

# Science Initiatives at a Glance



2024



## Highlights

### Our Impact since 2018:

**\$30M**  
for Osteoarthritis  
at 21 Institutions

**\$3.5M**  
for Rheumatoid  
Arthritis at  
8 Institutions

**\$35.6M**  
for Juvenile  
Arthritis

**\$4.2M**  
for Rheumatology  
Workforce  
Development at  
21 Institutions

**150+**  
Research Projects  
Supported

### New Funding Commitments in 2024\*

#### Total 2024 Commitment: \$12M

FastOA Initiative: <b>\$300K</b>	Osteoarthritis Clinical Trials: <b>\$5.7M</b>	Clinical Rheumatology Fellowship Program, including the Saal and Meier Fellowships: <b>\$500K</b>	Rheumatoid Arthritis Research Program: <b>\$1.5M</b>	CARRA-Arthritis Foundation Partnership: <b>\$3M</b>	Patient-Reported Outcomes: <b>\$233K</b>	Arthritis Foundation – PR-COIN QI Education Program: <b>\$30K</b>	Gout Biobank: <b>\$407K</b>	Community Health (formerly DEI) Program: <b>\$150K</b>	FNIH: <b>\$100K</b>
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\*Amounts have been rounded

# Inflammatory Arthritis

## Rheumatoid Arthritis Research Program

Adding to our long legacy of funding rheumatoid arthritis (RA) research, we convened an expert working group to focus on funding research in treatment-resistant RA.

Started in  
**2022**

Grants announced  
to date:  
**13**

Amount committed  
to date:  
**\$3.5M**

Grants announced  
in 2024:  
**6**

Research focus for 2024:  
**Determinants of onset and  
progression of rheumatoid  
arthritis**

Expert Advisors: **Medical  
and Scientific Advisory  
Committee (MSAC); MSAC  
RA Working Group**

# Juvenile Arthritis

## CARRA – Arthritis Foundation Grants Program

The Arthritis Foundation partners annually with Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance (CARRA) to fund physician-led research in juvenile arthritis.

Started in  
**2016**

Grants announced  
to date:  
**131**

Amount committed  
to date:  
**\$8.9M**

Grants announced  
in 2024:  
**14**

Research focus for 2024:  
**Miscellaneous, see here  
for details**

Expert Advisors: **CARRA  
Research Committees &  
Workgroup**

## CARRA Registry, Biobank and General Support

We support the CARRA Registry, the largest observational registry for pediatric-onset rheumatic diseases in North America, which collects clinical data and biosamples to advance research.

Started in  
**2015**

Amount committed to date: **\$35M**

## PR-COIN – Arthritis Foundation Quality Improvement (QI) Education Program

We partnered with the Pediatric Rheumatology Care & Outcomes Improvement Network (PR-COIN) to offer quality improvement education and training for physicians in a fellowship program.

Started in  
**2024**

Grants announced  
to date:  
**2**

Amount committed  
to date:  
**\$30K**

Grants announced  
in 2024:  
**2**

Research focus for 2024:  
**Fellowship with a PR-  
COIN-affiliated center  
providing care to pediatric  
rheumatology patients**



# Workforce and Clinical Care

## Clinical Rheumatology Fellowship Program

We are expanding fellowship opportunities to increase the rheumatology workforce and help patients get timely access to the doctors they need.

Started in  
**2018**

Grants announced to date:  
**27**  
(9 adult, 15 pediatric and 3 med-peds)

Amount committed to date:  
**\$4.2M**

Grants announced in 2024:  
**2**

Research focus for 2024:  
**Innovative rheumatology training approaches to meet community needs**

Expert Advisors: **MSAC Chair for Arthritis Foundation Workforce and Clinical Care**

## Howley Prizes for Arthritis Research

The Lee C. Howley Sr. Prize for Arthritis Scientific Research and the Lee C. Howley Jr. Prize for Early Career Investigators in Arthritis Research recognize physician-scientists for their important research contributions and volunteer work with the Foundation.

Started in  
**1984**  
(Howley Sr. Prize;  
\$10K);  
**2024**  
(Howley Jr. Prize;  
\$5K)

Prizes announced to date:  
**49**  
(Howley Sr. Prize)  
**1**  
(Howley Jr. Prize)

Amount committed to date:  
**\$500K+**  
(Howley Sr. Prize)  
**\$5K**  
(Howley Jr. Prize)

Prizes announced for 2024:  
**1**  
(Howley Sr. Prize)  
**1**  
(Howley Jr. Prize)

Nominators: **Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee (MSAC); Foundation Senior Leadership Team; Foundation Science staff**

## Community Health Program

We launched this grant program to improve patient outcomes and foster greater diversity in rheumatology by attracting medical students from underrepresented backgrounds.

Started in  
**2021**

Grants announced to date:  
**15**

Amount committed to date:  
**\$1.5M**

Grants announced in 2024:  
**1**

Research focus for 2024:  
**Foot and Ankle Arthritis Surgeons**

Expert Advisors: **Community Health Expert Working Group**

## Patient-Reported Outcomes Program

Although we have supported research in patient-reported outcomes (PROs) for many years to improve treatments and quality of life for people with arthritis, we launched a formal grants program in 2025.

Started in  
**2025**

Grants announced to date:  
**TBA**

Amount committed to date:  
**TBA**

Grants announced in 2025:  
**TBA**

Research focus for 2024:  
**Advancing the use of PROs in shared decision-making in arthritis clinical care.**

Expert Advisors: **PRO Advisory Committee**



# Osteoarthritis

## FastOA Initiative

This initiative recruits individuals at high risk for osteoarthritis (OA) to participate in research on accelerated osteoarthritis. Initially focused on knee OA, it now includes other joints.

Started in  
**2021**

Grants announced  
to date:  
**12**

Amount committed  
to date:  
**\$4.2M**

Grants announced  
in 2024:  
**2**

Research focus for 2024:  
**Identify patients with risk  
of accelerated OA**  
Expert Advisors: **Steering  
committee, OACTN  
members, AOSSM  
members (shoulder OA)  
and other experts**

## TrialLaunch

### The CoMeT Clinical Trial

This phase 4 study evaluates extended-release triamcinolone (Zilretta) to reduce inflammation and improve recovery after arthroscopic partial meniscectomy (APM) for osteoarthritis (OA). CoMeT is a predecessor of the PIKASO Project.

## Impact & Reach

Sites:  
**Brigham and  
Women's Hospital,  
Cleveland Clinic,  
Vanderbilt  
University and  
Duke University**

Amount committed to date:  
**\$2.2M**

Status:  
**Active, Enrolling  
by invitation**

### The MOCHA Clinical Trial

The MOCHA (Montelukast as a Chondroprotective treatment following ACL reconstruction) trial, a predecessor to PIKASO, is an international phase 1 clinical study on whether a six-month course of montelukast (Singulair) can slow or stop cartilage degradation in post-traumatic osteoarthritis.

## Impact & Reach

Sites:  
**University of  
Kentucky**

Amount committed to date:  
**\$1.2M**

Status:  
**Active,  
Recruiting**

### The Weight-Bearing Computerized Tomography Study

This study utilizes weight-bearing computerized tomography to evaluate risk for post-traumatic osteoarthritis after ACL reconstruction.

## Impact & Reach

Sites:  
**University  
of Iowa**

Amount committed to date:  
**\$1.2M**

Status:  
**Active**



## The TarHEAL Study

The TarHEAL (Targeting Joint Health Early After ACL Injury) study, a predecessor to PIKASO, examines how knee joint stress and movement patterns change from ACL injury to post-reconstruction, helping to identify risks for post-traumatic osteoarthritis (PTOA).

### Impact & Reach

Sites:

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Cleveland Clinic**

Amount committed to date:

**\$830K**

Status:

**Analysis**

## The Concentrated Bone Marrow Aspirate in Revision ACL Reconstruction Clinical Trial

This phase 2 pilot trial tests whether concentrated bone marrow aspirate (cbMAs) can reduce pain and inflammation in patients undergoing revision ACL surgery for post-traumatic osteoarthritis (PTOA).

### Impact & Reach

Sites:

**Hospital for Special Surgery and Emory University**

Amount committed to date:

**\$750K**

Status:

**Active, Recruiting**

## The External Focus of Attention Post-traumatic Osteoarthritis Clinical Trial

This study examines whether new ways of providing feedback about the ways people move can more effectively help modify movement patterns that raise the risk of osteoarthritis than standard treatments.

### Impact & Reach

Sites:

**University of North Carolina at Charlotte**

Amount committed to date:

**\$220K**

Status:

**Completed**

## The OASIS Study

The Observational Arthritis Foundation Internet Study explores how reducing sedentary behavior and increasing physical activity affects pain, function and quality of life in adults with arthritis.

### Impact & Reach

Sites:

**University of Delaware**

Amount committed to date:

**\$330K**

Status:

**Active, Recruiting**



## Landmark Clinical Trials

### The PIKASO Clinical Trial

PIKASO (Preventing Injured Knees from Osteoarthritis Severity Outcomes) is a randomized phase 2 clinical trial testing whether metformin can slow or prevent osteoarthritis progression in people with major knee injuries.

### Impact & Reach

Sites:

**Mass General Brigham, Emory University, Hospital for Special Surgery, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Kentucky, Cleveland Clinic, University of Iowa, University of Nebraska, The Ohio State University**

Amount committed to date:

**\$16.6M**

Status:

**Active, Recruiting**

### The TOPS Clinical Trial

TOPS (The Osteoarthritis Prevention Study) is a phase 3 clinical trial to evaluate diet, exercise and weight maintenance in preventing knee OA in at-risk women.

### Impact & Reach

Sites:

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Wake Forest University, University of Sydney, University of Missouri**

Amount committed to date:

**\$1.5M**

Status:

**Active, Recruiting**

### The KArAT Clinical Trial

KArAT (Knee Arthroplasty Activity Trial) evaluates whether health coaching and financial incentives can boost patient physical activity levels after total knee replacement.

### Impact & Reach

Sites:

**Brigham and Women's Hospital, University of Nebraska, University of Buffalo, University of Kansas**

Amount committed to date:

**\$160K**

Status:

**Active, Recruiting**



# Strategic Initiatives

## The TRUST Clinical Trial – Gout Biobank

By supporting the TRUST Gout Biobank for the FNIH Biomarkers Consortium Project: Frequent Gout Flaring study, we are helping to build a collection of biological samples from people with gout to study disease pathobiology and flares.

### Impact & Reach

Sites:

**University of Alabama at Birmingham**

Amount committed to date:

**\$407K**

## FNIH Accelerating Medicines Partnership

We are partnering with the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH) to advance global arthritis research through the Accelerating Medicines Partnership for Autoimmune & Immune Mediated Diseases (AMP AIM), a collaboration among the FNIH, NIH, pharmaceutical companies, and nonprofits to accelerate drug discovery.

### Program Snapshot

Started contributions in:

**2014**

Amount committed to date:

**\$800K**

## FNIH Biomarkers Consortium

We are a member of the Biomarkers Consortium at the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH), a public-private partnership focused on developing biomarkers that accelerate therapeutics and improve clinical care.

### Program Snapshot

Started contributions in:

**2010**

Amount committed to date:

**\$1.3M**

# Meetings and Symposia

The Arthritis Foundation accelerates translational and clinical research by hosting and supporting scientific think tanks, summits and annual meetings to foster collaboration, share breakthroughs and drive innovation in arthritis care. Some of our signature scientific meetings include the Community Health and Workforce Summit, the Inflammatory Arthritis Summit, the Osteoarthritis Clinical Trial Network Investigators Forum and the OA Clinical Trials Brunch during ACR's Convergence

# Joint Matters

This quarterly electronic publication from the Arthritis Foundation provides information for health care providers and clinical researchers, including advances and trends in arthritis studies and recent collaborative work performed and funded by the Foundation.

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