

**Goal/Purpose:**

Established in 2022, *RISE: The Robert W. Finberg, MD Memorial Research Training Awards* are dedicated to helping future researchers and physician-researchers RISE above and learn without limitations, grow in their rich academic experiences, and achieve their goals.

Funds will be awarded in two categories: One to a PhD or MD/PhD student award and a second award to a postdoctoral fellow.

Prize:

\$1000 cash prize to a postdoctoral fellow and \$750 to a UMass Chan PhD or MD/PhD student. Each awardee will be invited to give a 15-minute presentation on their research at the department level seminar series at the end of the year.

Timeline:

Application deadline: Friday, February 13, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., Eastern

Award notification: mid-March 2026

Eligibility and application process:

All current PhD, MD/PhD students and postdocs in good standing at UMass Chan are eligible to apply. Eligible participants must complete the application and submit by the application deadline.

Criteria for Selection

Candidates will be considered based on their scholarly accomplishments as well as their contributions to the training environment in the Department of Medicine. Candidates will be evaluated by a committee of UMass Chan reviewers and the final selection will be made based on the following criteria:

- The candidate's body of work both published and ongoing in the field of Innate Immunity.
- The candidate's contributions to DOM activities and the training environment.
- Only a single nominee.
- Awardees will present their work at a department-level seminar series at the end of the year.

Award Conditions

Awardees will receive a \$1000 prize to a post-doctoral fellow and a \$750 prize to a UMass Chan graduate student. Applicants agree in advance that if chosen, they will give a 15-minute presentation on their research at the department level seminar series at the end of the year.

Application Requirements

- Cover letter describing Applicant's career goals and research focus
- Applicant's NIH Biosketch
- Completed application form
- Support letter from primary mentor
- OPTIONAL: any published article DIRECTLY RELATED to the proposal may be appended to the application

Review process:

A Review Committee will assess applications based on the applicant's eligibility and adherence to the criteria for selection, as described above.

Applications should be submitted to: Maureen Mayfield Maureen.Mayfield@umassmed.edu