

Science Initiatives at a Glance



2025



Highlights

Our Impact since 2018:



New Funding Commitments in 2025*

Total 2025 Commitment: \$12.2M

FastOA Initiative: \$1.3M	Osteoarthritis Clinical Trials: \$4.7M	Rheumatoid Arthritis Research Program: \$1.3M	CARRA-Arthritis Foundation Partnership: \$3M	Arthritis Foundation – PR-COIN QI Education Program: \$30K	Community Health (formerly DEI) Program: \$254K
Clinical Rheumatology Fellowships: \$825K	Howley Prizes: \$15K	Patient-Reported Outcomes: \$667K	FNIIH: \$100K		

*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:
18

Amount committed
to date:
\$4.9M

Grants announced
in 2025:
5

Research focus for 2025:
**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:
144

Amount committed
to date:
\$10.8M

Grants announced
in 2025:
13

Research focus for 2025:
Miscellaneous

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: **\$36.5M**

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

Fellows supported
to date:
5

Amount committed
to date:
\$60K

Grants announced
in 2025:
2

Eligibility:
**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:
30
(9 adult, 18 pediatric and 3 med-peds)

Amount committed to date:
\$5M

Grants announced in 2025:
3

Eligibility:
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:
50
(Howley Sr. Prize)
2
(Howley Jr. Prize)

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

Prizes announced for 2025:
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:
18

Amount committed to date:
\$1.75M

Grants announced in 2025:
3

Research focus for 2025:
Healthcare Access & Health Outcomes

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:
2

Amount committed to date:
\$470K

Grants announced in 2025:
2

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:
15

Amount committed
to date:
\$5.5M

Grants announced
in 2025:
3

Research focus for 2025:
**Identify patients with risk
of accelerated OA**

Expert Advisors: **Steering
committee, OACTN
members, AOSSM
members (shoulder OA)
and other experts**

TrialLaunch

Our TrialLaunch program improves clinical trial efficiency by funding pilot studies, patient-preference research, and other projects that strengthen trial design and execution.

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 (cBMA) 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

Landmark clinical trials are large, definitive studies designed to test whether an intervention can significantly improve outcomes for people with osteoarthritis.

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:

\$19.7M

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:

\$2.5M

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:
\$900K

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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