

# Heart Rhythm Society Research Fellowship Scholarships

2026-2027 Submission Guidelines

# About HRS Research Fellowship Scholarships

## New this Year!

For over 40 years, HRS has played a vital role in nurturing emerging researchers through the HRS Research Fellowship Scholarship (formally known as HRS Research Fellowship Awards).

Continuing its commitment to driving meaningful and lasting change in the field of Electrophysiology, the Heart Rhythm Society introduced new features to the HRS Research Fellowship Scholarships Program.

- Expanded eligibility requirements to include candidates up to **FIVE years of research experience** cumulative of post-medical or post-graduate school.
- Heart Rhythm 2026 Travel Stipend
- Scholarships are awarded during the Heart Rhythm 2026 Awards Ceremony
- Complimentary Registration for Heart Rhythm 2026 & Heart Rhythm 2027.
- Complimentary publication of manuscript from your fellowship project in Heart Rhythm O<sup>2</sup>.\*
- Invitation to attend networking events powered by the newly formed HRS Research Network.
- Sponsor must be an HRS member at the time of submission.

\* The manuscripts will go through the Journal regular peer-review and decision process.

## Important Dates

**December 3, 2025 at Noon/12:00 pm ET:** Submission site closes

**March 3-13, 2026:** Notification of acceptance/non-acceptance via emails

**April 24-27, 2026:** Scholarships are awarded during Heart Rhythm 2026

**July 1, 2026:** Beginning of the Fellowship Scholarship period

**May 13-17, 2027:** Presentations at Heart Rhythm 2027

# About HRS Research Fellowship Scholarships

The HRS Research Fellowship Scholarships encourage and support the research training of MDs, DOs, and PhDs in cardiac electrophysiology, focused on basic and clinical research. These scholarships support emerging researchers in initiating their careers in electrophysiology research while advancing research in heart rhythm disorders.

## 2026-2027 Research Fellowship Scholarship Package

Each 2026-2027 scholarship includes:

- A one-year stipend of \$50,000
- Complimentary membership to the Society
- Complimentary registration for Heart Rhythm 2026.
- \$1,500 travel stipend to attend Heart Rhythm 2026.
- Complimentary faculty registration to present research findings at the Heart Rhythm 2027.
- Complimentary publication of the full manuscript related to your fellowship research project in Heart Rhythm 02.
- Invitation to attend networking events powered by the new HRS Research Network.

## Benefits

In addition to providing financial support, the Research Fellowship Scholarship provide:

- **Mentoring:** Gain valuable support from experience researchers, providing guidance, feedback and career advise. from seasoned innovators.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with mentors, peers, and leaders in the field, fostering valuable professional relationships and collaborations.
- **Skill development:** Develop valuable hands-on experience to enhance research capabilities, sharpen critical thinking, and refine project management skills, while contributing meaningfully to advancements within the field.
- **Increased Visibility:** Gain exposure in the research community.

# 2026-2027 HRS Research Fellowship Scholarships

The Heart Rhythm Society will award **3** Research Fellowship Scholarships for the 2026-2027 cycle.

**Science Focus:** The proposed research must be relevant to the goals and aims of the Heart Rhythm Society. Appropriate fields of study include epidemiological, outcomes research, and clinical and basic investigations within the general area of cardiac electrophysiology.

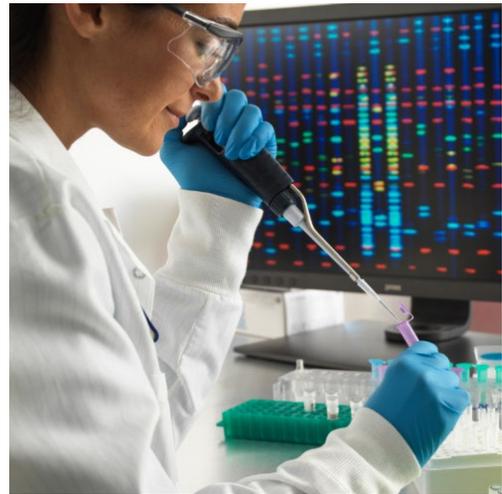
**Annual Scholarship Amount:** \$50,000 (inclusive of indirect costs)

**Scholarship Duration:** One year.

*Recipients are permitted to submit a new application for a second year.*

Completed online applications will include:

- Applicant's information
- Education & Training
- Proposed Budget (for a 12-month fellowship)
- Candidate Plan for Career Development
- Institution Letter
- Description of Proposed Research Project
- Sponsor Statement
- Two Letters of Reference
- Fellowship Agreement



*Templates, instructions and additional information about each required form is available on p.7-11. **Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.***

**All components of the application, including all online fields and required attachments, must be completed and submitted via the online submission site no later than**

**December 3, 2025, at Noon/12:00 pm Eastern Time.**

No late submissions will be accepted, and no exceptions will be made. All applicants will be notified of their application status by March 12, 2026.

# Program Information

## Eligibility

The applicant should intend on pursuing a career in independent research and be interested in additional training under the supervision of a sponsor or mentor prior to a career in independent research. Fellowship recipients should use this scholarship to promote their long-term goals in the field. HRS values the contributions of applicants who demonstrate an interest and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Specific criteria include:

- Applicants must have an MD, Ph.D., DO, DVM, or equivalent doctoral degree at the time of scholarship activation.
- Applicants may not hold this post-doctoral fellowship while enrolled in a degree-granting program unless they are in the ABIM Clinical Investigator Pathway residency.
- Applicants currently enrolled in graduate or medical school may only apply if they will graduate prior to Scholarship activation. These candidates must provide a letter from their current institution verifying their graduation date.
- Individuals with current or prior faculty/staff rank, except for MDs or MD, PhDs who hold the title of an instructor or similar, due to patient care responsibilities (e.g., residents, clinical fellows, or those who have taken a year out to work as clinicians between residency and fellowship), will be excluded from consideration for this Scholarship.
- Candidates with a current or prior job title of Assistant Professor or higher from any institution are not eligible for this fellowship.
- At the time of scholarship activation, the candidate **cannot have completed five or more years of research experience cumulative** of post-medical or post-graduate school (whichever degree is applicable).
- Applicants must devote at least **80 percent (80%)** of their effort to research or activities directly related to the proposed research.
- We encourage international post-doctoral fellows. However, the applicant must effectively communicate their results in English.

Questions about your eligibility?

Contact the HRS Team at [research@HRSONline.org](mailto:research@HRSONline.org)

## Sponsor

Fellows must receive counsel and direction from a senior investigator interested in the conduct and progress of the research project, and each fellow must have a qualified sponsor.

**Each sponsor is limited to one application per funding cycle.** If more than one applicant lists the same sponsor, all applications with that sponsor will be withdrawn. **The sponsor must be an HRS member at the time of submission.**

## Budget items

The only allowable budget items are applicant salary, fringe benefits, and indirect costs. The total of all budget items must equal the \$50,000 scholarship amount. Although not a requirement, if indirect costs are requested, the maximum allowable amount is \$4,545 (10% of direct costs). Supplies, project costs, and meeting and travel expenses are not allowable budget items.

The sponsoring institution may supplement salary, as allowable in the budget, provided the salary is comparable to the salary paid by the sponsoring institution to fellows of the same post-graduate year as the applicant.

## HRS Health Equity Commitment

HRS stakeholders share a common passion for accomplishing our mission to end death and suffering from heart rhythm disorders. We believe our diverse backgrounds, experiences, and interests are assets in reaching that goal, and we are committed to providing an inclusive environment in all our activities, where everyone feels valued, respected, and welcome. We strive to have organizational leaders who reflect our members and the patients they serve and who promote a welcoming culture that is essential to our success.

## Notification

The Heart Rhythm Society will send the notification of acceptance/non-acceptance no later than March 13, 2026.

## Heart Rhythm 2026

The 2026-2027 Scholarship recipients will receive a complimentary registration to the Heart Rhythm 2026. Scholarship Recipients are expected to attend the reception held in their honor where we will officially present their scholarship. The date of this event will be confirmed in the coming weeks.

## Heart Rhythm 2027

The 2026-2027 Scholarship recipients will be invited as a faculty to present research findings at the Heart Rhythm 2027.

# Application Instructions

Candidates must submit their application using the HRS Research Fellowship Scholarship Online Submission Platform.

*Note: The application submission platform used the Heart Rhythm Society's single sign-on: If you have an account with the HRS, please use the same credentials than those used for HRS's website. If you do not have an account with HRS, you will need to create an account to be able to submit your application.*

## Form Templates- Quick Links

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Institution Letter](#)

[Sponsor Statement & Fellowship Agreement](#)

The following forms are **required** as part of the submission:

### Education & Training

- Upload a copy of your medical school or graduate school diploma. If the diploma is not in English, provide a certified translation
- Upload [biographical sketch](#) (may not exceed four pages) in the below format (NIH format is also acceptable)
  - **Positions and appointments:** List, in chronological order previous positions, concluding with your present position.
  - **Honors:** List any honors. Include present membership on any Federal Government public advisory committee.
  - **Selected peer-reviewed publications (in chronological order):** Do not include publications submitted or in preparation. For publicly available citations, URLs or PMC submission identification numbers may accompany the full reference. Note that copies of these publications are no longer accepted as appendix material.
  - **Research Support:** List selected ongoing or completed (during the last three years) research projects (Federal and non-Federal support). Begin with the projects that are most relevant to the research proposed in this application. Briefly indicate the overall goals of the projects and your role (e.g., PI, Co-Investigator, Consultant) in the research project. Do not list Scholarship amounts or percent effort in projects.

## Sponsor Statement

Each fellow must have a qualified sponsor. Fellows are expected to receive wise counsel and direction from a senior investigator interested in the conduct and progress of the research project. This individual should not be one of the individuals providing you with a reference.

**Each sponsor is limited to one application per funding cycle.** If more than one applicant lists the same sponsor, all applications with that sponsor will be administratively withdrawn.

In addition to the [Sponsor Statement](#) form, the following documents must also be uploaded on the submission site:

- **A copy of the sponsor and any significant collaborator's biographical sketch** (NIH format, use Arial 11-point font)
- **Sponsor statement** (Use Arial 11-point font, maximum four pages), specifically address all seven elements listed in the instructions
- **List all current and previous (for the past five years) research trainees**, including years under your supervision, degree received under your supervision, salary and project support, and current position.
- **A detailed list of equipment and resources** directly available to the applicant to complete the proposed work.

## Institution Letter

All applicants are required to upload the [letter from the institution](#) where the research will be performed. An administrative official currently employed with the institution should complete this letter. Please follow the additional instructions located on the form.

## Letters of Reference

- Two reference Letters should be written by the individuals listed on the References portion of the online submission.
- **The two reference letters must be received by the submission deadline.**
- The sponsor cannot provide either of the letters of reference.

## Fellowship Agreement

All applicants are required to electronically sign the online Fellowship Agreement, outlining the requirements you must adhere to during the year-long fellowship program. **Your application will be automatically withdrawn if your submission does not include a signed form.**

## Proposed Budget

- Provide salary, fringe, and overhead costs for a 12-month fellowship period.
- Provide the correct information for the fiscal office to whom the checks should be mailed to at your institution.

## Candidate Plan for Career Development

- Clearly describe your career plan. This should include background on your previous education and experiences, your current plans, including, but not limited to, the submitted research project, and your future goals. Describe how each of these components will assist you in achieving an academic career that advances the cardiac electrophysiology field
- Describe the feasibility of completing your proposed research within one year and how it fits into long-term research plans

## Description of Proposed Fellowship

Limit to four (4) pages.

*While the Research Proposal must not exceed four pages, there are no limits to the size of each section, and suggested sizes are offered in parentheses. References are not included in the four-page limit, but applicants are encouraged to keep references concise.*

- **Statement of hypothesis and specific aims** (½ page)
- **Background information**, including preliminary data.
  - Limit the background section to information that would be necessary for an EP expert to understand the proposal's rationale.
  - Give sufficient preliminary data to support the feasibility of the hypothesis and approach.
  - Briefly explain the applicant's involvement in obtaining the preliminary data.
  - With appropriate referencing, it is acceptable for the applicant to provide preliminary data generated by the sponsor or collaborator that was not necessarily the applicant's work. (1½ pages)
- **Specific research plans**, including proposed methods, data analysis, potential problems and alternative plans, and a timeline for the research. (2 pages)

## Review Criteria

When preparing your application, please refer to the following review criteria and carefully address each of the following points. An individual applicant is not expected to fully meet each of these points. Strengths in one particular area will be weighed against potential weaknesses in another (e.g., the inexperience of a mentor can be balanced by a particularly well-thought-out training plan; lack of publications by an applicant can be balanced by a clear plan for achieving an academic career, etc.)

### Criteria 1 – Evaluation of the Investigator

(one-third of the overall score)

1. Does the applicant have the potential for an academic/clinical career?
2. Is the applicant's career and training plan clearly and convincingly described?
3. Do the investigator's history and sponsor/referee assessments support the likelihood of success for the stated career plan?
4. Does the applicant have prior research experience and/or publications?
5. Is there a clear rationale supporting the applicant's need for additional training?

### Criteria 2 – Evaluation of the Sponsor, Training Plan, and Environment

(one-third of the overall score)

1. Does either the mentor or a collaborator have published or demonstrated experience with all research methods necessary for the project?
2. Is there evidence that all resources necessary for the proposal's success are in place and operational prior to the start of the proposal?
3. Does the mentor have the experience necessary to direct the applicant's training (as evidenced by his/her track record of senior author publications, independent funding, and the success of prior trainees)?
4. Does the mentor have adequate current funding to support the research project?
5. Does the mentor provide a comprehensive training plan that will enhance the applicant's ability to reach his/her career goals?
6. If collaborators are a part of the proposal, is there written documentation of their support?

### Criteria 3 – Evaluation of the Research Proposal (one-third of the overall score)

1. Does the applicant clearly state the hypothesis to be tested in the proposal and the specific aims that will be used to address this hypothesis?
2. Significance: Does the proposed study address a significant problem in cardiac electrophysiology? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts, methods, and technologies that drive this field?
3. Innovation/novelty: Is the project truly original, or is it a derivative of past studies or publications?
4. Feasibility: Do the application's background information and preliminary data justify the hypothesis? Do the preliminary data and the publication records of the applicant, mentor, and/or collaborators demonstrate competence with all research methods used in the proposal? If clearly acknowledged, applicants can present preliminary data generated by the sponsor or collaborators.
5. Approach: Is the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well-integrated, well-reasoned, and appropriate to the hypothesis and aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and discuss alternative tactics if problems arise?



## Advice from the Review Committee

Please pay attention to the following issues that commonly arise during peer review. Applications usually score poorly for one of the following reasons:

- Project lacks novelty and will only minimally advance current knowledge.
- Project is too broad or complex in scope and does not appear feasible over the one-year time period of the proposal.
- Project and/or hypothesis does not appear feasible based on the provided background literature or preliminary data.
- Project requires expertise beyond the scope of the applicant or sponsor's published skills, and no documentation of an appropriate collaboration is provided.
- Sponsor statement does not clearly address training in the context of moving the applicant toward a career in EP research.
- Sponsor does not provide requested information on past trainees or does not address all components of the training plan.
- Candidate does not discuss all components of the candidate's career development statement. Please take seriously the need to describe the detailed career development process pertaining to your goals. Do not just describe the skills you hope to acquire over the next year.
- Candidate does not commit the required 80% effort to the research, or the candidate has more than the allowed three years of cumulative post-graduate research experience.

# HRS Research Fellowship Scholarships Submission Guidelines

## Appendices

2026-2027 Cycle



# Appendix A-HRS Research Fellowship Scholarship Agreement

## FULL-YEAR FELLOWSHIP AGREEMENT

During my tenure, I shall be designated as a Heart Rhythm Society Research Fellow and shall devote full-time to research and ancillary activities directly related to my training. Under no circumstances will I make major changes in my program or activities without the prior approval of the Heart Rhythm Society.

I will not accept any grants, research funds, or other support that overlap with the time commitment or budget of this award, and I will not accept any fees for private practice or professional services. I understand that supplements to the stipend paid to me by the Heart Rhythm Society may be made by my sponsoring institution so long as the total income is in accord with the institution's policy.

At the termination of my full-year fellowship, I shall submit a full progress report of my accomplishments and activities and a financial expenditure report by June 30th or forfeit the remaining monies.

Results of my research will be made freely available to the public through appropriate scientific channels, and all publications will bear the statement: "*This work was performed during the tenure of (name of fellowship scholarship) Fellow of the Heart Rhythm Society*". An electronic or paper reprint of any publications based on my work will be furnished to the Heart Rhythm Society as soon as available.

If for any reason, I leave the institution at which I have arranged to work or abandon the work for which my fellowship is granted, I will notify the Heart Rhythm Society in advance and furnish them with a report of my work accomplished to date. In such an event, my fellowship will terminate as of the date I leave or cease to work, and future scheduled payments will be discontinued unless the Heart Rhythm Society and the Chair of the Research Fellowship Subcommittee have granted authorization or continuation elsewhere.

By signing this application, I agree that all information you provide is current and accurate. Should there be any false statements, I understand that the fellowship will be revoked.

## Appendix B- Review Process

- Three Heart Rhythm Society Research Fellowship Subcommittee members will review each application, and the reviewers will remain anonymous to the applicant.
- Any contact between the reviewer and the applicant is prohibited; evidence of communication will result in the application's disqualification and the reviewer's dismissal.
- Each reviewer must disclose any relationships that may prove a potential conflict of interest, including monetary interest, institutional affiliation, and prior knowledge of the applicant.
- If there is a potential for bias, the reviewer will be recused from reviewing the application. The Subcommittee Chair will have final decision-making authority concerning issues that may arise during the review process.

The application submission site will be closed on **December 3, 2025, at Noon/12:00 p.m. ET**, and no further applications or document uploads will be accepted.

The review process is as follows:

- **Triage:** Any application that is not complete per the application guidelines will be dismissed prior to the Subcommittee review process. Applicants who have begun an application submission will be notified one week prior to the deadline date if it is incomplete. **It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that two (2) reference letters are received by the deadline.**
- **1<sup>st</sup> review:** Each application that passes through triage will be submitted to three non-conflicted Subcommittee members for review. Applications will be scored via the criteria listed in the review criteria section page 11-12. Each reviewer will also provide subjective comments to be shared with the applicant. The top 10-15 applications will be selected by processing and comparing the mean data of the three scores. In the event of a tie, the subcommittee chair, utilizing the subjective comments provided by the reviewers, will determine the final ranking.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> review:** The top 10-15 applications will be subject to a subcommittee conference meeting. Reviewers will be privy to the scores of each application and defend their comments. After thoroughly reviewing each of the final applications, the applications accepted for the fellowship will be determined by vote count. Applications from the 2<sup>nd</sup> review will receive in-depth feedback from the subcommittee proceedings along with notification of rejection or a Scholarship acceptance letter.

All applications will receive either a rejection or Scholarship acceptance letter, including written feedback from the reviewers.

## Activation and Duration of the Scholarship

A full-year fellowship is awarded for a period of not less than one year and starts **July 1, 2026**. Activation dates other than **July 1, 2026**, must be approved by HRS staff and the fellowship subcommittee chair. An alternative activation date must be requested in a separate letter accompanying the application. Full-year fellowship Scholarships cannot be activated before **June 1, 2026**, or after **November 1, 2026**.

## Renewal and Extension of Full-Year Scholarships

Fellowship recipients are eligible to apply for competitive renewal of the fellowship, which will provide one additional year of funding. Competitive renewal applications should be accompanied by a 1-page supplement specifically indicating the work accomplished during the previous period of support and clearly showing justification for renewed funding. This supplement is not included in the 4-page limit for the research, and it cannot be used to describe the proposed research. Competitive renewal applicants will not be limited to three cumulative years of post-graduate research experience. HRS funds a maximum of two years only; applications for a third year of funding will not be considered.

## Location of the Fellowships

As previously stated, this is an international fellowship opportunity. The same application criteria will consider all applicants and all research will be regulated by the ethical standards and reporting responsibilities set forth below. All written and verbal correspondence must be in English. All funding will be paid in United States Dollars. The applicant must make all necessary arrangements for any fellowship, both with the institution where the research and/or training will occur and with his/her research mentor, who will supervise the recipient's activities. Such arrangements must be acknowledged by signature from an authorized official of the institution and the research mentor.

## Ethical Standards

The Heart Rhythm Society requires that:

- 1) Any research involving human subjects conform to the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki of the World Medical Association (*Clinical Research* 1992 Dec; 40 (4): 653-60) and Title 45, US Code of Federal Regulations, Part 46 Protection of Human Subjects, and
- 2) Any research involving animals will conform to the Guiding Principles in the Care and Use of Animals approved by the Council of the American Physiological Society.

The sponsoring institution and the mentor must provide evidence that all investigations engaged in by the fellow are under the institution's control and its investigational review board or other appropriate body. Documentation of regulatory approval must be provided to the HRS office prior to the release of fellowship funds.

## Reports

According to the NIH Public Access Policy, the results of work carried out by a fellow must be made publicly available through scientific channels. All reports on work supported by the fellowship should acknowledge the Society's support. An appropriate format for such acknowledgment may be: *"This work was performed during Dr. \_\_\_\_\_'s tenure as the (full name of Scholarship) Fellow of the Heart Rhythm Society"*. An electronic or paper reprint of each published article should be furnished to the Heart Rhythm Society.

In the year of the Scholarship, fellowship recipients will be required to present data from their research at the 'Research Fellowship Presentations of Research and Scholarships' held during the Heart Rhythm Society's Annual Meeting. In addition, a one-page abstract of the fellowship project must be submitted for distribution at this program.

A final financial report and a report summarizing research progress and accomplishments during the funding period are to be submitted to the Heart Rhythm Society office no later than the last day of support for the fellowship. **Failure to submit these reports by this deadline will result in forfeiture of the remaining monies owed.**

## Transfers

If the recipient of a fellowship leaves the site where he/she agreed to perform the fellowship, ceases work with the approved mentor, or ceases to continue the activities for which the Scholarship was made, the Scholarship will terminate unless alternate arrangements were approved in advance by HRS staff and the chair of the Fellowship Subcommittee.

## Leave of Absence and Vacation

A leave of absence will be granted during a full-year fellowship with the prior approval of HRS staff, the chair of the Fellowship Subcommittee, the mentor, and the institution. Vacation for a full-year fellow may be taken per the institution's policy where the fellowship is being performed but may not exceed 24 of the institution's scheduled workdays per fellowship year.

## Payments

Unless otherwise specified, quarterly installments of the full-year fellowship Scholarship will be sent via ACH to the sponsoring institution. The final installment is contingent upon receipt of the documentation described in the REPORTS section.

Questions? Contact the HRS Team at [research@HRSONline.org](mailto:research@HRSONline.org)

