



# Grant and Fellowships Program

## More than Skin Deep: Mental Health

### Request for Applications

Data suggests mental health in the psoriatic disease community is not appropriately addressed. The increased incidence of these mental health disorders in persons with psoriatic disease has been attributed to increased stressors of living with a chronic disease, social stigma associated with the disease, and evidence that inflammatory processes in psoriatic disease may also create neurological changes affecting mental health.

According to the 2019 National Psoriasis Foundation Annual survey, 20.7 percent of survey respondents (N = 1507) diagnosed with psoriatic disease suffered from moderate-severe depression based on the widely used mental health assessment, the PhQ-9 screener<sup>i</sup>. Other studies estimated 16.5% of individuals with psoriatic disease experience symptoms of moderate-severe depression<sup>ii</sup>. These results are compared with a 7.1 percent prevalence of moderate-severe depression in the general population of the United States, according to the NIH (National Institutes of Health)<sup>iii</sup>. Of those meeting the criteria for moderate-severe depression in the 2019 NPF (National Psoriasis Foundation) Annual Survey, 34.4 percent had never been diagnosed with depression.

The National Psoriasis Foundation (NPF) is seeking grant applications from researchers interested in conducting projects focused on mental health in psoriatic disease. The goal of this award is to support this area of unmet need in the psoriatic disease community by funding research focused on, but not limited to, investigation of psoriatic disease on mental health, as well as interventions for addressing this comorbidity, inflammatory processes, stigma, psychosocial impact of psoriasis, barriers to care, financial burden of chronic disease, or other related areas.

- I. **Budget:** Applicants may request up to \$100,000 (**direct costs only**) per year.
- II. **Project period:** The project period is **one year**, from **August 1 – July 31**.
- III. **Eligible Respondents and Program Requirements:** The applicant must hold a Ph.D., M.D., D.O., or equivalent degree and be personally and actively responsible for the conduct of the proposed research, and eligible to apply as principal investigator for research grants under the guidelines of the applicant's host institution. The applicant need not be a United States citizen and the research need not take place in the United States. **Please note:** one Key Personnel must be a Mental Health expert.
- IV. **Important Dates:** Applications must be received by **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024, at 5 P.M. EST**. Award notifications are anticipated by **JUNE 30**.
- V. **Application Information:** Applications require a project proposal following the NIH format.

**Psoriatic disease does not discriminate. The NPF advocates for improved access to care and meaningful access to treatments. We support research and clinical trials focused on addressing health disparities and treating BIPOC. Applications should take into consideration representation of diverse population in all aspects of research, study team, and study participants/enrollees.**

<sup>i</sup> Unpublished National Psoriasis Foundation 2019 Annual Survey Data.

<sup>ii</sup> Brandon E. Cohen, Kathryn J. Martires, Roger S. Ho. JAMA Dermatol. 2016;152(1):73-79. doi:10.1001/jamadermatol.2015.3605

<sup>iii</sup> 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health.