

CURE JM FELLOWSHIP IN JUVENILE MYOSITIS AWARD

1. Invitation to Submit Proposal

Cure JM aims to award this Fellowship to clinicians aspiring to become the future leaders of Juvenile Myositis care and research. The aim of the program is to encourage the development of clinical, or translational research in JM. The JM Fellowship program will be awarding grants to clinicians who have completed at least two years of a rheumatology fellowship program and are looking to specialize in pediatric rheumatology/JM and are committed to JM careers. The fellowship awards will allow awardees to complete an additional 1 or 2 years of a fellowship focusing on JM and develop sustained careers in JM.

2. Fellowship Eligibility

Those eligible to apply must address the following criteria

- Must have been awarded an MD/DO and completed at least two years of a rheumatology fellowship program and be actively pursuing a fellowship extension to allow them to complete a JM research/clinical program.
- Must delineate all forms of funding
- Grantees must be US based institutions/hospitals

Each JM Fellowship needs to be under the guidance of a mentor from the proposed host institution. The qualifications and experience of the mentor will be considered in the evaluation of the application. A mentor would typically have only one JM Fellowship Awardee at a time.

3. Proposal Submission Details

To submit a proposal for consideration, please review all submission details below:

Email completed proposal to: andrew.heaton@curejm.org.

For awards in 2025 submit proposals by no later than May 30th 2025.

4. Project Purpose and Description

The JM fellowship award is focused on Cure JM's strategic research priorities with the expectation that the host institution and mentor has demonstrated expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- Genomics and proteomics of JM.
- Environmental factors.
- Mechanisms of disease.
- Discovery and development of biomarkers of disease, biomarkers of disease flare and pharmacodynamic markers of response.
- Translational research initiatives.
- Clinical trials and drug repurposing programs.
- JM diagnosis and consensus treatment protocols.
- Mental health in JM patients/families.
- Other topics related to JM research

The JM Fellowship program is merit based on applicants that demonstrate the greatest potential to impact the field of JM. The JM Fellowship award seeks to develop clinical and translational researchers who will impact JM with direct short-term benefits, arising directly from the JM Fellowship award, as well as a long-term benefit through a sustained research career in JM. The clinical and research interests, both aptitude and inclination, along with the quality of the mentoring relationships are determinants of success.

The end goal for the JM fellowship is to foster the development of JM researchers to pursue a sustained JM research career. We envision that these JM fellows will form the next generation at the forefront of research in JM, spanning basic research through to translational and clinical research programs.

5. Proposal Guidelines.

The proposal for a JM Fellowship covers three critically linked areas: applicant, mentor and the JM Fellowship program.

5.1 Applicant.

Applicants are expected to display a high degree of aptitude in clinical, translational, research, or a combination thereof. Successful applicants will be able to demonstrate a commitment to a clinical career that will improve the lives and care of JM patients. Successful applicants will be expected to demonstrate the potential to eventually become independent JM clinicians.

The applicants are judged in part by:

- Publication record and publications relevant to the JM Fellowship proposal and appropriate for career stage.
- The applicant's track record in clinical and other relevant fields of endeavor.
- Prior funding, grants, and awards.
- Engagement with relevant bodies (CARRA, PReS, IMACS etc)

5.2 Mentor/Institution.

Mentors are expected to have established, globally recognized programs in clinical/translational JM clinical care, research or a combination thereof. Mentors will be able to demonstrate JM Fellowship programs that have, or will find, better treatments or pathways to a cure for JM through clinical/translational programs or a combination thereof. This is judged in part by:

1. Recognition of expertise relevant to JM Fellowship proposal as demonstrated through publications, awards and grants.
2. History of success in awarding of grants and outcomes.
3. Successful mentoring track-record

5.3 Application Process

All applications should submit a JM Fellowship proposal that should include:

- A 1-page lay summary of the JM Fellowship proposal and its expected outcomes and impact
- A 4-page review of the proposed JM Fellowship research program including key questions addressed, clinical strategies, relevance to existing knowledge in the field and outcomes in terms of clinical care in JM and potential patient impact. A timeline

of the suggested 1 to 2-year program with key intermediate and completion milestones identified.

- A detailed CV and publication list of both the applicant and the mentor.
- A letter of support from the mentor and host institution
- This RFP for a JM Fellowship represents the requirements for an open and competitive process.
- Cure JM will accept proposals until the deadline of 30th May 2025.

5.4 Terms of JM FELLOWSHIP Award.

- The grant amount is based on the actual budgetary needs of the project. Cure JM will award 60% of the salary and benefit cost, to a maximum of \$85,000 per year over a maximum of 2 years.
- Funds not used for salary support are to be used for research supplies or other research/clinical related expenses.
- The cost of attending one conference per annum is allowed for the applicant to report findings resulting from the JM Fellowship. Such travel costs may not exceed \$4,000.
- The awardee must attend all Cure JM annual medical and family conferences during the award period to get feedback from and report out results to Cure JM's leadership.

An official agent or representative of the institution authorized to bind the institution to the requirements within the proposal must sign the submission.

Any proposal received after 30th May 2025, and/or received unsigned, is excluded from consideration due to untimeliness and/or incompleteness.

Once a winning bid(s) is selected:

- Cure JM will negotiate the contract terms and conditions with applicant(s) that submitted the winning application.
- Cure JM will review performance at least once yearly and fellows will be required to submit annual reports.

- All contractual terms and conditions are subject to review by Cure JM and will include, but are not limited to, scope, budget, schedule and other necessary items pertaining to the project.

Applicants can submit any questions by email to:

andrew.heaton@curejm.org

6. RFP Timeline:

30th May 2025: final proposal received.

30th June 2025: Internal review, ranking, of JM Fellowship applications by Cure JM Scientific Research Committee, Cure JM Medical Advisory Board and the Cure JM Board of Directors

Aug 1st 2025: Successful Applicants Notified

Sept 30th 2025: Contracts finalized and signed.

Program start date in 2025 to be negotiated with host institution/fellow.