

SLEURO MENTORSHIP PROGRAM 2027/2028

supported by the
LUPUS RESEARCH ALLIANCE

The SLEuro Mentorship Program pursues major goals of the SLEuro mission, aiming to help young physicians develop their clinical and/or research skills, expertise and network of scientific contacts in the SLE field. The primary goal of the Program is to support the mentee's personal and professional development through a relationship that emphasizes learning, growth, and advancement in the Lupus field and that extends well beyond the 8-week training at the SLEuro Centre. For this purpose, SLEuro will award bursaries to the selected applicants for an eight-week placement at a SLEuro Centre outside the applicant's home country. Applicants apply through a single application process and must select one of two mentorship pathways:

Exploratory Mentorship: active clinical and/or research learning focused on specific expertise, techniques or methodologies available at the host centre. The placement must support defined career goals and cannot be purely observational.

Collaborative (project-based) Mentorship: a defined joint clinical or research project that develops an existing or planned collaboration with the host centre and produces clear outputs, with added value provided by the host centre.

RULES

1. Each bursary consists of 2.500 Euros (approximately 15 bursaries are available). Applicants wishing to stay longer may do this at their own expense provided there is an agreement with the mentor.
2. Applications must be submitted online through our online services no later than **20th January 2027:**
[**APPLY HERE**](#)
3. Eligible applicants must be physicians under the age of 40 years old on December 31, 2027, wishing to spend a SLE mentorship period in one of the SLEuro Centers, outside of the country where they currently work. Applicants should be registered SLEuro members at the time of application.
4. To be eligible, applications must be submitted through the online form and include the following:
 - a. **Curriculum Vitae** (in PDF, maximum 2 pages), including up to five selected publications or other relevant scientific outputs;
 - b. **Structured application form**, consisting of (i) a common core section for all applicants (current role and SLE experience; motivation for applying; learning objectives; preferred SLEuro Centres) and (ii) a pathway-specific module (mentorship focus; planned activities and host-centre support; expected outcomes and impact), within the word limits indicated in the form;
 - c. **Supervisor / Home Centre Statement** (mandatory, in PDF), issued by the applicant's supervisor, confirming that the applicant will be granted leave for the eight-week mentorship, free from home clinical/on-call duties, and briefly explaining how the mentorship will support the applicant's professional development and career at the home institution. Generic recommendation letters are not required;
 - d. Self-declaration (by ticking the dedicated checkbox in the online form) confirming proficiency in the **language(s)** required by the selected SLEuro Centre(s), where applicable. No certificate is required.

5. The candidates should select and number in order of preference the SLEuro Center[s] they are applying for (up to 3) and explain the rationale for their first choice.
6. Each application will be assigned to a defined number of reviewers of the SLEuro Scientific Committee and scored on the following six criteria (0–3 points each; maximum score 18), using a common rubric with pathway-specific descriptors. The final score of each application is the average of the scores given by the assigned reviewers:
 - (a) Candidate fit and relevant experience, based on the CV and selected outputs;
 - (b) Motivation;
 - (c) Learning objectives: clear, specific, achievable and aligned with the selected pathway;
 - (d) Mentorship focus / project: feasibility and relevance (Exploratory: focused active learning plan; Collaborative: focused project plan and host-centre contribution);
 - (e) Expected impact (Exploratory: plan for the application and further development of the acquired skills; Collaborative: clear tangible outputs);
 - (f) Match with the selected SLEuro Centre(s): rationale and appropriateness of the host centre's expertise and resources.
7. Applications will be ranked according to their final score; candidate ranking remains the primary selection criterion. Allocation to host centres will subsequently take into account the candidate's fit with the centre, the centre's hosting capacity (one or two mentees per year, as previously specified) and language requirements. The final selection and allocation will be approved by the SLEuro Executive Committee. If the mentor of a training center considers that the candidate's mentorship proposal is not suitable to be completed at that Center, the application will pass to be considered to the next center in the order of preference stated in the application.
8. Selected applicants will be notified by e-mail by the end of February 2027, and the awardees will be officially announced on the SLEuro website in early March 2027.
9. Awardees must confirm their acceptance of the mentorship to SLEuroSecretariat@aimgroup.eu within 10 days from the receipt of the e-mail notification for the bursary to be certified.
10. Decisions on the awarded bursaries are final and not subject to appeal. It will not be possible to change the assigned center, even if it is not the preferred one (listed in first place in the form). If you are not willing or unable to proceed with the mentorship at the assigned center and within the assigned training period available at the center, you should decline the bursary.
11. The mentorship at the SLEuro center should be completed by **30th March 2028**.
12. Awardees are required to submit a final report about the overall results achieved in the mentorship program. The report must be submitted within 1 month from the completion of the mentorship. The report should document the activities completed, the learning objectives achieved and the application of the acquired skills after the mentorship. Selected reports may be published on the SLEuro website, and former mentees may be invited to present their experience at the SLEuro Congress. A SLEuro mentorship certificate will be issued by SLEuro upon receipt of the final report.

PERSONAL INFORMATION OF THE CANDIDATE and ONLINE APPLICATION

To apply for this year's SLEuro Mentorship Program, please proceed with the online application:

[APPLY HERE](#)

Application Deadline: 20th January 2027

Guidelines for the FINAL REPORT

At the end of their SLEuro mentorship, awardees are required to submit a final report with the overall results achieved. The report must be submitted within 1 month of completion of the training; it should be up to 5 pages and address the following questions:

1. What was your motivation to apply for the SLEuro mentorship in this Center? / Main learning objectives (Exploratory pathway) or project objectives (Collaborative pathway)
2. Were your objectives achieved? / Report of activities completed, outputs obtained (Collaborative pathway) and follow-up plan
3. How will you apply what you have learned at your home institution, and how will the mentorship contribute to your further professional development?
4. What are the main opportunities/strengths this center offers?
5. Practical advice for future applicants of the SLEuro mentorship program.