOCS Observership Grant awards up to $2,500 USD in grants to dermatology residents, medical students (2nd-4th year), and junior faculty to do a rotation focusing on skin of color dermatology with the mentor of their choice. Grants are intended for travel, room and board as needed to establish and facilitate the mentoring relationship.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

Please submit your application through the SOCS AwardForce platform. Applications open annually in late summer and are due in the fall.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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skinofcolorsociety.org/observership

Mentees Efia Nuako, BS (left) and Brianna Camera Watson, BS (right) with mentor Leandra Barnes, MD (center) at Stanford University, 2025 Observership Award

Mentee Aditya Joshi, MS with mentor Steven Daveluy, MD at Wayne State School of Medicine, 2025 Observership Award

Purpose

- To empower young physicians and scientists to develop additional academic or research skills, thereby advancing their careers as future leaders in the field of dermatology specializing in skin of color.
- Facilitate skill development and knowledge transfer between the mentor and mentee.
- Provide a travel stipend to support a 1-4 week rotation.

Eligibility Criteria

- Individuals who maintain active membership in SOCS with up-to-date dues payment.

AND

- Are either dermatology fellows, young dermatologists who have completed their residency within the last 4 years, or 2nd-4th year medical students.
- Applicants must disclose if they are already participating in a paid fellowship at a specified location. Failure to disclose may impact application acceptance. Applicants must demonstrate that the rotation they are applying for is unique to their existing research year. These cases will be reviewed by the Mentorship Committee on an individual basis.
- Returning Applicants: Each student is eligible to receive one grant within a four-year period.

Participation in the program involves:

- Providing a 6-month update to the SOCS Mentorship Committee upon request regarding the status of the observership.
- Completing a short survey after the observership.
- Submitting a one-page summary of the experience written by the mentee, accompanied by a photograph of the mentee and mentor together.
- Observership must be completed between March of the year the grant is received and February of the following year.

SOCS Mentorship Committee

The SOCS Mentorship Committee evaluates, scores, and identifies the observership grant applications that receive funding.

For accepted applications:

- Confirmation, including rotation dates, from both the applicant and the mentor is required before the disbursement of funds.

Ready to take the next step? Here's how to get involved.

- Ensure both mentor and applicant are SOCS members or pending members. You must have active membership or a pending application to be eligible.
- Complete the application form with all required documents.
- For more information and to apply, visit: skinofcolorsociety.org/observership-grant/