

# Consumer Reviewer Self Nomination Form

## Research Panel Volunteer Expectations and Responsibilities

The Arthritis Society strongly values the voice of consumers in research and welcomes consumer reviewers on the Arthritis Society's research peer-review panels. This is a unique opportunity for volunteers to join expert scientists to review the best new arthritis research ideas in the country and gain an appreciation of the integrity of the peer-review process as well as the value and impact of donor dollars.

Consumers meaningfully contribute to the evaluation of applications and have considerable impact on the review process. Consumers provide a means of public accountability and convey a sense of urgency and importance to the process.

The consumer reviewer's role is to assess the feasibility, relevance, and potential impact of the research as well as the quality of the lay sections (i.e., sections written for a non-scientific audience). Detailed scientific knowledge is not required. Consumers are not required or expected to review the scientific methodology or approaches. Consumers must consider all applications equally regardless of their specific arthritis-related interests.

Consumer reviewers actively participate in the peer-review process as a member of the review panel and consider relevance and feasibility from a patient/caregiver/public perspective and comment on the non-scientific sections for ease of understanding. They are assigned applications to review, are required to read all of their assigned applications in advance of the meeting and prepare brief written reports, assign descriptors/ratings reflecting their assessment, as well as participate in the panel discussion by offering their comments at the meeting. After hearing the scientific members, consumers may alter their comments and scores as a result.

Consumer reviewers must commit time to read the applications before the meeting (approximately 6-10 hours of review time) and be willing to attend either one or two weekday meetings, depending on the competition. Currently, panels are meeting virtually, however, if in-person meetings are resumed, meetings would take place in Toronto. Travel and accommodation would be arranged and paid by the Arthritis Society. The number of applications for a panel range from 15 to 50 depending on the research area and the program. Researchers from across the country submit in our online grants management platform (Apply) and the review is conducted online. Consumers require access to the internet to review the submissions and prepare reports prior to the meeting. Consumers should feel comfortable navigating our online grants management platforms. Training and support will be available.

Consumers are recruited for our grants and awards programs:

- Training awards that provide support to PhD students and postdoctoral fellows as they complete their training

- Strategic Operating Grant (SOG) program supporting investigator-initiated research projects, involving research into all types of arthritis and spanning a wide cross-section of scientific research areas
- Innovation Grants program that funds high-risk, high-reward projects
- Stars Career Development Award program supporting the early career of arthritis researchers with salary and research funding

There are currently four peer-review panels, each with 8-14 scientists and 2-5 consumers, depending on the number of applications under review. The panel for PhD student and postdoctoral **Training awards** normally meet in July. Panels for the **SOG, Innovation grants and Stars Awards** meet in October and November. The SOG panel also has a Letter of Intent review meeting in July where the strongest applications are identified and invited to submit a full application.

**Please check the box below to indicate that you have read and understood the Research Review Panel consumer volunteer expectations and responsibilities**

- I have reviewed the Research Review Panel volunteer expectations and responsibilities

## **Research Panel Volunteer Self Nomination Form**

Please fill out the on-line self-nomination form here with the following information:

### 1) Volunteer information

- First name:
- Last name:
- Age:
- City:
- Province/Territory:
- Email:
- Telephone number:

The Arthritis Society is committed to promoting diversity, inclusion, and equity (EDI) in all aspects of our organization, including our Research Review Panels. It is important that our consumer reviewers are representative of communities across Canada and that all consumers have equitable opportunity to participate. The following questions are optional. Please note that all data collected in this form will remain confidential.

- What gender do you identify with? (If you prefer not to say, leave blank)
- Do you identify as First Nation, Inuk, or Metis (yes/no/prefer not say)?
- Do you identify as a visible minority (yes/no/prefer not say)?
- Do you identify as having a disability (yes/no/prefer not say)?

2) A brief personal biography:

3) Responses to the following questions:

- How has arthritis impacted you personally as a person living with arthritis or as a caregiver?
- Why do you feel that you are a good candidate to serve in this capacity?
- What do you hope to contribute by participating on an Arthritis Society research review panel?
- From a personal perspective, do you feel that research can impact and improve arthritis diagnosis, and treatment? Why or why not?
- Describe a time when you have had the opportunity to share your opinions in a group environment. How did you manage this and what was the outcome?
- On a scale from 0-10 (0 = not comfortable, 10 = very comfortable), how comfortable are you navigating technology (e.g., Apply, zoom)?
- Have you volunteered with the Arthritis Society before? If yes, in which role(s)?
- How did you hear about volunteering for the Arthritis Society?
- Do you consent to joining the research mailing list?

Candidates may be contacted to discuss their interest and motivation to serve as a consumer reviewer and to review the requirements of the role. We thank all applicants for their interest in volunteering with the Arthritis Society, however, please be advised that not all candidates can be selected to volunteer with our Research Review Panels. Please email [research@arthritis.ca](mailto:research@arthritis.ca) if you have any questions regarding this application.