



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

AASLD FOUNDATION PINNACLE RESEARCH AWARD

Application Deadline: December 3, 2020
Award Period: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024 (3 Years)
Award Amount: \$300,000 (\$100,000/Year)

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 basic science award is to provide young scientists with support for their research to bridge the gap between completion of research training and attainment of status as an independent research scientist. The additional research experience provided by this award is intended to enable young scientists to successfully compete for research awards from national sources, particularly the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Well-trained investigators who hold MD, PhD, or MD/PhD degrees and are pursuing a career in liver disease research are encouraged to apply.

The Pinnacle Research Award is intended to develop the potential of outstanding, young scientists and encourage research in liver physiology and disease. Individuals who are already well-established in the field are not eligible for this award.

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. 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.

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 \$300,000 will be provided over three (3) years (\$100,000 per 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.
- Annual renewal will depend on scientific progress, verification of faculty status, and other received or pending research funding.
- 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 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).
 - i. If the applicant does not have a faculty appointment at the time of application, a letter signed by the department chair confirming that the applicant will have a faculty appointment (i) no later than the Award start date and (ii) for the full award cycle must be submitted.
 - 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.
 - Be able to devote at least 50% effort to the research project on which this application is based.
 - Be sponsored by a research mentor. The mentor must be an AASLD member in good standing at the time of application and maintain active membership for the duration of the award period.
 - 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.
 - Not hold/have held any other similar award that is intended to primarily support the salary of young investigators, including but not limited to: NIH R01, PO1, R29, R21, or any K award; American Liver Foundation Liver Scholar Award; Veterans Administration Merit Review Grant or Career Development Award; AGA Industry Award, Glaxo Institute for Digestive Health Award; American Heart Association Award.
 - i. The AASLD Foundation must be notified immediately if the applicant receives another research award during the application process or after the receipt of an award.
2. The proposed project must:
 - Be conducted at the sponsoring institution within the United States, Canada or Mexico.
 - Be a basic science research project.
3. Application limits:
 - Applicants may only apply for one (1) AASLD Foundation (AASLDF) award per application cycle.

Selection Criteria

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

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.

Junior Faculty: Faculty at or below the rank of Assistant Professor for no more than five years at the start of the award.

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 PINNACLE - Last name, first name (Example: 2021 PINNACLE – 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.

1	Cover Pages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use pages 6-7 of this RFA as your application's cover pages. Complete all information and include all required signatures. Signatures may be digital, electronic, or "wet."
2	Abstract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide your project's abstract on page 8 of this application.
3	Resubmission Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete page 9 of this application and include with cover pages. 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.
4	Applicant's and Mentor's Biosketch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit five pages each Provide a biographical sketch for the applicant and mentor using the current SF424 Form (see glossary).
5	Research Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit eight pages, 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.)
6	Research Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounting of all other institutional, federal and non-federal support is required. The NIH "Other Support" form (link goes to direct download) 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit one page each If applicable, letters of collaborative or mentoring arrangements that are significant to the proposal may be included.
9	Candidate's Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Department Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit one page Letter should be provided from the head of the candidate's department explicitly confirming that a minimum of 50% of the available time will be devoted to research activities on which this application is based during the award. Letter should confirm and describe the institution's support of the candidate and commitment to their research success. If the applicant does not have a faculty appointment at the time of award application, the Department Chair letter must confirm that the applicant will have a faculty appointment (i) no later than the Award start date and (ii) for the full award cycle.

11	Letters of Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two letters, limit one page each• One letter must be from the applicant's mentor.• Letters should attest to the candidate's qualifications, commitment to research and quality of scientific work should be submitted with the application.• The mentor's letter should confirm and describe their personal support of the candidate and commitment to their success.
12	Institutional Review Board (IRB) or IACUC Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use page 10 of this application to verify if IRB or IACUC approval is needed for this project.• If human or animal subjects are to be used, verification of IRB 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 the time of application.

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 PINNACLE RESEARCH AWARD

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

2021 AASLD FOUNDATION PINNACLE 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 a junior faculty member (at or below the rank of Assistant Professor for no more than five years at the start of the award); or
- Has a faculty appointment that will start on or prior to the award start date.

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 50% 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 or co-mentor who is an AASLD member in good standing at the time of application and for the duration of the award period.

3. Applicants cannot hold other similar research awards that are intended to primarily support the salary of young investigators, including but not limited to: NIH R01, PO1, R29, R21, or any K award; American Liver Foundation Liver Scholar Award; Veterans Administration Merit Review Grant or Career Development Award; AGA Industry Award, Glaxo Institute for Digestive Health Award; American Heart Association Award

The applicant confirms that:

- They **have not** held nor currently hold any similar research awards that are intended to primarily support the salary of young investigators.
- They **have** held or currently hold a similar research award that intended to primarily support the salary of young investigators.

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: