

Diversity Research Supplement Award

Diversity in dermatology has never been more important. Despite progress, racial and ethnic inequalities remain a challenge in the specialty. In 2017, the Dermatology Foundation addressed this challenge with the introduction of a new *Diversity Research Supplement Award (DRSA)*. The express purpose of the award is **to enhance diversity in the field of dermatology and its workforce by encouraging increased participation by underrepresented minorities.**

The DRSA enables a current or past DF Career Development Award recipient to support the participation of a medical student, identified as belonging to an under-represented minority group, in the completion of a defined research project spanning six to twelve weeks. The award supports a stipend or other costs that directly support the medical student's involvement. The medical student gains research experience, exposure to academic dermatology, and a professional connection – all before graduation.

Applications are accepted twice annually, in April, for July 1 start dates, and October, for January 1 start dates. Complete application information, forms, and an Opportunity List are posted on the DF website prior to each cycle.

Which Groups are Underrepresented?

The following racial and ethnic groups have been shown to be underrepresented in biomedical research:

- Blacks or African Americans,
- Hispanics or Latinos,
- American Indians or Alaska Natives,
- Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders

Why Does Diversity Matter?

- Diversity among the medical workforce has been shown to improve patient care.
- A more diverse workforce will improve our research and our ability to meet the unique needs of these groups.

Applicant Eligibility:

The DRSA is available to a current or former DF career development awardee, who meets the following two requirements:

- Is a current CDA recipient, or a former CDA recipient whose award began no more than 10 years ago
and
- Is a faculty member in a department of dermatology that is ACGME-approved for residency training

Medical Student Eligibility:

The DRSA supports the participation of medical students who meet the following requirements:

- Is a full-time student identified as belonging to an under-represented minority group, as defined by the NIH (see sidebar)
- Is pursuing an MD or DO degree at an accredited U.S. medical/osteopathic school
- Is in good standing at their academic institution
- Will be able to complete the research plan PRIOR to graduation