



2026 Mentorship and Medical Student Mentorship Awards

Deadline for Submission is May 1, 2026

MENTORSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM

OBJECTIVES

- To promote interest in and career development within the field of pediatric dermatology in order to recruit a more robust and diverse workforce of pediatric dermatologists
- To foster new mentoring relationships between established pediatric dermatologists and residents/fellows/junior faculty who have interest in or have chosen to pursue a career in pediatric dermatology
- To provide exposure to pediatric dermatology for trainees at institutions without dermatology departments broadly or pediatric dermatology specifically.
- To increase exposure to pediatric dermatology for residents of diverse backgrounds

ELIGIBILITY

1. Applicants must be members of the Society for Pediatric Dermatology.
2. Applicants must be in an ACGME-approved Dermatology training program, American Board of Dermatology (ABD) approved Pediatric Dermatology fellowship or junior faculty member in Dermatology (fewer than or equal to 5 years out of an ACGME approved residency training program in Dermatology). Medical students from an accredited program may apply for the Medical Student Mentorship Award. Unfortunately, trainees outside of the United States are not eligible to apply for these awards.
3. These awards are meant to improve trainees' clinical expertise in pediatric dermatology, with a focus on a specific niche within the field. Applicants are to submit a proposal that has been approved by the potential mentor that involves working directly with the mentor at their site. The projects should focus on the development of a particular expertise that is not available at the trainee's institution and should relate directly to the care of children with skin disease. Examples of such projects include implementation of clinical-based technologies and the development of multidisciplinary clinics, (e.g. epidermolysis bullosa, or genodermatoses). For medical students a general exposure to pediatric dermatology may be appropriate; applicants whose home institution does not have a pediatric dermatology or dermatology department will be given priority.
4. The duration of the project at the mentor's site should be between 2 to 4 weeks. It is essential that institutional compatibility program requirements be detailed prior to the submission of the proposal. For example, if the proposal involves direct patient care, details

relating to malpractice coverage must be approved by the graduate medical education office of the hosting institution and must be arranged prior to the submission of the proposal.

5. The SPD Mentorship Awards are not intended to be used solely for research collaborations, though we understand that this may nevertheless occur during the clinical mentorship experience. Trainees seeking support in building pediatric dermatology research knowledge and skills are encouraged to apply for a PeDRA Mentorship Award. (www.pedraresearch.org)
6. A list of SPD members who have expressed their desire to participate in this program as mentors (as well as their area of expertise or research interest) is available via the SPD website. Any active member of the SPD in good standing can serve as a mentor if they choose to accept a trainee.
7. Mentors may accept no more than **one** trainee from this program during a funding cycle (July 1 through June 30).

APPLICATION AND PROGRAM DETAILS

APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 1, 2026

Awards cover travel expenses, accommodations and related costs while working with a specific mentor. The grants are **not** to fund research projects for which other potential avenues of funding are available. **Applicants should submit a single, collated PDF file that includes each of the following items in the order in which they are requested below.** Paper applications will not be accepted.

- 1) A completed Mentorship Grant Application form. Please download this file onto your computer before typing in and saving the requested information (the sheet is a fillable pdf).
- 2) A detailed budget, statement of purpose, and additional documents mentioned in sections V-VIII of the application form.
- 3) Applications that do not adhere to these formatting guidelines will be returned as incomplete.

Please send one (1) copy of a completed application electronically to: info@pedsderm.net

GRANT AMOUNT

The maximum individual grant amount to be awarded is \$5,000 for the Mentorship Award and \$5,000 for the Medical Student Mentorship Award option.

PROPOSAL REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENT

Proposals will be reviewed by the Awards & Grants Committee. All applicants will be informed in Summer 2026 as to whether their proposal will be funded. SPD will make a formal announcement of Mentorship and Medical Student Mentorship Award recipients during the SPD 2026 Annual Meeting and in the *PediDerm Pulse* newsletter.

COMPLETION OF MENTORSHIP “EXPERIENCE”

All mentorship rotations must be completed within one (1) year receiving the grant (expected completion no later than June 30, 2027).

EVALUATION

A brief summary that has been signed off on by the mentor will be sent to the SPD from the trainee within 6 weeks after the completion of the program.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact SPD at (317) 202-0224 or by email at info@pedsderm.net or you may contact Markus Boos, MD, Mentorship Committee Chair, at markus.boos@seattlechildrens.org.