

Heart Rhythm Society Research Fellowship Scholarships

2025-2026 Submission Guidelines

About HRS Research Fellowship Scholarships

HRS is committed to driving meaningful and lasting change in the field of Electrophysiology, particularly by supporting the professional growth of its members and the next generation of leaders. For over 40 years, HRS has played a vital role in nurturing emerging researchers through the HRS Research Fellowship Scholarships (formally known as HRS Research Fellowship Awards).

The HRS Research Fellowship Scholarships encourage and support the research training of MDs, DOs, and PhDs in cardiac electrophysiology, focused on basic and clinical research. These scholarships support emerging researchers in initiating their careers in electrophysiology research while advancing research in heart rhythm disorders.

Each 2025-2026 scholarship includes:

- A one-year stipend of \$50,000
- Complimentary membership to the Society
- Complimentary registration to the Heart Rhythm 2025
- An invitation to serve as faculty and present research findings at Heart Rhythm 2026

Benefits

Through the experience gained during the HRS Research Fellowship Scholarships program, recipients also will:

- **Mentoring:** Gain valuable support from experienced researchers, which will provide guidance, and feedback throughout the research project.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with peers, and leaders in the field, fostering valuable professional relationships and collaborations.
- **Skill development:** Develop valuable hands-on experience to enhance research capabilities, sharpen critical thinking, and refine project management skills, while contributing meaningfully to advancements within the field.
- **Increased Visibility:** Gain exposure in the research community.

2025-2026 HRS Research Fellowship Scholarships

The Heart Rhythm Society will award 4 Research Fellowship Scholarships for the 2025-2026 cycle:

- Two (2) Research Fellowship Scholarships in basic research
- Two (2) Research Fellowship Scholarships in clinical research.

The HRS Research Fellowship Scholarships Program welcomes international applications. (Note: The applicant must effectively communicate their results in English.)

Important Dates

January 8, 2025, at Noon/12:00 pm ET: Submission site closes

Week of March 15, 2025: Notifications of acceptance/non-acceptance with email.

April 24-27, 2025: Scholarships are awarded during Heart Rhythm 2025

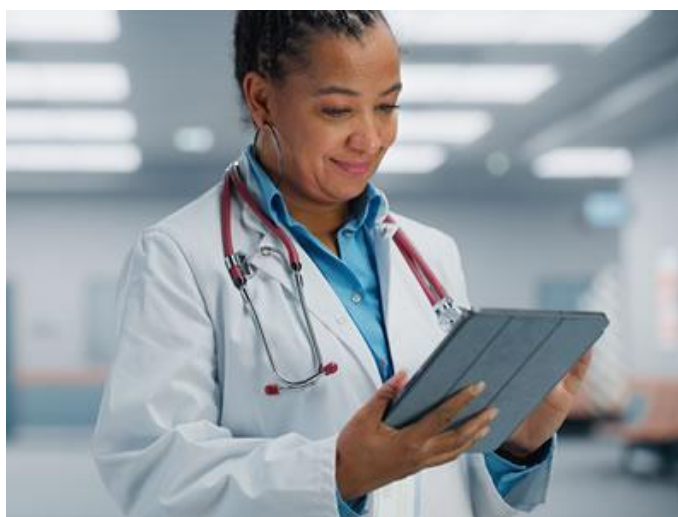
July 1, 2025: Scholarship period starts

April 24-27, 2026: Presentations of Scholarship Research at Heart Rhythm 2026

Applications must be submitted via the Submission website.

The applicant must submit all materials, including sponsor letters, to the website by Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at Noon/12:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

No late submissions will be accepted, and no exceptions will be made.



Questions?

Contact us at
research@HRSONline.org

Eligibility Requirements

The applicant should intend on pursuing a career in independent research and be interested in additional training under the supervision of a sponsor or mentor prior to a career in independent research. Recipients should use this Scholarship to promote their long-term goals in the field. HRS values the contributions of applicants who demonstrate an interest and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Specific criteria include:

- Applicants must have an MD, Ph.D., DO, DVM, or equivalent doctoral degree at the time of scholarship activation.
- Applicants may not hold this post-doctoral fellowship while enrolled in a degree-granting program unless they are in the ABIM Clinical Investigator Pathway residency.
- Applicants currently enrolled in graduate or medical school may only apply if they will graduate prior to Scholarship activation. These candidates must provide a letter from their current institution verifying their graduation date.
- Individuals with current or prior faculty/staff rank, except for MDs or MD, PhDs who hold the title of an instructor or similar, due to patient care responsibilities (e.g., residents, clinical fellows, or those who have taken a year out to work as clinicians between residency and fellowship), will be excluded from consideration for this Scholarship.
- Candidates with a current or prior job title of Assistant Professor or higher from any institution are not eligible for this fellowship.
- At the time of scholarship activation, the candidate cannot have completed three or more years of research experience cumulative of post-medical or post-graduate school (whichever degree is applicable).
- We encourage international post-doctoral fellows. However, the applicant must effectively communicate their results in English.
- Applicants must devote at least 80 percent (80%) of their effort to research or activities directly related to the proposed research.

Questions about your eligibility?
Contact the HRS Team at research@HRSONline.org

SCIENCE FOCUS

The proposed research must be relevant to the goals and aims of the Heart Rhythm Society. Appropriate fields of study include epidemiological, outcomes research, and clinical and basic investigations within the general area of cardiac electrophysiology.

HRS DIVERSITY COMMITMENT

HRS stakeholders share a common passion for accomplishing our mission to end death and suffering from heart rhythm disorders. We believe our diverse backgrounds, experiences, and interests are assets in reaching that goal. We are committed to providing an inclusive environment in all our activities where everyone feels valued, respected, and welcome. We strive to have organizational leaders who represent all aspects of our diversity and who promote the diversity, equity, and inclusion that are essential to our success.

SPONSOR

Recipients must receive counsel and direction from a senior investigator interested in the conduct and progress of the research project, and each fellow must have a qualified sponsor.

Each sponsor is limited to one application per funding cycle. If more than one applicant lists the same sponsor, all applications with that sponsor will be withdrawn.

BUDGET ITEMS

The only allowable budget items are applicant salary, fringe benefits, and indirect costs. The total of all budget items must equal the \$50,000 scholarship amount.

Although not a requirement, if indirect costs are requested, the maximum allowable amount is \$4,545 (10% of direct costs). Supplies, project costs, and meeting and travel expenses are not allowable budget items.

The sponsoring institution may supplement salary, as allowable in the budget, provided the salary is comparable to the salary paid by the sponsoring institution to fellows of the same post-graduate year as the applicant.

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT

\$50,000 (inclusive of indirect costs)

SCHOLARSHIP DURATION

One year. Recipients are permitted to submit a new application for a second year.

Research Fellowship Scholarships Submission Website

https://heartrhythmsociety.smapply.io/prog/2025-26_research_fellowship_scholarship_application

All components of the application, including all online fields and required attachments, must be completed and submitted via the online submission site no later than

January 8, 2025, at Noon/12:00 pm Eastern Time.

Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. If you have any questions, please contact research@hrsonline.org.

The online portion of the application includes the completion of the following submission steps: title, applicant information, general information, references (including reference letter templates), and keywords.

The following pages outline the list of required forms and instructions for proper submission.



REQUIRED FORMS

The following forms are required as part of the submission:

Curriculum Vitae

- Attach a copy of your medical school or graduate school diploma. If the diploma is not in English, provide a certified translation
- Attach biographical sketch (may not exceed four pages) in the below format (NIH format is also acceptable)
 - Format
 - Positions and appointments: List, in chronological order previous positions, concluding with your present position.
 - Honors: List any honors. Include present membership on any Federal Government public advisory committee.
 - Selected peer-reviewed publications (in chronological order): Do not include publications submitted or in preparation. For publicly available citations, URLs or PMC submission identification numbers may accompany the full reference. Note that copies of these publications are no longer accepted as appendix material.
 - Research Support: List selected ongoing or completed (during the last three years) research projects (Federal and non-Federal support). Begin with the projects that are most relevant to the research proposed in this application. Briefly indicate the overall goals of the projects and your role (e.g., PI, Co-Investigator, Consultant) in the research project. Do not list Scholarship amounts or percent effort in projects.

Sponsor Statement

Each applicant must have a qualified sponsor. Recipients are expected to receive wise counsel and direction from a senior investigator interested in the conduct and progress of the research project. This individual should not be one of the individuals providing you with a reference.

Each sponsor is limited to one application per funding cycle. If more than one applicant lists the same sponsor, all applications with that sponsor will be administratively withdrawn.

In addition to the template, you must also attach the following documents on the submission site:

- A copy of the sponsor and any significant collaborator's biographical sketch (NIH format, use Arial 11-point font)
- Sponsor statement (Use Arial 11-point font, maximum four pages), specifically address all seven elements listed in the instructions
- List all current and previous (for the past five years) research trainees, including years under your supervision, degree received under your supervision, salary and project support, and current position.
- A detailed list of equipment and resources directly available to the applicant to complete the proposed work.

Institution Letter

All applicants are required to submit a letter from the institution where the research will be performed. An administrative official currently employed with the institution should complete this letter. Please follow the additional instructions located on the form.

Letters of Reference

- Letters should be written by the individuals listed on the References portion of the online submission.
- The sponsor cannot provide either of the letters of reference.

Research Fellowship Scholarship Agreement

All applicants are required to submit a Research Fellowship Scholarship Agreement form. This form outlines the requirements you must adhere to during the year-long research fellowship scholarship program. Your application will be automatically withdrawn if your submission does not include a signed form.

Proposed Budget, Full-Year Fellowship

- Provide salary, fringe, and overhead costs
- Provide the correct information for the person and place checks should be mailed to at your institution

Candidate Plan for Career Development

- Clearly describe your career plan. This should include background on your previous education and experiences, your current plans, including, but not limited to, the submitted research project, and your future goals. Describe how each of these components will assist you in achieving an academic career that advances the cardiac electrophysiology field
- Describe the feasibility of completing your proposed research within one year and how it fits into long-term research plans

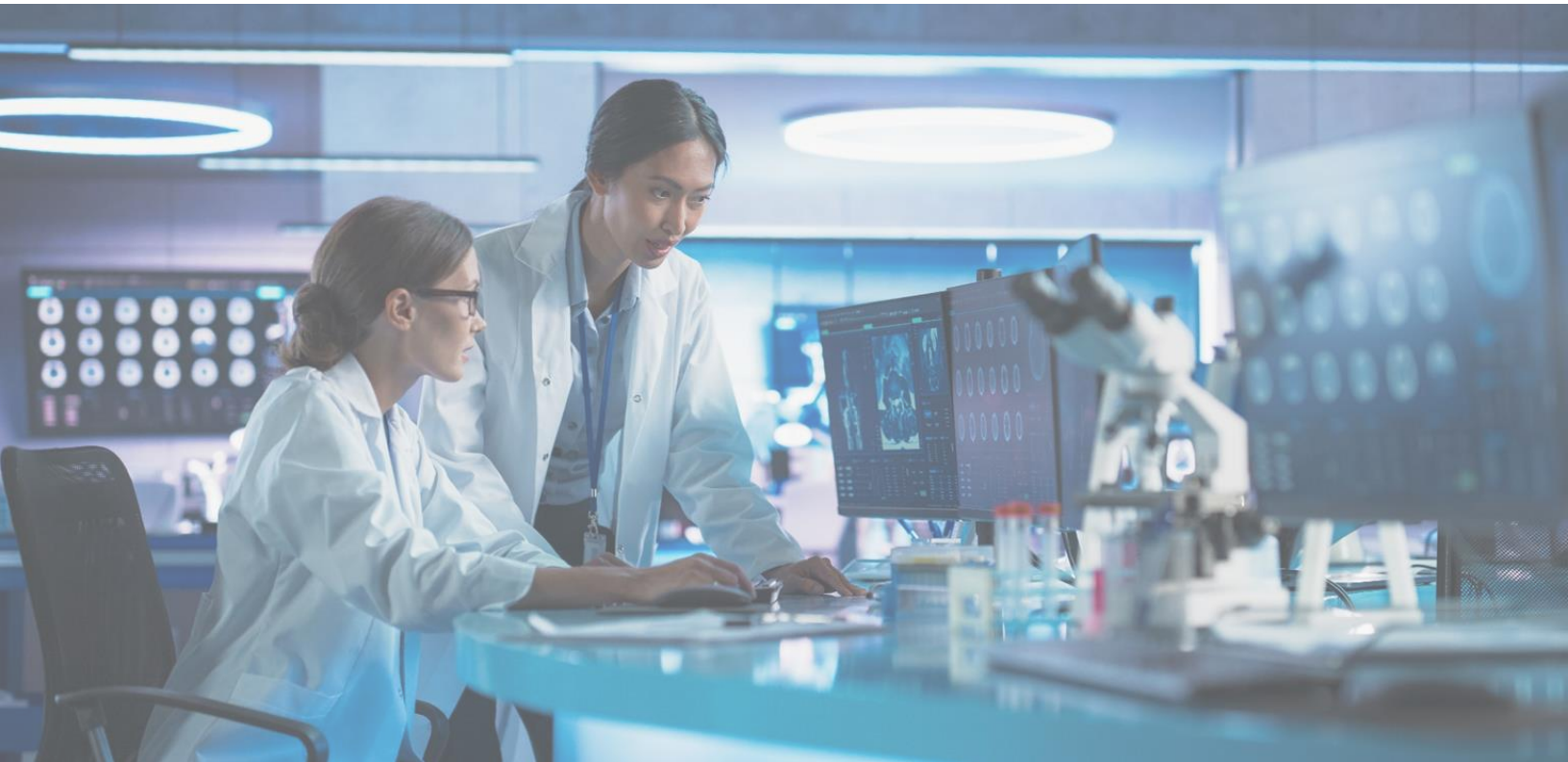
Description of Proposed Research Project

- Limit to four (4) pages. *References are not included in the four-page limit, but applicants are encouraged to keep them concise. The proposal should consist of the following sections. While the suggested length for each section is provided in parentheses, there is no formal space limitation for individual sections beyond the overall four-page limit for the research proposal.*
 - Statement of hypothesis and specific aims (½ page)
 - Background information, including preliminary data. Limit the background section to information that would be necessary for an EP expert to understand the proposal's rationale. Give sufficient preliminary data to support the feasibility of the hypothesis and approach. Briefly explain the applicant's involvement in obtaining the preliminary data. With appropriate referencing, it is acceptable for the applicant to provide preliminary data generated by the sponsor or collaborator that was not necessarily the applicant's work. (1½ pages)
 - Specific research plans, including proposed methods, data analysis, potential problems and alternative plans, and a timeline for the research. (2 pages)

Advice from the Review Committee

Please pay attention to the following issues that commonly arise during peer review. Applications usually score poorly for one of the following reasons:

- Project lacks novelty and will only minimally advance current knowledge.
- Project is too broad or complex in scope and does not appear feasible over the one-year time period of the proposal.
- Project and/or hypothesis does not appear feasible based on the provided background literature or preliminary data.
- Project requires expertise beyond the scope of the applicant or sponsor's published skills, and no documentation of an appropriate collaboration is provided.
- Sponsor statement does not clearly address training in the context of moving the applicant toward a career in EP research.
- Sponsor does not provide requested information on past trainees or does not address all components of the training plan.
- Candidate does not discuss all components of the candidate's career development statement. Please take seriously the need to describe the detailed career development process pertaining to your goals. Do not just describe the skills you hope to acquire over the next year.
- Candidate does not commit the required 80% effort to the research, or the candidate has more than the allowed three years of cumulative post-graduate research experience.



Review Process

Three Heart Rhythm Society Research Fellowship Scholarships Subcommittee members will review each application, and the reviewers will remain anonymous to the applicant. Any contact between the reviewer and the applicant is prohibited; evidence of communication will result in the application's disqualification and the reviewer's dismissal. Each reviewer must disclose any relationships that may prove a potential conflict of interest, including monetary interest, institutional affiliation, and prior knowledge of the applicant. If there is a potential for bias, the reviewer will be recused from reviewing the application. The Subcommittee Chair will have final decision-making authority concerning issues that may arise during the review process.

The review process is as follows:

- Triage: Any application that is not complete per the application guidelines will be dismissed prior to the Subcommittee review process. Applicants who have begun an application submission will be notified two weeks prior to the deadline date if it is incomplete. It is the applicant's responsibility to upload two (2) reference letters by the deadline. The application submission site will be closed on **January 8, 2025, at Noon/12:00 p.m. ET**, and no further applications or document uploads will be accepted.
- 1st review: Each application that passes through triage will be submitted to three non-conflicted Subcommittee members for review. Applications will be scored via the criteria listed in the review criteria section below. Each reviewer will also provide subjective comments to be shared with the applicant. The top 10-15 applications will be selected by processing and comparing the mean data of the three scores. In the event of a tie, the subcommittee chair, utilizing the subjective comments provided by the reviewers, will determine the final ranking.
- 2nd review: The top 10-15 applications will be subject to a subcommittee conference meeting. Reviewers will be privy to the scores of each application and defend their comments. After thoroughly reviewing each of the final applications, the applications accepted for the fellowship will be determined by vote count. Applications from the 2nd review will receive in-depth feedback from the subcommittee proceedings along with notification of rejection or a Scholarship acceptance letter.

All applications will receive either a rejection or Scholarship acceptance letter, including written feedback from the reviewers.

REVIEW CRITERIA

When preparing your application, please refer to the following review criteria and carefully address each of the following points. An individual applicant is not expected to fully meet each of these points. Strengths in one particular area will be weighed against potential weaknesses in another (e.g., the inexperience of a mentor can be balanced by a particularly well-thought-out training plan; lack of publications by an applicant can be balanced by a clear plan for achieving an academic career, etc.)

Criteria 1 – Evaluation of the Investigator (one-third of the overall score)

1. Does the applicant have the potential for an academic/clinical career?
2. Is the applicant's career and training plan clearly and convincingly described?
3. Do the investigator's history and sponsor/referee assessments support the likelihood of success for the stated career plan?
4. Does the applicant have prior research experience and/or publications?
5. Is there a clear rationale supporting the applicant's need for additional training?

Criteria 2 – Evaluation of the Sponsor, Training Plan, and Environment (one-third of the overall score)

1. Does either the mentor or a collaborator have published or demonstrated experience with all research methods necessary for the project?
2. Is there evidence that all resources necessary for the proposal's success are in place and operational prior to the start of the proposal?
3. Does the mentor have the experience necessary to direct the applicant's training (as evidenced by his/her track record of senior author publications, independent funding, and the success of prior trainees)?
4. Does the mentor have adequate current funding to support the research project?
5. Does the mentor provide a comprehensive training plan that will enhance the applicant's ability to reach his/her career goals?
6. If collaborators are a part of the proposal, is there written documentation of their support?

Criteria 3 – Evaluation of the Research Proposal (one-third of the overall score)

1. Does the applicant clearly state the hypothesis to be tested in the proposal and the specific aims that will be used to address this hypothesis?
2. Significance: Does the proposed study address a significant problem in cardiac electrophysiology? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts, methods, and technologies that drive this field?
3. Innovation/novelty: Is the project truly original, or is it a derivative of past studies or publications?
4. Feasibility: Do the application's background information and preliminary data justify the hypothesis? Do the preliminary data and the publication records of the applicant, mentor, and/or collaborators demonstrate competence with all research methods used in the proposal? If clearly acknowledged, applicants can present preliminary data generated by the sponsor or collaborators.
5. Approach: Is the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well-integrated, well-reasoned, and appropriate to the hypothesis and aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and discuss alternative tactics if problems arise?

NOTIFICATION

The Heart Rhythm Society will send the notification of acceptance/non-acceptance via email during the week of March 10, 2024.

HEART RHYTHM 2025

The 2025-2026 Scholarship Recipients will receive a complimentary registration to the [Heart Rhythm 2025](#). Scholarship Recipients are expected to attend the reception held in their honor where we will officially present their scholarship. The date of this event will be confirmed in the coming weeks.

HEART RHYTHM 2026

The 2025-2026 Scholarship recipients will be invited as a Heart Rhythm 2026 faculty to present research findings at the Heart Rhythm 2026.



HRS Research Fellowship Scholarship Policies

Activation and Duration of the Scholarship

A full-year research fellowship scholarship is awarded for a period of not less than one year and starts July 1, 2025. Activation dates other than July 1, 2025, must be approved by HRS staff and the Subcommittee Chair. An alternative activation date must be requested in a separate letter accompanying the application. Full-year fellowship Scholarships cannot be activated before June 1, 2025, or after November 1, 2025.

Renewal and Extension of Full-Year Scholarships

Recipients are eligible to apply for competitive renewal of the research fellowship scholarship, which will provide one additional year of funding. Competitive renewal applications should be accompanied by a 1-page supplement specifically indicating the work accomplished during the previous period of support and clearly showing justification for renewed funding. This supplement is not included in the 4-page limit for the research, and it cannot be used to describe the proposed research. Competitive renewal applicants will not be limited to three cumulative years of post-graduate research experience. HRS funds a maximum of two years only; applications for a third year of funding will not be considered.

Location of the Research Fellowship Scholarship Program

As previously stated, this is an international opportunity. The same application criteria will consider all applicants and all research will be regulated by the ethical standards and reporting responsibilities set forth below. All written and verbal correspondence must be in English. All funding will be paid in United States Dollars. The applicant must make all necessary arrangements, both with the institution where the research and/or training will occur and with his/her research mentor, who will supervise the recipient's activities. Such arrangements must be acknowledged by signature from an authorized official of the institution and the research mentor.

Ethical Standards

The Heart Rhythm Society requires 1) that any research involving human subjects conform to the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki of the World Medical Association (*Clinical Research* 1992 Dec; 40 (4): 653-60) and Title 45, US Code of Federal Regulations, Part 46 Protection of Human Subjects, and 2) that any research involving animals will conform to the Guiding Principles in the Care and Use of Animals approved by the Council of the American Physiological Society. The sponsoring institution and the mentor must provide evidence that all investigations engaged in by the fellow are under the institution's control and its investigational review board or other appropriate body. Documentation of regulatory approval must be provided to the HRS office prior to the release of fellowship funds.

Reports

According to the NIH Public Access Policy, the results of work carried out by a fellow must be made publicly available through scientific channels. All reports on work supported by the fellowship should acknowledge the Society's support. An appropriate format for such acknowledgment may be: "This work was performed during Dr. _____'s tenure as the (full name of Scholarship) Fellow of the Heart Rhythm Society". An electronic or paper reprint of each published article should be furnished to the Heart Rhythm Society.

In the year of the Scholarship, recipients will be required to present data from their research at the ' dedicated session held during the Heart Rhythm Society's Annual Meeting. In addition, a one-page abstract of the research project must be submitted for distribution at this program.

A final financial report and a report summarizing research progress and accomplishments during the funding period are to be submitted to the Heart Rhythm Society office no later than the last day of support for the research fellowship scholarship. Failure to submit these reports by this deadline will result in forfeiture of the remaining monies owed.

Transfers

If the Research Fellowship Scholarship Recipient leaves the site where he/she agreed to perform the research project, ceases work with the approved mentor, or ceases to continue the activities for which the Scholarship was made, the Scholarship will terminate unless alternate arrangements were approved in advance by HRS staff and the chair of the Research Fellowship Scholarships Subcommittee.

Leave of Absence and Vacation

A leave of absence will be granted during a scholarship year with the prior approval of HRS staff, the chair of the Research Fellowship Scholarship Subcommittee, the mentor, and the institution. Vacation for a scholarship recipients may be taken per the institution's policy where the research is being performed but may not exceed 24 of the institution's scheduled workdays per Research Fellowship scholarship year.

Payments

Unless otherwise specified, quarterly installments of the full-year Scholarship will be mailed to the sponsoring institution. The final installment is contingent upon receipt of the documentation described in the REPORTS section.

Questions? Contact the HRS Team at research@HRSONline.org

QUESTIONS?

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Contact us at research@hrsonline.org