



AASLD FOUNDATION PILOT RESEARCH AWARD

Application Deadline: December 4, 2019
Award Period: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021
Award Amount: \$50,000

Description

The purpose of this award is to support highly innovative research ideas that have a clear potential to produce high-impact results, but that have little or no preliminary data to successfully compete for funding from other sources. This award is not intended to support ongoing research in the applicant's laboratory, but rather support new ideas or approaches that have not previously been studied.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for this award, the applicant must adhere to the following guidelines:

- 1) Applicant must be at the post-doctoral level (MD, PhD, PharmD or equivalent), or faculty at or below the rank of Associate Professor in an accredited North American (US, Canada, or Mexico) academic institution at the award start date (July 1).
- 2) If funded, at least 20% effort will be devoted to the research project on which this application is based.
- 3) 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.
- 4) If the applicant is at or below the rank of Assistant Professor, they must have a mentor or co-mentor who is an AASLD member in good standing at the time of application and for the duration of the award period. Mentors are **not** required for Associate Professor level applicants or equivalent.
- 5) Applicant must be sponsored by a public or private non-profit institution accredited in the United States, Canada or Mexico engaged in health care and health-related research. The funded research project must be conducted at the sponsoring institution within the United States, Canada or Mexico.
- 6) The proposed project must not be an established project with alternate funding.
- 7) Applicant may only apply for one (1) AASLD Foundation (AASLDF) award per application cycle.

Award Details

Awards of \$50,000 will be provided over one year. Funds may only be used for *technical support/laboratory supplies* (excluding capital equipment) for the recipient. In the event the funded candidate is a post-doctoral researcher, up to \$10,000 may be used for PI salary support. No indirect costs, registration fees, or travel expenses are provided. It is expected that additional funds are available to the investigator in order to carry out the proposed research.

Awards cannot be transferred to another institution without prior written approval from 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

Applicants will be evaluated based upon their background, their commitment to a research career, the scientific merit/potential impact of their research project and the environment in which they will conduct this project.

Project feasibility, an appropriate environment to conduct the project, and relevant collaborators will strengthen the application.

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 AASLD Foundation within 60 days of completion of the award.

The Liver Meeting®

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

Research Award Glossary

Collaborator: An individual who works with the principal investigator in the scientific development or execution of the project. This individual would typically devote a specific percent of effort to the project and would be identified as key personnel. The collaborator may be employed by or affiliated with either the grantee organization or an organization participating in the project under a consortium or contractual agreement.

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: Senior professional who provide guidance, direction and support to 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"

Pilot Research Award Application Instructions

1. Use pages 5-6 of this application as 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 below.
6. Be sure to adhere to page limits and complete all sections. Applications that do not meet the requirements, in content or format, will not be reviewed.
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 Pilot - Last name, first name (*Example: 2020 Pilot – Smith, Jane*)

Submission

The application deadline for this fellowship is **11:59 pm Eastern time, December 4, 2019**. **Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed.**

Submit your application at www.liverresearchawards.org. You will be sent an email confirmation that the application was received. If an email confirmation is not received in two (2) business days, please contact 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 Biosketch (Limit five pages)** – Provide a biographical sketch using the current SF424 Form (see glossary). The **Mentor's Biosketch** is also required for applications below the rank of Associate Professor.
4. **Resubmission Information** – if this application is a resubmission to the AASLD Foundation awards program, complete page 8 of this application and include with cover pages.
5. **Research Plan (Limit three pages, not including references)** – Prepare according to NIH guidelines: title, specific aims, significance, innovation, and approach. 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.) Inclusion of preliminary data is not required. This award is not intended to support ongoing research in the applicant's laboratory, but rather support new ideas or approaches that have not previously been studied. Be specific with regard to why this project is novel and distinct from other ongoing work. Applicants should discuss how the Pilot study results will be translated into future grant applications. Populations should be well defined and feasible within the limitations of the award.
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 sponsors.

8. **Letter(s) of Collaboration/Support (if applicable, limit one page each)** - Letters of collaborative or mentoring arrangements that are significant to the proposal may be included.
9. **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.
10. **Letter of Commitment from Division or Department Chair (Limit one page)** – Letter should be provided from the head of the candidate's department confirming that a minimum of 20% of the available time will be devoted to research activities on which this application is based during the award.
11. **Letter of Recommendation (One letter, limit one page)** – One letter of recommendation attesting to the candidate's qualifications, commitment to research and quality of scientific work and the importance/potential impact of the project should be submitted with the application. If the applicant is below the rank of Associate Professor, the letter of recommendation should be written by the applicant's mentor.
12. **Institutional Review Board (IRB) and Animal Experimentation (Limit one page)** – If human or animal subjects are to be used, verification of IRB and/or IACUC approval of the proposed research in the applicant's institution should be provided prior to the award being granted. **IRB/IACUC approval (if necessary) must be applied for at time of application.** If IRB or IACUC 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 PILOT RESEARCH AWARD

APPLICANT NAME:

SPONSORING INSTITUTION:

APPLICATION FOR THE 2020 PILOT RESEARCH 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.

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.

****IRB/IACUC approval (if necessary) must be applied for at time of award 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:

ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION

- A. Does your proposed study involve the care and use of animals? Yes No
- B. If the proposed study involves the care and use of animals, has the proposed study been approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) of the applicant's institution and do they follow the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Guidelines on the care and use of laboratory animals? Yes No
- C. If the proposed study requires (IACUC) approval, has the documentation verifying approval been obtained and included in the award application? Yes No

If the proposed study involves the care and use of animals, and has been approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, please provide documentation of verification with your application (**limit 2 pages**).

If approval by the Animal Care and Use Committee of the applicant's institution is not necessary or not attached, please state why below: