



2026
DF SOCS Collaborative Mid-Career
Research Award
sponsored by Sanofi Regeneron
Applicant Instructions

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Contact Information:

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Introduction

The Dermatology Foundation (DF) and the Skin of Color Society (SOCS) have partnered to create an impactful opportunity to advance health equity in the field of dermatology. The DF and SOCS are pleased to offer a research award made possible by a generous \$1 million contribution—the **DF SOCS Collaborative Mid-Career Research Award sponsored by Sanofi-Regeneron**.

This substantial new award will expand the understanding of dermatological issues impacting underrepresented or underserved groups in medicine and add a critical piece to the pipeline of investigators working to address healthcare disparities.

Designed to support the research of exceptional mid-career investigators, it is the expectation that **Sanofi-Regeneron DF SOCS Collaborative Mid-Career Research Award** applicants are actively pursuing “R” funding to further their research and academic careers in dermatology.

About the Dermatology Foundation

The purpose of the Dermatology Foundation is simple but powerful. For sixty years, the Dermatology Foundation has identified and supported the early career work of investigators with great potential. Our research awards have helped launch outstanding research and academic careers, contributing significantly to the development of dermatology as we know it today. To date, the Foundation has awarded more than 2,500 research awards to enable advancements in patient care by providing nearly \$91 M in funding for discovery to talented investigators. The Dermatology Foundation has a proven track record of funding novel ideas and individuals who are dedicated to expanding the understanding of dermatologic conditions and diseases.

About the Skin of Color Society

The Skin of Color Society is a globally recognized leader in advancing dermatology for skin of color, with dermatologist members from 30 countries worldwide. Founded in 2004 by Dr. Susan C. Taylor, the society’s mission is to achieve health equity and excellence in patient care through research, education, mentorship, and advocacy. Since its inception, SOCS has worked tirelessly to strengthen the pipeline of dermatology students and residents as well as to comprehensively train dermatology fellows in delivering culturally competent care to diverse populations. SOCS membership includes highly skilled mentors across dermatology subspecialties (medical, cosmetic, and surgical) and practice settings (private practice, public service, and academia). SOCS has successfully mentored hundreds of medical students, dermatology residents, and fellows and has awarded various research, fellowship, observership, career development, and innovation grants to early and mid-career dermatologists.

Award Details

a. Description

The **DF SOCS Collaborative Mid-Career Research Award**, sponsored by **Sanofi-Regeneron**, would support the research of outstanding investigators with an established track record of excellence in basic, clinical, or translational science. **The funded research projects are expected to yield novel results that expand the understanding and advance aspects of dermatology related to dermatological issues in skin of color.** Research proposals are expected to be hypothesis-driven and should span three years.

b. Amount and Effective Date

The **Sanofi-Regeneron Award** provides **\$100,000 in annual support for up to three years**. Award funds may be used for any combination of salary and related benefits, and project expenses. Award funds may not be used for indirect costs. Funding for the first year of the award will start on July 1, 2026.

c. Award Eligibility Requirements

This award is designed to support outstanding mid-career investigators committed to advancing aspects of dermatological issues impacting skin of color patient populations.

The specific eligibility requirements are as follows:

1. Mid-Career Investigator within 12 years of appointment as an Assistant Professor as of January 1, 2026
2. Faculty appointment in an accredited dermatology department/division
3. M.D.; M.D., Ph.D.; D.O.; or Ph.D. degree
4. Primary appointment in the dermatology department
5. At least 75% of their time is committed to research
6. The proposed project must address an issue impacting skin of color patient populations
7. Research aims must be unique to the award
8. Strong demonstrated commitment to research
9. Appropriate training and experience in relevant research
10. Cannot hold other DF support at the time of funding (CDA-Yr3 recipients may apply)

Recipients may concurrently hold federally funded awards or their equivalent (e.g., NIH, VA, DOD, FDA, Doris Duke, Burroughs Wellcome, etc.).

Applicants belonging to groups that are underrepresented/ underserved in medicine are encouraged to apply for this award.

d. General Eligibility Requirements

The **Sanofi-Regeneron DF SOCS Collaborative Mid-Career Research Award** is subject to the Dermatology Foundation's general eligibility requirements for its Research Award Program, which must be met at the time of funding (i.e., July 1, 2026). As a result, the research funded by this award must be conducted in the U.S. under the sponsorship of a division or department of dermatology that has an ACGME-approved dermatology residency program. A project involving human subjects must have IRB approval at the time funding commences and throughout the term of the award. Award funds may not be used for indirect expenses.

The DF reserves the right to consider and fund an application in an award category that differs from the applicant's original submission.

Application Deadline

Applications for the **2026 Sanofi-Regeneron DF SOCS Collaborative Mid-Career Research Award** will be accepted by the Dermatology Foundation beginning **September 15** through **December 1, 2025**. Please note that the submission procedure requires applicants to submit their application via the [DF Mid-Career Research Award Portal](#).

e. Additional Considerations

There is no limit to the number of award applications that may be submitted per institution.

f. Selection Process

Each of the award recipients will be selected by the DF and SOCS Collaborative according to a well-defined evaluation process based on the National Institutes of Health procedure for research grants. The collaborative review process will identify worthy applicants—talented researchers with the ideas, thought leadership, and experience needed to pave the way for scientific advancements and improvements in patient care. Application for renewal of the award is required for years two and three and will be based on a review of progress to date.

Application Instructions

To apply for the **2026 Sanofi Regeneron DF SOCS Collaborative Mid-career Research Award**, you will need to assemble the following items, as directed in the following table:

- a. NIH bio-sketch (including funding section)
- b. Research proposal
- c. Budget
- d. Letter of support from the dermatology chair/chief
- e. Short and long layperson's description of research project
- f. A headshot picture (color)
- g. Original figures – *Optional*

Application Instructions (cont.)

All components of your application package must be submitted through the DF Mid-Career [Research Award Portal](#) no later than **December 1, 2025, at 11:59 PM CST**. All required documents below must be uploaded in individual pdfs. Receipt of your application will be confirmed via email.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Description and Requirements</i>
a. NIH bio-sketch	Provide your current NIH bio-sketch. Be sure to limit the number of pages to 5. Also, be sure to disclose prior, current, and pending research support (aims must not overlap with those proposed in the application).
b. Research proposal	Provide up to a two-page description of your proposed research project. Your proposal must include title of project, specific aims, background and preliminary data, experimental design and methods, projected results and significance, and references/literature cited. Font size must be at least 12 pt. with no more than 15 characters per inch and no more than six lines within a vertical inch. Citations may be in a smaller font size. Leave one-inch margins on all sides. Do not append any additional material.
c. Detailed budget	Provide a one-page, three-year budget that identifies how award funds will be used. Provide appropriate justification for each line item. The DF employs the NIH definition of direct costs; please be sure no indirect costs are included in your budget.
d. Letter of support from dermatology chair/chief	Provide a letter of support from your chair on your institution's letterhead. The letter must certify that 75% of your time is devoted to research and it should identify departmental commitments/resources that have been devoted to support you (e.g., space, protected time, development funds and technical support). Additional comments relevant to the review of your application (e.g., including institutional/special resources, patient registries, etc.) are encouraged. The letter can be up to two pages .
e. Short and long lay description of research project (separate pdfs)	Provide two descriptions of your research proposal in lay terms for use in the DF's printed award announcements. The short version should be limited to 100 words. The long version should be limited to one page . Margins may be no smaller than 1" and a 12-pt. font must be used.
f. Color headshot (in jpg please)	Provide a file containing a color photo of you dressed professionally. Vertical orientation is required. The file must be at least 150 DPI at 8x10.
g. Research Proposal Figures (optional)	For greater clarity, please provide a file containing only the images and figures relevant to your research proposal . <u>Do not include additional information/ figures.</u>

Questions regarding the application process? Please contact the DF office at 847-328-2256 (8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Central Time) or DFRAP@dermatologyfoundation.org.