

ROChester Stimulating Access to Research during Residency (ROCStARR)

Health and Immune Function Across the Lifespan

Announcing a prestigious opportunity to pursue grant-funded research during residency! The NIAID-funded R38 ROCStARR grant provides support for residents seeking a 12- to 24-month immersive, mentored research experience during their dermatology, pediatric and/or internal medicine residency. This grant supports research in immune-related diseases, such as autoimmune, allergic, inflammatory, and infectious conditions. Residents can pursue research projects in clinical, translational, health services, or implementation science. Given the broad impact of inflammation and dysregulated immune responses across various diseases, this training grant is relevant for residents pursuing most sub-specialty areas, as reflected in our diverse mentor pool.

In addition to conducting mentored research, residents will engage in individualized curricular activities designed to enhance grant writing skills, general research knowledge, and team science during their research year(s). The research year typically involves at least 80% research and up to 20% clinical work and generally takes place after the R3 year (for Internal Medicine and Pediatrics) or the R4 year (for Med-Peds and Dermatology).

Participation in this program provides financial support for the resident's salary, professional development, and research project. Additionally, residents who complete the program will have the opportunity to apply for a K38 mentored training award, which is exclusively available to former R38 participants, during their fellowship and early faculty years.

For additional information please see the [ROCStARR Program website](#). An Informational session will be held during the first week of September. If this opportunity interests you, please feel free to reach out with any questions to candace_gildner@urmc.rochester.edu, Jennifer_anolik@urmc.rochester.edu, and kirsi_jarvinen-seppo@urmc.rochester.edu.

How to Apply?

Eligibility

- **Residents participating in internal medicine, pediatric, medicine/pediatric, or dermatology residency training programs**
- Trainees (PGY-2, -3, or -4) must have approval and support from their residency program director (residents who are in their last year and applying to competitive fellowships may consider applying while awaiting final fellowship decisions)
- Prior research experience is **NOT** needed (we will tailor the program to all levels of experience!)
- Have an interest in a research project involving the mechanisms, treatment and prevention of infectious, immunologic, and allergic disease

Letter of Intent Due: September 30, 2025

The letter of intent should include:

- The applicant's CV
- A **1-page** personal statement describing the applicant's previous research experience, commitment to and interest in studying immune-mediated and inflammatory diseases, long-term career goals, and address how the ROCStARR program will help you achieve these goals
- The name of your research mentor (if you do not have a research mentor, please reach out to R38 leadership and we can help you identify one!)

Project Proposal Due: December 1, 2025

The project proposal is limited to 2 pages and should include:

- Name of mentor and project
- Research question and hypothesis
- Project background (What is known about the field? What is the gap in knowledge that your project will address?)
- Project rationale (Why is your project important? How will it advance the field?)
- Project aims (What are your project goals?)
- Letter of support from your research mentor
- Letter of support from your residency program director stating that you are in good clinical standing
- Mentor's biosketch

Decision on program acceptance: December 19, 2025