

Frequently Asked Questions

Q *What is the Within Our Reach: Finding a Cure for Rheumatoid Arthritis campaign?*

A One strategic goal of the ACR Research and Education Foundation is to support targeted rheumatic disease research. With that in mind, *Within Our Reach* was born. *Within Our Reach* is a national, multi-year, \$30 million campaign to accelerate rheumatoid arthritis research through an extensive peer-review grant program. *Within Our Reach* is the largest private fundraising campaign in the REF's history.

Q *Why did the REF focus on rheumatoid arthritis?*

A Nearly 1.3 million Americans suffer from RA, a disease which can strike anyone—men, women, even children—of any race, at any stage of life. Despite research advancements and treatment discoveries, RA is still an incurable disease and receives disproportionately less research funding from federal sources than most other autoimmune diseases.

Q *What is the goal of the campaign?*

A The goal of this campaign is to raise and spend \$30 million on innovative research to find a cure for RA. Since launching *Within Our Reach* in November 2006, the campaign has raised more than \$18 million for research and has taken the lead in identifying and funding successful, innovative approaches to finding a cure for RA.

Q *What is the impact of the campaign?*

A To date, the REF has awarded a total of \$12 million in grants to 30 researchers who demonstrated the most innovative ideas in the RA research ranging from basic science to patient care. Our hope is to make a transformational difference in patient lives, improve our ability to capitalize on current research advances, significantly increase the pace and scope of research, and provide interaction among scientists to share the newest information regarding breakthroughs in rheumatologic research.

Q *Who can apply for a Within Our Reach rheumatoid arthritis grant?*

A Individuals with doctoral degrees (MD, PhD, DO or equivalent) at the assistant professor level or higher at any nonprofit U.S. institution are eligible to apply. Evidence of independence is required. Independence is demonstrated by holding a leadership position within an existing research program, a distinguished publication record or other applicable experience, which signifies scientific leadership. Investigators from outside of the United States may apply as Co-Investigators with a Principal Investigator who is based in the United States and who may sub-contract grant support to Co-Investigators. Individuals at the National Institutes of Health and Center for Disease Control are not eligible to apply. More information about applying for a research grant can be found at www.rheumatology.org/REF/awards/WOR.asp.

Q *Who can support the Within Our Reach campaign?*

A Our extraordinary vision requires unprecedented action from all levels of the community. Supporters of the *Within Our Reach* campaign are corporations, individuals and foundations interested in investing in the innovative RA research that may lead to a cure.

For more information about the Within Our Reach campaign please visit
www.WithinOurReach.info or call (404) 633-3777.

