

## 2026 Resident Fellow Awards Request for Proposals

### Background

The Melanoma Research Foundation (MRF) launched the Resident/Fellow Research Grant Program in 2024 to support early-career physician-scientists pursuing melanoma research.

### Purpose

This program supports resident- and fellow-led clinical or laboratory research projects that advance understanding of melanoma prevention, early detection, biology, and treatment.

**For the 2026 cycle, the MRF has designated funding to support proposals in several rare subtypes in addition to cutaneous melanoma projects, including:**

- **Pediatric melanoma**
- **Ocular melanoma**
- **Acral melanoma**

*Projects addressing these subtypes may involve basic, translational, clinical, or behavioral research.*

### Award Information

- **Award Amount:** \$10,000
- **Project Period:** One year from fund disbursement
- **Extensions:** One-year no-cost extension may be requested
- **Allowable Costs:** Direct research costs and/or salary support only
- **Unallowable Costs:** Indirect costs, travel, consultants, or contractors

### Key Dates

- **Application Deadline:** February 6, 2026 at 11:59 PM ET
- **Notification of Awards:** April 2026
- **Funds Disbursed:** Upon receipt of all required paperwork

### Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Hold an MD and/or MD/PhD (or equivalent) at submission
- Be a U.S.-based resident (dermatology, pathology, radiation oncology) **or** a fellow in a ≥2-year clinical fellowship (medical, pediatric, ocular or surgical oncology)
- Conduct the project at their home institution
- Have at least one MD and/or PhD research mentor engaged in melanoma research
- Propose an **applicant-led** project (not solely an extension of mentor-funded work)

U.S. citizenship is **not** required. Prior MRF Medical Student Research Grant recipients may apply.

### Review Criteria

Applications are evaluated based on:

- **Applicant:** Academic achievement, leadership potential, research background, commitment to research
- **Project:** Scientific merit, clarity, methodology, feasibility
- **Mentor:** Research expertise, funding support, training environment, mentorship commitment

Each application is reviewed by at least two independent melanoma experts. Final funding decisions are made by the MRF Board of Directors.

### Reporting & Acknowledgment

- A final report is due within 60 days of project completion
- Publications resulting from funded work must acknowledge MRF support
- Intellectual property remains with the applicant's institution

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### Application Process

All materials must be submitted through **ProposalCENTRAL**:

<https://proposalcentral.altum.com/>

### Grant Program Selection

Applicants must select **one** program:

- Resident/Fellow Award (RES/FEL)
- Ocular Melanoma Resident/Fellow Award
- Pediatric Melanoma Resident/Fellow Award
- Acral Melanoma Resident/Fellow Award

### Required Application Components

- **Personal Statement** (≤3,000 characters)
- **Scientific Abstract** (≤2,000 characters)
- **Lay Abstract** (≤2,000 characters)
- **Summary Quote** (≤100 characters)
- **Budget Summary**
- **Research Plan** (≤5 pages, excluding references)
- **Letter(s) of Support** from mentor(s)
- **NIH Biosketches** (applicant, mentors, key personnel)
- **Other Support Pages**

### Research Plan Sections

- Background and Significance
- Hypothesis and Specific Aims
- Experimental Design and Methods
- Preliminary Data (if available)

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### **Submission**

Applications must be fully submitted in ProposalCENTRAL by:

**February 6, 2026 at 11:59 PM ET**

Early submission is encouraged.

For questions, contact: [\*\*research@melanoma.org\*\*](mailto:research@melanoma.org)