



## 2020 AFDHAL/MCHUTCHISON L.I.F.E.R. AWARD

**Application Deadline: December 4, 2019**  
**Award Period: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022**  
**Award Amount: \$100,000 (\$50,000/year)**

### Description

The purpose of this award is to foster career development for fellows performing clinical research and/or translational research in a liver-related area and who have shown commitment to excellence at an early stage of their research study. The award is intended to ensure that a significant portion of the investigators' time is protected for research, with an overall objective of enabling the investigators to develop independent and productive research careers in liver disease.

International applicants who have been accepted into a fellowship position at a North American institution are strongly encouraged to apply.

### Eligibility Criteria

1. Applicant must be a postdoctoral or clinical research fellow who has completed their most recent doctoral degree or medical residency within the past five (5) years at the start of the grant term (July 1, 2020).
  - a. Applicants from North America must be working at an academic, medical, or research institution at the time of application and for the duration of the award.
  - b. Applicants from outside of North America must have already been accepted into a fellowship position at a North American education institution at the time of application and for the duration of the award. Positions contingent on receipt of the award are also acceptable. The North American fellowship position must start no later than the award start date (July 1, 2020) and end no earlier than the award end date (June 30, 2022). International applicants must have a student or trainee Visa to the country where the fellowship will occur.
2. The applicant must be a member of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) at the time of award application and maintain active membership for the duration of the award period.
3. The applicant must have a mentor at the North American institution who is an AASLD member in good standing for the duration of the award.
4. Project is clinical or translational. "Clinical Research" is defined as studies related to patients or disease processes having direct contact between the principal investigator and humans. Clinical research includes epidemiology and clinical trials in liver disease. "Translational Research" is defined as clinical research with a substantial component of laboratory investigation using blood or tissue specimens from patients with liver disease.
5. Funded projects must be completed at the North American institution.
6. At least 80 percent effort should be devoted to research activities related to the award.
7. Applicant does not hold other similar research awards.
8. Applicant may only apply for one (1) AASLD Foundation (AASLDF) award per application cycle.

### Award Details

One award of \$100,000 will be provided over two years (\$50,000 per year.) Funds may only be used for *salary support* or *technical support/laboratory supplies (excluding capital equipment)* for the recipient. No indirect costs, registration fees, or travel expenses are provided. It is expected that additional funds are available to the candidate in order to carry out the proposed research.

Awards cannot be transferred to another institution without prior written approval from the AASLD Foundation.

Recipients must acknowledge the award in all publications (abstracts, manuscripts, or other documents) resulting from research performed during the tenure of this award.

## Selection Criteria

Candidates will be evaluated based upon their background, their commitment to a research career, the strength of their research project and the environment in which they will conduct this project. Preference and priority will be given to international applicants.

Applications will be reviewed based on the written materials submitted. **Incomplete applications and applications that fail to adhere strictly to the instructions (including the submission deadline and page limitations) will not be reviewed.** All decisions are final.

## Reporting

Scientific progress and financial reports must be sent to the AASLD Foundation at the end of the first award year and within 60 days of completion of the award. Funding of the second year of the award is contingent upon receipt of reports.

## The Liver Meeting®

The award recipient is strongly encouraged to both attend and present their work at The Liver Meeting®.

---

## Research Award Glossary

**Clinical Research:** Studies related to patients or disease processes having direct contact between the principal investigator and humans. Clinical research includes epidemiology and clinical trials in liver disease.

**Grant Administrator:** The staff member who oversees new grant agreements and grant payments; ensure that grants comply with relevant laws and regulations; guarantees that all required reports are submitted; and administers the grant after award.

**Indirect Costs:** Costs that are necessary to support a particular activity project or program but that cannot be easily or directly attributed to such activity, project or program. Examples of indirect costs are rent, utilities, and administrative personnel.

**Mentor:** The person responsible for the employment and career development of the applicant. This person should have a vested interest in the career development and research experience of the applicant.

**Standard Form 424 (Research & Related) Biosketch and NIH Guidelines:** The SF424 (R&R) biosketch is the application form used to obtain federal grant support. According to NIH guidelines, the research plan should contain: title, specific aims, significance, innovation, and approach. To access the biosketch via the Web, go to <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/index.htm#biosketch> and select the General Blank Format Page under "Biosketches."

**Translational Research:** Clinical research with a substantial component of laboratory investigation using blood or tissue specimens from patients with liver disease.

# 2020 Afdhal/McHutchison L.I.F.E.R. Award

## Instructions

1. Use the forms provided (pages 5-6) as a cover pages. Print or type responses.
2. Include only the required documents and provide signatures as requested.
3. Put your name (last name, first name) and the name of the award in the upper right-hand corner of each page.
4. Use half-inch margins. Do not use lettering smaller than 10 point.
5. Assemble the application package in the order listed in the Required Documents section of this application.
6. Adhere to page limits and complete all sections.
7. The completed application, letters of support or commitment, and other documents as applicable must be combined into and submitted as one PDF document. Name the PDF file as follows: 2020 LIFER – Last name, First Name (*Example: 2020 LIFER – Smith, Jane*)

## Submission

The application deadline for this fellowship is **11:59 pm Eastern time, December 4, 2019**.

Submit your application at [www.liverresearchawards.org](http://www.liverresearchawards.org). You will be sent an email confirmation that the PDF was received. If an email confirmation is not received in 2 business days, please contact [awards@asld.org](mailto:awards@asld.org) to confirm receipt.

## Required Documents

**Submit only the documents listed below, using pages 5-6 as cover pages. Any additional documents (including letters of collaboration, additional letters of recommendation, or documents that exceed the stated page limitations) will be removed from consideration.**

1. **Cover Pages and Required Signatures** – Complete all information on pages 5-6 and use as application cover pages.
2. **Abstract** – Provide your project's abstract on page 7 of this application.
3. **Applicant's and Mentor's Biosketches (Limit five pages each)** – Provide biographical sketches using the current SF424 Form.
4. **Resubmission Information** – if this application is a resubmission to the AASLD Foundation awards program, complete page 8 of this application.
5. **Research Plan (Limit eight pages, including references)** – Prepare according to NIH guidelines: title, specific aims, significance, innovation, approach, references. The section on previous work should highlight the candidate's previous studies and his/her contribution to knowledge in this field. (Appendices should not be included.)
6. **Research Facilities (Limit three pages)**– The research environment should be described, including access to patients, laboratory space (if applicable), consultants and technical (including computer) resources.
7. **Research Support** – Accounting of all other institutional, federal and non-federal support is **required**. The NIH "Other Support" form should be used and is available through academic institutions' Office of Grants and Contracts. Include all funding available from collaborators and sponsor.
8. **Candidate's Statement (Limit one page)** – Describe the benefits of this award to your research career and, where applicable, the impact the research preceptor will have on your research development.
9. **Letter of Commitment from Department Chair (Limit one page)**– Letter should be provided from the head of the candidate's department confirming that the applicant has a fellowship position at the institution starting no

later than the award start date, and ending no earlier than the award end date, and at least 80 percent of available time will be devoted to research activities related to this award.

10. **Letters of Recommendation (Two letters, limit one page each)** – Two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from the applicant’s mentor, attesting to the candidate’s qualifications, commitment to research and quality of scientific work should be submitted with the application.
11. **Institutional Review Board (Limit one page)** – If human subjects are to be used, verification of IRB approval of the proposed research in the applicant’s institution should be provided prior to the award being granted. All human studies require IRB approval. If IRB approval is not necessary or not attached, please state why using page 9 of this application.

## **FUNDING NOTIFICATIONS**

Funding notifications for the 2020 awards cycle will be sent no later than May 1, 2020.



APPLICATION FOR THE  
**2020 AFDHAL/MCHUTCHISON L.I.F.E.R. AWARD**

**APPLICANT NAME:**

**SPONSORING INSTITUTION:**

# 2020 AFDHAL/McHUTCHISON L.I.F.E.R. AWARD

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

---

Applicant (last, first, middle initial)

AASLD Member Number

---

Project Title

---

Degree(s) and year(s) granted

---

Current Position

Appointment Date (month & year)

---

Address

---

Telephone

Email

---

Sponsoring Institution

---

Mentor (last, first, middle initial)

AASLD Member Number

---

Address

---

Telephone

Email

---

Institution's Grants Administrator

---

Grants Administrator's Address

---

Grants Administrator's Phone

Grants Administrator's Email

---

Institution Fiscal Officer, if different (please print)

## REQUIRED SIGNATURES

**NOTE:** By signing below, you are certifying that the information in this application is accurate and that you understand that AASLDF guidelines do not allow for any indirect costs (e.g. facilities management and utilities; general-purpose or capital equipment; travel; memberships and dues; subscriptions/books/periodicals; etc.).

---

Signature of Applicant

Name

Date

---

Signature of Mentor

Name

Date

---

Signature of Department Chair

Name

Date

---

Signature of Grants Administrator

Name

Date

**ABSTRACT OF PROPOSED RESEARCH**

In the box below, briefly describe the research project, technical approach and anticipated results. Describe how this award will advance your career in research.

**RESEARCH INFORMATION**

Current Percent Effort:

\_\_\_\_\_ Research  
\_\_\_\_\_ Administration  
\_\_\_\_\_ Clinical Activities  
\_\_\_\_\_ Teaching

100%=Total

Projected Under This Award:

\_\_\_\_\_ Research  
\_\_\_\_\_ Administration  
\_\_\_\_\_ Clinical Activities  
\_\_\_\_\_ Teaching

100%=Total

## **Resubmission Information (if applicable)**

In the box below, briefly describe how your resubmission responds to the issues and criticisms raised by reviewers in the original application. Also briefly describe any major additions, deletions, or changes to the application.

## **INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD**

- A. Does the proposed study require Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval?  Yes  No
- B. If the proposed study requires IRB approval, has the documentation verifying approval been obtained and included in the award application?  Yes  No

If the proposed study has been approved, please provide documentation of verification with your application **(limit 2 pages)**.

If IRB approval is not necessary or not attached, please state why below: