

**School of Medicine and Dentistry Medical Faculty Council Student/Trainee
Travel Awards 2025/2026
Request for Applications (RFA)**

The School of Medicine and Dentistry Faculty Council wishes to announce a pair of travel awards to support University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry (URSMD) medical student, graduate student, post- doctoral trainee, clinical resident, and clinical fellow presentations at meetings of national organizations. **Two travel reimbursement awards of up to \$1,000 will be given this funding cycle** (one for clinical research and one for basic sciences research). This award is best suited to advanced students for whom conference attendance can be expected to have the largest impact on their careers. The most competitive applications will thus be from presenting authors (either poster or platform presentations) who are in mid- to late stages of their education experience, as opposed to early students and middle authors.

**Eligible applications for the current cycle are for travel between
October 1, 2025-May 1, 2026**

Submission Deadline: November 21, 2025

The purpose of this award is to assist students and trainees in the URSMD to attend important national or international meetings at which they will present their research and make professional contacts. We hope this will assist mentors with limited funds to promote their trainees' professional success. We also intend for this award to serve as a means of recognizing outstanding research on the awardee's CV. **Funds may be used for registration and travel costs to national or international meetings.** This award may be given in the form of reimbursement for a meeting where an applicant has already presented their research, or for an anticipated meeting trip for presentation (reimbursement provided after travel). Applications will be accepted for:

1. Submitted abstracts that have not yet been accepted to the specified meeting within the above specified dates.
2. Abstracts that have been accepted to the specified meeting within the above specified dates.
3. Abstracts that have been accepted and already presented at the specified meeting within the above specified dates.

Note: The next RFA will be released March 1, 2026, for travel dates between March 1, 2026-November 1, 2026. Please look for the formal request for applications in the Spring.

Instructions to Applicants:

Submission components: Applications for this travel award should be submitted as a single PDF containing the following components:

Cover sheet (see below)

Conference submission.

- Copy of the abstract (unedited) submitted to the meeting.
- If the abstract has already been accepted for presentation at the meeting, please include a copy of its acceptance containing the indication of the type of presentation (e.g., poster or oral).
- If you are submitting more than one abstract for the same meeting, please limit your application to describe no more than two. The applicant must present both. The work in both abstracts must be connected to the applicant's main research area, so that it may be described appropriately within the personal statement.

Personal statement (limit to 1 page)

- The Personal Statement should briefly describe the science to be presented in straightforward language intended for reviewers who do not have expertise in the field. The applicant should also address the importance of attending the meeting for the applicant's career and the steps the trainee will take to help develop her/his career through attendance.

Applicant's current CV

Recommendation Letter from the Applicant's Mentor

Submission Details:

- Applications that are not in the requested PDF format will not be processed.
- Please include the attached cover sheet, fully completed, as it contains information that is important for processing your application.
- The distinction between submitting the application for "clinical science" or "basic science" should be determined primarily by the type of study and not the type of meeting to be attended. If an investigator is uncertain if the project should best be judged as a "clinical" or "basic science" application, please forward the abstract to the SMDFC Associate Chair (Dr. Calvin Cole), who will make a recommendation.
- Please combine all application materials into a **single PDF** with formatted title: **"SMDFCTravelAward-applicant's last name-Basic/Clinical."** (If applicant's name is Jane Doe applying for the Basic Science award, the title of the PDF would be: "SMDFCTravelAward-Doe-Basic.")
- Please deliver PDF by email to JoEllen Kress in the Office of Academic Affairs: JoEllen_Kress@URMC.Rochester.edu *please use the PDF title as the subject line of the email.*

Instructions to Mentors:

The applicant's mentor should provide a letter of support for the application in which the following are addressed:

- Promise shown by the applicant for growth and contribution in her/his discipline.
- The significance of the meeting where the work has been submitted.
- The potential for this experience to advance the trainee's career.
- The quality of the work that will be presented.
- Letters offering support for multiple students are strongly discouraged.

Selection Process:

Applications will be scored by three independent reviewers, and an average will be used. Scoring will consider the specific evidence from materials presented by the applicant and the mentor in the following areas:

- Trainee's experience and/or commitment towards scholarly work
- Significance of the meeting
- Potential for this meeting to advance the trainees' career.
- Quality of science

Notification of awards will occur 3-4 weeks after the application deadline.

Other terms:

This award specifically funds travel to meetings at which the applicant will be presenting his/her/their work. Therefore, if the chosen award recipient is an applicant who submitted a "not-yet-accepted abstract" for this award, and the abstract is not accepted to the meeting, the applicant will forfeit the award. The travel award will then go to the next highest-ranking abstract in its category (clinical or basic research).

We request that the applicant notify the SMDFC Associate Chair if other travel funds have been awarded for the same abstract and meeting during the review of this grant, so that their application may be withdrawn.

For questions, please contact:

Raymond Kenney, M.D.
SMDFC Associate Chair
Raymond_kenney@URMC.rochester.edu

School of Medicine and Dentistry Faculty Council Travel Award

Application submission cover page

Applicant name:

Intramural Box:

(Note: Notification letters will be mailed via intramural mail)

Department:

Mentor name:

Should this work be considered for a clinical or basic science travel award (check one)?

☐ Basic Science

☐ Clinical Science

Application cycle (check one):

☐ Spring, **for travel between March 1, 2025, and November 1, 2025**
(Deadline May 31, 2025)

☐ Fall, **for travel between October 1, 2025, and May 1, 2026**
(Deadline November 21, 2025)

Meeting and dates (*must fall within the specified travel dates above*):

Components in addition to this cover sheet:

☐ Abstract as submitted, with acceptance notice (if applicable)

☐ Applicant CV

☐ Personal statement (one page)

☐ Mentor letter of support