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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE OF ASSOCIATIONS FOR RHEUMATOLOGY  
FUNDS RESEARCH IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

***Up To \$100,000 U.S. Dollars Devoted to Funding Global Rheumatic Disease Education and Awareness***

**ATLANTA**– The International League of Associations for Rheumatology today announced its 2011 Request for Proposals to advance rheumatology in the developing world.

Arthritis and other rheumatic diseases are a family of illnesses that can cause inflammation (redness, swelling and pain), changes in the joints and pain in the surrounding structures. They also may make it difficult to complete daily activities. There are more than 100 different rheumatic conditions including, but not limited to, osteoporosis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, osteoarthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, and scleroderma. While the symptoms may vary, as a rule, these conditions target the musculoskeletal system, including the bones, joints, muscles, and tendons that contribute to function. Some people can also have internal organ involvement or even more than one of these conditions at the same time.

ILAR is committed to advancing the education and clinical practice of rheumatology in the developing world. In 2011, up to \$100,000 U.S. dollars will be available for contribution requests between \$5,000 and \$30,000 U.S. dollars each. At least one project will be funded from countries represented by the AFLAR, APLAR and PANLAR leagues, and special consideration will be given to projects involving multiple regions. Proposals should demonstrate how they will impact improvements in education and/or the clinical practice of rheumatology.

ILAR's 2010 projects were partially funded through support from Pfizer Inc. and MSD and aimed to increase access to care, collect data that will be used to promote health education and prevention, increase the rheumatology workforce (both adult and pediatric), and strengthen the amount and quality of rheumatology education in developing countries.

“ILAR is committed to forming partnerships that benefit people with rheumatic diseases on a global level,” says Luis Espinoza, chairman of the ILAR executive committee. “With a more focused mission on advancing rheumatology in developing countries, funding these types of projects will allow rheumatology education to flourish in the areas where there is a great need, and ILAR is appreciative of the support provided by companies like Pfizer and MSD.”

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## ILAR FUNDS RESEARCH IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

2010 ILAR Projects include:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Community Oriented Program for Control of Rheumatic Diseases Repository</b>	Create repository that drives standardized collection of rheumatology data. Surveys and information will be used to promote awareness, health education and preventive measures.	India
<b>East Africa Initiative</b>	Increase education awareness about the treatment of common rheumatic diseases. Research will also focus on implementing local rheumatology subspecialty training programs and setting up a rheumatology referral center.	East Africa ( <i>Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda</i> )
<b>Pediatric Rheumatology Training</b>	Improve pediatric rheumatology training that leads to better identification of rheumatic diseases and increased survival.	Latin America
<b>Rheumatology Fellowship</b>	There is severe shortage of rheumatologists in the sub-Saharan region (less than ten) and the fellowship will increase access to care.	Kenya
<b>Basic Knowledge of Clinical Anatomy</b>	Increased clinical anatomy education limits need for imaging resources that are often unavailable.	Mexico

In 2011, ILAR will continue to fund research aimed at advancing rheumatology education and clinical practice in the developing world. For more information about ILAR, its current projects, and how to submit a project for 2011 funding consideration, visit [www.ilar.org](http://www.ilar.org).

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*The mission of the International League of Associations for Rheumatology is to advance rheumatology in developing countries. The global collaboration has resulted in a renewed commitment to support rheumatic programs with leaders from the African League Against Rheumatism, American College of Rheumatology, Asia Pacific League of Associations for Rheumatology, European League Against Rheumatism, and the Pan American League of Associations for Rheumatology serving on the executive committee. For more information about ILAR, visit [www.ilar.org](http://www.ilar.org)*