

ASIA PACIFIC LEAGUE OF ASSOCIATIONS FOR RHEUMATOLOGY



APLAR - Center of Excellence Application Form

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

Please complete this form and together with the national society's endorsement letter (if you are not able to receive the endorsement of your national society, you may approach Past Presidents), return to APLAR Secretariat by emailing the PDF form to secretariat@aplar.org

Application for the 2026 APLAR Center of Excellence certification closes on

Monday, 15 June 2026





Introduction

The Asia Pacific League of Associations for Rheumatology (APLAR) is pleased to invite the region's top level centers in rheumatology to be part of its network of Centers of Excellence. APLAR applies a rigorous selection process and will award selected centers/institutions in the region that demonstrate high standards in clinical, educational and research skills. Each institution may achieve this goal through various approaches, based on the context and the needs of the community that it serves. As not all institutions focus on all three areas, application for specific certification (e.g. Center of Excellence for Research) is also encouraged.

Through this certification programme, APLAR hopes to develop a network of 'Best in class' reference centers among regional institutions to support and train rheumatology physicians in implementing the best research into clinical practice, in order to improve care for a vast number of patients.

Benefits of being an APLAR-certified Center of Excellence:

- Recognition of being among the best in class for rheumatology clinical practice, research and patient care.
- Support local physicians in their understanding of the best research and clinical practices in rheumatology.
- Share best practices on medical and strategic approaches to diagnose, treat and manage rheumatic diseases.
- Share perspectives on clinical and clinical trial management at the institutional level and integrate and implement at other institutions.
- Provide training to young rheumatologists, scientists, rheumatology nurse specialists/clinical nurses or allied health professionals within the region.
- Foster collaborations and partnerships.

Roles and responsibilities of an APLAR Center of Excellence:

- Be a reference Center for APLAR Guidelines.
- Welcome fellows of the APLAR Fellowship programme
- Welcome fellows of APLAR-CoE Exchange Programme:
 - Offering opportunities for fellows to visit the center for approximately 1-2 months; and
 - Providing appropriate academic supervision, training, and institutional support during the visit
- Establish strong network with other centers to:
 - Provide training in order to raise standards of clinical practice, research, and training capabilities.
 - Support dissemination of best practice guidelines to these centers.

APLAR will review the submissions and select 3 – 5 Centers to have the designation of "Center of Excellence", to be published on the APLAR website and announced at the annual APLAR Conference. Centers of Excellence can hold the title for 3 years, after which application can be resubmitted for renewal.



I certify that—

I have read, understood, and complied with the APLAR-certified Center of Excellence criteria and to the best of my knowledge all details provided in this Application form and in any supporting documentation are true and complete in accordance with these Certification Rules. I will notify the APLAR if there are any changes after the submission of this Application.

Director/Vice-Chancellor or equivalent in the Administering Organisation



Is the Center applying for certification in all three areas? Yes No

If no, choose (v) the area of focus:

Research

Training and Education / Patient Care

Training and Education

Please provide a summary of the Center's special interest within 100 words (This summary will be published on APLAR's website):

Please provide the link to the Center's website (This link will be published on APLAR's website):



Part A - Administrative Summary

A1. Center details

Name of Center: _____

Country: _____

Contact details (we will use these details for all communications)	
Main address:	
Tel no:	Fax no:
Website:	Email address:

Head of Center (please enclose curriculum vitae with this form)	
Name:	
Job title:	
Tel no:	Email address:

A2. Vision and purpose statement of the Center

(Provide a summary of no more than 100 words focusing on the vision, purpose, and aims of the Center)

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(Provide a summary of no more than 100 words focusing on the benefits and significance of the Center to the patients, payers, employers, participating physicians, and institution)

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(Provide a summary of no more than 100 words focusing on the short-term actions needed to achieve the purpose of the Center)

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A3. Organisational structure of the Center

(Describe the facility and staffing structure of the Center)

(List the financial and other support that will be provided to the Center)

(Describe the Center's assessment and sustainability processes, e.g. audit process, protocols)

A4. Awards and endorsements

(List awards, endorsements, recognitions, and certifications received by the Center within and outside the country)



Please fill up the relevant section only.

Part B - Research Summary

B1. Research

(List one or several key area(s) of research interest)

(Describe the Center's policies and emphasis on research on basic science, translational study and/or clinical trials)

(Describe the Center's research facility and research staffing structure)

(State any affiliated research institute, core facility unit, or collaboration network)

(List local and/or international funding to the Center and/or individual research project in the last 10 years)*

(List original research, investigator initiated research, industry sponsored research, interdisciplinary research, systematic reviews, surveys, participation in disease registries, etc. in the past 10 years)*



(Describe the systems to ensure compliance of research with approval by appropriate regulatory bodies)

B2. Publications

(List of primary research and original research journal articles, abstracts, and conference presentations in the past 10 years)*

B3. Research translation

(Describe any research that has been translated to clinical practice and the methods for translating these research results to patients' bedsides)

(Please include any further research information you think may be relevant to the consideration of this application. Continue on a separate page if necessary)

**if you need more space, continue in a separate sheet and enclose it with this application form.*



Part C – Patient Care Summary

C1. Disease assessment and treatment approaches

(Describe the mission/goals of specialty clinics)

(Describe the facility and staffing structure)

Are multidisciplinary teams available to assess disease and deliver the best care?

Tick (v) the specialists who are part of the team

- Rheumatologist
- Rheumatology nurse specialist/clinical nurse
- Dermatologist
- Physiotherapist
- Podiatrist
- Psychologist
- Occupational therapist
- Pharmacist
- Dietician
- Musculoskeletal radiologist
- Others, please list



What is the patient volume in the Center? Describe patients' phenotypes, genotypes, treatment and special needs.

Which clinical practice guidelines are adopted at the Center? If there are none, are local guidelines being developed?

Do the rheumatologists in the Center treat-to-target for rheumatoid arthritis?

Yes, what are the goals?

How are patients' disease activity monitored/tracked?

What are the system and process in place for reviewing and reporting clinical outcomes?

Is there an Electronic Medical Record system in place or in process?



How are follow-ups done? Are there any strategies for ongoing chronic disease management?

Are co-morbidities tracked? If yes, what is the percentage of patients receiving treatment?

C2. Patient support

Does the Center have a patient-centered care model?

Yes, describe this model.

Are outpatient/day ward facilities provided as an alternative, where appropriate, to inpatient hospital visits?

(Describe the patient support provided by the Center, e.g. patient education, hotline)



C3. Quality of care assessment

Are there measurable methods for evaluating approaches to care and improvements intended to improve patient outcomes?

Yes, describe these methods and improvements.

Are there measures to assess the impact of disease activity and treatment on a patient's work and life?

Yes, describe these measures.

Are there measures to assess the patient's perception of the provider/patient interaction to improve the quality of that interaction? If yes, describe these methods

(Please include any further patient care information you think may be relevant to the consideration of this application. Continue on a separate page if necessary)



Part D – Education and Training Summary

(Provide a summary of the Center’s best scope of education and training in one or several disease areas)

What are the current number of trainees, fellows, Master, MPhil, PhD and postdoc in the Center and the respective training areas/research areas?

(Describe any established fellowship programme and its content)

(Describe any doctoral and postdoctoral programme and research areas; achievement in terms of number of grants received, publication, awards, and number of graduates/postdocs in the past 10 years)

(Describe the implementation of any education model, e.g. train-the-trainer programme, project-based learning, exchange opportunity, use of interactive education tools and platform)



Is there a multidisciplinary training curriculum, integrating health care professionals?

Does training include the dissemination of APLAR guidelines?

Are the staff trained to use primary scientific literature as an information resource?

Do the programmes include training for clinical fellows on the use of cutting-edge technology and is this training embedded in excellent science?

Does the Center, train other institutions to raise their standard of clinical practice, research, and training capabilities?

Yes, please list these institutions

Does the organisation welcome fellows of the APLAR-CoE Exchange Programme?

Yes, please provide details on how this will be done

No, please give reasons: (Continue on a separate page if necessary)