

# 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 special skills from the APLAR certified Centers of Excellence that will help develop special areas in their own parent centre.

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.





## Funding Support

APLAR will provide a grant of up to USD 5,000 to each successful candidate to support expenses including travel, accommodation, and daily subsistence.

Applicants are responsible for any costs exceeding the grant amount.

## Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must fulfil the following requirements:

- Be a faculty member (e.g., Assistant Professor, Lecturer, or above) in a Rheumatology department and employed full-time at an academic institution or organisation involved in research in an APLAR member country
- Be 45 years of age or below at the time of application
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to academic rheumatology
- Provide a supporting letter from the Head of Department or Head of Institution
- Must not apply to a CoE within the same Member National Organisation (MNO) as their home country

# Application Form

Please note that the information on this form and its attachments is 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](mailto:secretariat@aplar.org)

Application closes on Monday, 15 June 2026

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## Centers of Excellence offering the Exchange Programme in 2026:

1. Peking University People's Hospital, Peking University, China
2. Keio University School of Medicine, Japan
3. Nippon Medical School, Japan
4. The University of Tokyo, Japan
5. University of Environmental and Occupational Health, Japan
6. Hanyang University Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Korea
7. KK Women's and Children's Hospital Rheumatology and Immunology Service, Singapore
8. National University Hospital, Singapore
9. Singapore General Hospital, Singapore\*
10. The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
11. Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore

*\* Singapore General Hospital may pull out due to other unforeseen circumstances like clinic space etc.*

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## Candidate Particulars

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address : \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Work : \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Institution/Organization)

Country : \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> Choice of Country or CoE : \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice of Country or CoE : \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Choice of Country or CoE : \_\_\_\_\_

Interest Area of Learning

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



### Financial Support Requirement

Please indicate your funding situation

- I require full financial support from APLAR
- I have partial funding support (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- I am self-funded

**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 APLAR provides a grant of up to USD 5,000 for this programme, and I agree to bear any expenses exceeding this amount, including personal expenses and costs related to accompanying persons, 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 2026 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.