

ASIA PACIFIC LEAGUE OF ASSOCIATIONS FOR RHEUMATOLOGY



APLAR - Center of Excellence Exchange Programme

Introduction

The main objective of the APLAR-CoE Exchange Program is to allow rheumatologists from member nations, especially from the developing countries, to learn from the APLAR certified Centers of Excellence.

This program recognises outstanding rheumatology professional faculty in both laboratory and clinic-based research and provides exposure to the exciting work being done by colleagues in the APLAR certified Centers of Excellence.

This program allows candidates to visit APLAR CoE for one to two months (at the discretion of the host COE) and the aims include:

- To share and exchange knowledge and experience
- To create opportunities for research collaboration;
- To enhance the research capability of candidates' own centre or institute.

APLAR will cover the return economy air ticket, up to USD 2,000, per successful candidate. The CoE shall ensure / facilitate the funds needed for the local expenses, including, but not limited to, reasonable local accommodations, transport, and daily expenses.

Applicants need to fulfil the following requirements:

- To be a faculty member, e.g., Assistant Professor or lecturers and above in a Rheumatology department and employed full-time at an academic institution / organisation involved in research in an APLAR member country
- Demonstrate a firm commitment to academic rheumatology.
- Provide supporting letter from Head of Department or Head of Institution
- Cannot apply to COE within same MNO as his/her own nation

Application Form

Please note that the information on this form and its attachments are collected to make recommendations to the APLAR Board of Director for APLAR-Center of Excellence Exchange Programme. The information may be passed to third parties for assessment purposes.

Please complete and return this form, together with the supporting letter from your head of department or the head of institute, to APLAR Secretariat at secretariat@aplar.org

Applications closes on **Wednesday, 30th April 2025**

Centers of Excellence offering the Exchange Programme in 2025:

1. Peking University People's Hospital, Peking University, China
2. The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
3. Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, India
4. Hokkaido University, Japan
5. Keio University School of Medicine, Japan
6. Nippon Medical School Japan*
7. The University of Tokyo, Japan
8. University of Environmental and Occupational Health, Japan
9. Chonnam National University Bitgoeul Hospital (CNUBH), Korea

**Due to institution regulations, Nippon Medical School is only able to provide accommodation; other local expenses are not covered.*

Candidate Particulars

Name : _____

Email Address : _____

Place of Work
(Name of Institution/Organization) : _____

1st Choice of Country or CoE : _____

2nd Choice of Country or CoE : _____

3rd Choice of Country or CoE : _____

Interest area of Learning :

Tentative date of Travel
(Indicate a range of date within 1 year) : _____

A personal statement outlining how participation in the APLAR-CoE exchange program will benefit your career, MNO or your institution (within 250 words)

Documents for submission with this application:

- Current curriculum vitae (PDF format) – to include:
 - Summary of teaching/research activities undertaken as a rheumatologist and mentoring/supervision/co-supervision activities (e.g. medical student projects, PhD students projects, any other educational program in rheumatology (please include proof/certificate from supervisors), if applicable
 - Your publications
- Letter of support from Head of Depart or Head of Institution (PDF format)

Applicant Compliance Agreement

- ☐ I agree to comply with the APLAR-CoE exchange program reporting requirements, including an experience report, as in appendix A, to be sent to APLAR within one month after completion of the exchange visit.
- ☐ I understand that they are responsible for all costs over and above the travel stipend provided by APLAR and local expenses provided by the CoE, as well as any costs related to spouse travel, accommodations, and incidentals, if any.

Signature

Name: _____

Date: _____

Experience report (To be submitted within 1 month of completion of the exchange visit)

- Please summarize on how participation in the 2025 APLAR-CoE Exchange Program has benefited their research career and what are the next steps on research collaboration in order to enhance the research capability of candidates' own centre or institute.