



## REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

### AASLD FOUNDATION AUTOIMMUNE LIVER DISEASES PILOT RESEARCH AWARD

**Application Deadline:** December 3, 2020  
**Award Period:** July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 (1 Year)  
**Award Amount:** \$20,000

#### AASLD Foundation's Mission

To invest in innovative hepatology research and in the people who study and treat liver disease.

#### Award Description

The purpose of this award is to provide supplementary funding during the pilot phase of basic, translational or clinical research projects in autoimmune liver disease (e.g. autoimmune hepatitis, primary sclerosing cholangitis, primary biliary cholangitis) in preparation for future grant applications by the recipient. Projects should address focused research questions pertaining to the pathogenesis, diagnosis, management or outcome of autoimmune liver diseases in children and adults.

#### Application Submission

The application deadline for this award is **11:59 pm Eastern time, December 3, 2020**. Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed.

Submit your application at [www.liverresearchawards.org](http://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](mailto:awards@asld.org) to confirm receipt.

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.

#### Award Details

- Awards of \$20,000 will be provided over one (1) year.
- Funds may only be used for **salary support** and/or for **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 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.
- Funding notifications for the 2021 awards cycle will be sent no later than May 1, 2021.

## Eligibility

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

1. The applicant must:
  - Be at the pre-doctoral/graduate level, post-doctoral level, or junior faculty within the first five (5) years of his/her first faculty appointment (including prior appointments in universities outside of North America) at the start of the award (July 1, 2021).
  - Be able to devote at least 20% effort to research activities related to this award.
  - 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.
  - 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.
2. The proposed project must:
  - Be conducted at the sponsoring institution within the United States, Canada or Mexico.
  - Projects with aims already funded by other awards will not be considered.
3. Application limits:
  - Applicants may only apply for one (1) AASLD Foundation (AASLDF) award per application cycle.

## 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. The potential for the research to support the recipient in a future academic career as a physician scientist in hepatology will also be considered.

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.

## 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:** 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 <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm> and select the non-fellowship Biographical Sketch Format Page.

## Application Instructions

1. Use pages 6-7 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. 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.
6. Assemble the application package as a single PDF in the order listed in the Required Documents section (pages 4-5).
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: 2021 ALD Pilot - Last name, first name (Example: 2021 ALD Pilot – Smith, Jane)

## Required Documents

Submit only the documents listed below, using pages 6-7 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.

<b>1</b>	<b>Cover Pages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use pages 6-7 of this RFA as your application's cover pages.</li> <li>Complete all information and include all required signatures.</li> <li>Signatures may be digital, electronic, or "wet."</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>Abstract</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide your project's abstract on page 8 of this application.</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<b>Resubmission Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete page 9 of this application and include with cover pages.</li> <li>Use the provided form to 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.</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<b>Applicant's and Mentor's Biosketch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Limit five pages each</b></li> <li>Provide a biographical sketch for the applicant and mentor using the current SF424 Form (see glossary).</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<b>Research Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Limit three pages, including references</b></li> <li>Prepare according to NIH guidelines: title, specific aims, significance, innovation, and approach.</li> <li>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.)</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<b>Research Facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Limit three pages</b></li> <li>The research environment should be described, including access to patients, laboratory space (if applicable), consultants and technical (including computer) resources.</li> </ul>
<b>7</b>	<b>Research Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accounting of all other institutional, federal and non-federal support is required.</li> <li>The <a href="#">NIH "Other Support"</a> form (link goes to direct download) should be used and is available through academic institutions' Office of Grants and Contracts.</li> <li>Include all funding available from collaborators and sponsors.</li> </ul>
<b>8</b>	<b>Letter(s) of Collaboration/Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Limit one page each</b></li> <li>If applicable, letters of collaborative or mentoring arrangements that are significant to the proposal may be included.</li> </ul>
<b>9</b>	<b>Candidate's Statement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Limit one page</b></li> <li>Describe the benefits of this award to your research career and, where applicable, the impact the research preceptor will have on your research development.</li> </ul>
<b>10</b>	<b>Letter of Commitment from Department Chair</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Limit one page</b></li> <li>Letter should be provided from the head of the candidate's department explicitly 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.</li> <li>Letter should confirm and describe the institution's support of the candidate and commitment to their research success.</li> </ul>
<b>11</b>	<b>Letters of Recommendation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Two letters, limit one page each</b></li> <li>One letter must be from the applicant's mentor.</li> <li>Letters should attest to the candidate's qualifications, commitment to research and quality of scientific work should be submitted with the application.</li> <li>The mentor's letter should confirm and describe their personal support of the candidate and commitment to their success.</li> </ul>

12	<b>Institutional Review Board (IRB) or IACUC Approval</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Use page 10 of application to verify if IRB or IACUC approval is needed for this project.</b></li><li>• 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.</li><li>• IRB/IACUC approval (if necessary) must be applied for at the time of application.</li></ul>
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The following pages contain forms that must be included in **all** applications. Please refer to the list of required documents above when assembling your final application package

# APPLICATION FOR THE 2021 AUTOIMMUNE LIVER DISEASES PILOT RESEARCH AWARD

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Applicant (last, first, middle initial)

AASLD Member Number

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Project Title

---

Degree(s) and year(s) granted

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Current Position

Appointment Date (month & year)

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Address

---

Telephone

Email

---

Sponsoring Institution

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Mentor (last, first, middle initial)

AASLD Member Number

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Address

---

Telephone

Email

---

Institution's Grants Administrator

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Grants Administrator's Address

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Grants Administrator's Phone

Grants Administrator's Email

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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.).

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Signature of Applicant

Name

Date

---

Signature of Mentor

Name

Date

---

Signature of Department Chair

Name

Date

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Signature of Grants Administrator

Name

Date

## 2021 AASLD FOUNDATION AUTOIMMUNE LIVER DISEASES PILOT RESEARCH AWARD ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST

Complete the eligibility checklist below and include the completed page as page 2 of your application package.

1. The applicant:

- Is at the pre-doctoral/graduate level, post-doctoral level, or
  - Is junior faculty within five (5) years of their faculty appointment date in an accredited North American (US, Canada, or Mexico) academic institution at the award start date (July 1, 2021)
- Confirm the applicant's actual or anticipated faculty start date: \_\_\_\_\_

2. The applicant confirms that (select all that apply):

- They are a member of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) at the time of award application and will maintain active membership for the duration of the award period.
- They will be able to devote at least 20% effort to the research project on which this application is based.
- They are 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 proposed project will be conducted at the sponsoring institution within the United States, Canada or Mexico.
- They have a mentor who is an AASLD member in good standing at the time of application and for the duration of the award period.

3. Projects with aims already funded by other awards will not be considered.

The applicant confirms that:

- They **have not** held nor currently hold any awards for the project aims described in this proposal.
- They **have** held or currently hold an award for the project aims described in this proposal.

### ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

In our efforts to fund more high-impact proposals, AASLD Foundation seeks partnerships with individual or private foundation donors that have expressed interest in supporting research projects in specific diseases or areas of focus.

Please indicate below if you give AASLD Foundation permission to share your de-identified application with potential individual or private (non-industry/corporate) foundation donors in the event your application is highly meritorious and matches with one of these opportunities.

- Yes, I agree to allow AASLD Foundation to share my de-identified application with potential individual donors or private (non-industry/corporate) foundations that have an interest in supporting research in my area of focus.
- No, I do not agree to allow AASLD Foundation to share my de-identified application with any potential private donors.

## Abstract of Proposed Research

*In the box below, briefly describe the research project, technical approach and anticipated results. Include this page as page 3 of your application package.*

## 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

*Complete and include as page 4 of your application package.*

Is this application a resubmission to the AASLD Foundation awards program?

- No.
- Yes. If yes, briefly describe how your resubmission responds to the issues and criticisms raised by reviewers in the original application in the box below. Also briefly describe any major additions, deletions, or changes to the application.

## **INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB)/ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC)**

*Complete this page and include it at the end of your application, with appropriate supporting documentation.*

### **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: