

American Skin Association (ASA)

Sun Pharma Investigative Scientist Award

\$100,000

ASA invites the submission of applications for its 2026 Sun Pharma Investigative Scientist Award in the amount of \$100,000 to foster the career development of a young investigator working at the level of instructor through associate professor in the field of dermatology or cutaneous biology. The aim of the program is to provide bridge support for young investigators. Special consideration will be given to individuals without significant prior support.

The individual must have a strong career goal within the field of dermatology. The research must be focused on new discoveries in the basic or translational medical sciences.

ELIGIBILITY:

There's no age limit to apply, but preference will be given to those under the age of 45 as of August 30, 2026, with a rank of instructor up through associate professor (or the institutional equivalent). First preference will be given to those working in a department or division of dermatology, and second preference to those with a close working relationship to dermatology.

If an MD, the candidate must be board-certified in dermatology with at least three years of in-depth experience in investigative dermatology. If a PhD, the candidate must have at least three years of postdoctoral or faculty-level experience in investigative dermatology.

The candidate must be identified as a current or future leader in dermatological investigation and must spend at least 80% of his/her professional time in research.

CONTENTS OF APPLICATION:

An application **must** include:

1. **A letter from the applicant with sections labeled in the following order:**
 - a. a lay statement of 2-3 sentences describing the relevance of the proposed research
 - b. career goals and plans for achieving these goals
 - c. the relevance of the "support" at this time
 - d. acknowledgment of the requirement to submit a progress report (written for a layperson) and an expenditure report at six months and at the end of the award period
 - e. Acknowledgment of the requirement to list ASA support in all presentations and publications
 - f. acknowledgement to keep ASA informed of current and future dates of presentations and/or publications
2. A 1-2 page **curriculum vitae** including education and training, academic appointments, key publications, and date of birth.
3. A **letter** (no more than two pages) written by the **Chair of Dermatology** on behalf of the candidate, covering the above requirements, endorsing the applicant and the proposal, and confirming the institution's commitment to provide time and support to the applicant.

Note: A Chair may endorse only ONE ASA Investigative Scientist Award application in each area per year.

4. A **research proposal** (no more than two pages including references) prepared by the candidate detailing the title, purpose, materials, methods, and projected results. Proposals must be typed in **Arial 11 pt. type with 1-inch margins**. Note: Human and/or animal use must be approved by the Institutional Review Board or equivalent and documented before funding begins.
5. A **timeline** for accomplishing specific aims.
6. A line-item **budget and justification** for the research project must be attached. **Indirect costs to the sponsoring institution, travel expenses, salary, and benefits are not permitted.**
7. A summary of ALL **past (5 years), present, and pending** research support specifying award titles, agencies, periods of support, and total direct costs. Please provide a total amount of current funding for the grant period. If none, please indicate.

All sources of funding must be disclosed by the applicant. The goal of the ASA is to further the careers of junior investigators. These awards are not intended for established investigators with a major award such as an NIH R01. We recognize that many career development awards from other sources, such as the NIH, Dermatology Foundation, American Cancer Society, Melanoma Research Alliance, etc., fund the PIs salary only and/or allocate a small portion for other expenses, i.e., supplies or staff. In this case, the applicant should justify the rationale for receiving the ASA award and retaining the other award that they have received. If the ASA award and the other award significantly overlap in budget, the awardee must choose between it and this research award. If the other award is pending and subsequently chosen, the applicant must inform the ASA immediately to determine if any remaining installments of funding from ASA are forfeited.

DEADLINE AND APPLICATION FORMS:

Instructions and the online application are posted on our website: americanskin.org. **The deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, May 22, 2026, at 11:59 PM EST.** Incomplete applications will not be considered.

SELECTION PROCESS:

Selection of the recipients will be made in July 2026 by ASA's Medical Advisory Committee. Funding will begin in September 2026. **Please note: No-cost extensions will not be granted.**

About American Skin Association

Established to serve the now more than 100 million Americans afflicted with skin disorders, ASA has evolved for almost four decades as a leading force in efforts to defeat melanoma and other serious forms of skin disease. Its mission has remained to advance research, champion skin health, and drive public awareness about skin disease.

Please send questions to grants@americanskin.org.