



Research  
Scholars

A close-up photograph of a Black woman with voluminous, curly hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a dark blue top. The background is softly blurred with purple and blue tones.

# Gilead's Research Scholars Program in HIV

**Building the Future Together**

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# Research Scholars Program Overview

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The Research Scholars Program supports innovative research from emerging investigators around the world to incorporate new perspectives in our pursuit of scientific understanding and progress. We believe that new voices and research topics are needed to advance scientific knowledge in areas of unmet medical need and create a healthier world.

Since 2008, Gilead's Research Scholars Program has invested more than \$31 million USD into meaningful basic, translational and clinical scientific research conducted by more than 250 scholars to help transform scientific understanding, address knowledge gaps and drive medical breakthroughs.

Each of our Research Scholars Programs is overseen by a scientific review committee comprised of distinguished experts in their respective fields who are independent from Gilead to ensure equal, objective evaluation of all applicants and their applications. This enables us to maintain the program's overall integrity and competitive standards, and to ensure awards support the next generation of breakthrough scientific discovery.

Each award is funded up to \$180,000 USD over 2-years, paid as annual installments of \$90,000 USD per year directly to the scholars' institution. Funding for the second year is contingent upon submission of a progress report and approval by the co-chairs of the scientific review committee.

## Diversity Fosters Innovation

The Research Scholars Program is actively working towards reducing potential barriers to entry and success for applicants from population groups who are typically underrepresented in research.

We are committed to supporting researchers and research projects addressing unmet patient needs and health inequities in order to build a more inclusive research landscape.

Award selections are made without discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, genetic information or characteristic, gender identity and expression.



# HIV Program Overview

The program is designed to support any basic and clinical research that addresses an unmet medical need in the field of HIV, in North America and globally. Areas of research may include, but are not limited to:

- Basic, clinical, behavioral, epidemiological, implementation science and community-based participatory research
- Health inequities faced by certain population groups
- Management of complications, co-morbidities and/or co-infections e.g., HIV and aging
- HIV Prevention
- Digital Models and Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Health economics outcomes research



## The HIV program provides a minimum of 4 awards

Awards granted under the program may not be duplicative of funding from institutional or hospital, other governmental, non-governmental, or industry sources. Applicants seeking an award for research projects that are currently receiving or may receive partial funding from other sources are required to submit appropriate evidence, including budget information related to the other sources, to demonstrate that there is no direct overlap in funding.

Proposals utilizing Gilead product(s) are not eligible for funding through the Research Scholars Program. Proposals involving Gilead product(s) should be submitted for review under the Investigator-Sponsored Research Grant Program through the [ISR online portal](#).

The Research Scholars Program is intended to support independent research by emerging investigators that is unrelated to Gilead's strategies or priorities. However, all research projects selected by the Scientific Review Committee will need to be approved by an internal validation committee that, in rare circumstances, may be unable to support certain clinical interventional studies (e.g., studies focused solely on the safety and/or efficacy of non-Gilead products).

## Program Timeline

**Q&A Webinar with Scientific Review Committee:** June 6, 2024, 12 PM to 1 PM, Eastern Time [Register Here](#)

**Application Deadline:** July 8, 2024, 11:59 PM, Pacific Time

**Applicant Notification:** December 23, 2024



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**The Gilead Research Scholars program allowed me to fund critical research at an early stage of my independent career, which I could not have done without the award.**

”

– Dr. Daniel Hodson

If you are chosen for an award, Gilead will set up a contract with your institution. One year after the contract starts, you'll be requested to present your progress virtually to the Scientific Review Committee along with the other awardees from your cycle. When the project is finished, you'll be asked to present the final project virtually to the Scientific Review Committee and Gilead Sciences.

## Eligibility Criteria

The Research Scholars Program in the field of HIV is open to emerging investigators from the US.

This award is intended for junior faculty who meet the criteria for Early Stage Investigator, as defined by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) (<https://grants.nih.gov/policy/early-investigators/index.htm>). Note, those who have received substantial NIH research awards, such as being a PI on an R01, P01, or U01, are not Early Stage Investigators, according to NIH criteria. A list of NIH grants that a PI can hold and still be considered an Early Stage Investigator can be found at: <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/early-investigators/list-smaller-grants.htm>.

Please be aware that some entities have their own restrictions against acceptance of the RSP Award, for example the NIH Loan Repayment Program. Please check before preparing your application.

### In addition, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Hold an MD, DO, PhD, or equivalent degree at time of award
- Received your initial faculty appointment within the last 5 years at the time of application
- Have a strong career interest in HIV
- Have a research mentor with extensive experience in their field (co-mentorship is accepted)
- Be able to devote approximately 50% of professional time to research versus administrative, patient care, or teaching responsibilities
- Be able to complete the proposed research within the 2-year award period, providing evidence (manuscript, presentation, or abstracts) for future research projects

**The Research Scholars Program is actively working towards reducing potential barriers to entry and success for applicants from population groups who are typically underrepresented in research. Award selections are made without discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, genetic information or characteristic, gender identity and expression.**

### Citizenship

An applicant must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States or subject to the qualifications noted below hold a temporary non-immigrant visa/work permit. This visa must be valid and must allow the applicant to undertake the research over the 2-year award period from the United States. This non-immigrant visa/work permit must be valid for the 2-year award period or applicant must be able to establish that he or she is eligible for an extension, renewal or other status that will enable the applicant to perform the research in the applicable jurisdiction for the entirety of the 2-year award period.

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**The Gilead Research Scholars Program award provided additional support and funding to really make my research more innovative.**

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– Dr. Kristine Mace Erlandson



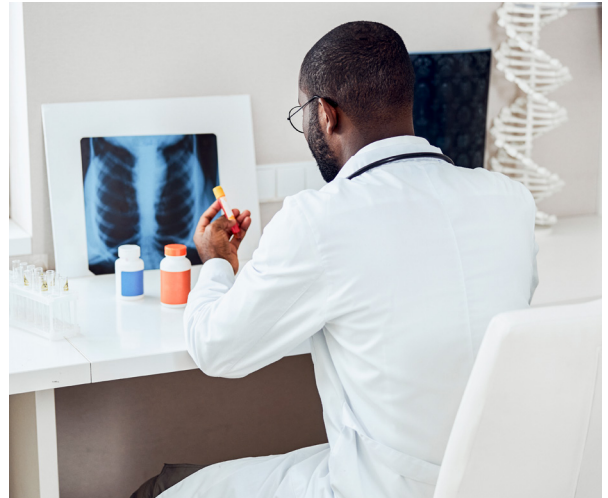
# Application Information

Applications must be completed online via the [program portal](#) and submitted electronically with the required supplementary materials.

Applications are reviewed and selected by an independent Scientific Review Committee comprised of internationally recognized experts in basic and clinical research in the field of HIV.

Gilead Sciences is not involved in the review and/or selection of awardees in order to maintain the scientific integrity and independence of the program.

Proposals utilizing Gilead product(s) are not eligible for funding through the Research Scholars Program. Proposals involving Gilead product(s) should be submitted for review under the Investigator-Sponsored Research Grant Program through the [ISR online portal](#).



Applications will initially be triaged by 3 Scientific Review Committee members per application and marked as competitive or non-competitive. The competitive applications will then be reviewed based on the selection criteria by 2 Scientific Review Committee members per application.

The highest scoring applications from this in-depth review will then be individually discussed at length during a review meeting by all Scientific Review Committee members where awardees and runners up are then selected by consensus.

All of the applications that make it through to this final stage are highly competitive and will receive feedback outlining their research proposal strengths and areas for development regardless of whether they are selected for an award.

**The committee will consider the following criteria when evaluating applications:**

## 1. Evaluation of the applicant

- Potential impact of award on career in HIV-related research
- Academic record
- Prior research experience and/or publications

## 2. Evaluation of the Mentor and Mentoring Support

A mentor is someone who makes a commitment to your research career. They should be responsible for guiding not only your research proposal but also your application for funding and help you with your professional development and advancement.

As mentorship can come from different people for different aspects of your research career, we do allow co-mentorship although ask that one of your mentors be located within your institution.

The following will be considered:

- Letter of support from the mentor(s) which includes the mentors track record of productivity, funding and success with prior trainees; detailed description of the mentoring plan including resources allocated to the proposed research project, provision of projected time and available laboratory facilities (if relevant)
- The mentor(s) is an independent investigator
- The mentor(s) has the experience to direct the proposed research training, as evidenced by the letter of support
- The mentoring training plan and mentor-mentee relationship is sufficient to facilitate the applicants progress towards their research career goals
- Letter of support from the department chair or division chief to document the institution is willing, and has the ability, to commit the resources necessary for the applicant to complete the proposed research, including sufficient protected time

**It's important that your mentor reviews your research proposal and associated documentation before submission to ensure it is at the highest standard and submitted error free.**

For more guidance on mentorship, the NIH has some helpful resources here:

[https://www.training.nih.gov/mentoring\\_guidelines](https://www.training.nih.gov/mentoring_guidelines)



### 3. Evaluation of the proposal

- **Innovation and Significance:** The research proposal is new and original and addresses an important question/issue related to HIV. The proposed study will have an effect on concepts, methods, and/or technologies related to HIV research.
- **Approach:** The conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses are adequately developed, well-integrated, well-reasoned, feasible (as determined by preliminary data or the expertise available), and appropriate to the aims of the project. The applicant acknowledges potential problem areas and considers alternative tactics.
- **Feasibility:** The project, as described in the submitted proposal and budget, can be accomplished within the timeframe of the award.

## Budget Guidelines

Each selected Awardee is funded up to \$180,000 USD (inclusive of any indirect costs), to be paid in two annual installments of up to \$90,000 USD per year directly to the researcher's institution. Funding for the second year is contingent upon submission of a progress report by each junior faculty researcher and approval by the Co-Chairs of the Scientific Review Committee.

An itemized budget must be submitted with the proposal, consistent with the following guidelines:

#### Indirect Costs

To maximize the research benefit of the award, the program encourages that every effort be made to minimize the utilization of the award to cover indirect costs. Indirect costs may not exceed 10% of the award value, and are included as part of the budget, not as an addition to the value of the award (subject to local variances to be approved by Gilead Sciences).

Indirect costs are defined as overhead costs paid directly to the institution, for example maintenance of labs/space and departmental/admin costs.

#### Salaries

The applicant may allocate up to \$75,000 USD per year in salary and fringe benefits support for the applicant and/or a technician.

Salaries and fringe benefits for mentors or students may not be included.

#### Supplies

Supplies such as disposables, chemicals, reagent kits, animals, etc, may be included.

Purchases of durable equipment is not allowed within the budgets, however, the budget can support rental/lease of this durable equipment.

- Durable equipment would be lab tools and devices that are designed for use over a long period of time (e.g. many years), being resistant to wear and generally would be items that can be rented
- Durable equipment excludes lab supplies and similar single-use or disposable products
- Equipment purchases with a single item value of greater than \$2,500 USD may not be included. Rental of equipment is preferred where possible

#### Travel

Up to \$1,500 USD per year for applicant's travel to a scientific meeting for presentation of data may be included.

*If the research project includes investigations on human subjects, a copy of the submission to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) must be submitted prior to award. Award will be contingent upon IRB approval.*

*If the research project involves laboratory animals, researcher must certify that he/she will comply with all laws and regulations pertaining to care and use of animals in research prior to award.*



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# Scientific Review Committee

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Applications will be reviewed by the Committee, comprised of internationally recognized experts in basic and clinical research in the field of HIV:

## Co-Chairs



**Alan L. Landay, PhD**  
**Vice President of Team Science**  
**Professor of Medicine and**  
**Microbiology/Immunology**  
University of Texas Medical Branch  
Galveston, TX



**Christine Durand, MD**  
**Associate Professor**  
**Division of Infectious Diseases**  
Johns Hopkins University  
School of Medicine  
Baltimore, MD

## Committee



**Eric S. Daar, MD**  
**Chief, Division of HIV Medicine** Harbor-  
UCLA Medical Center  
**Professor of Medicine**  
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA  
Los Angeles, CA



**Georgia D. Tomaras, PhD**  
**Professor of Immunology,**  
**Molecular Genetics &**  
**Microbiology, and Surgery**  
Duke University Medical Center  
Durham, NC



**Eric Hunter, PhD**  
**Professor, Pathology & Laboratory**  
**Medicine**  
Emory University School of Medicine  
Atlanta, GA



**David Alain Wohl, MD**  
**Professor, Division of Infectious**  
**Diseases Site Leader, UNC AIDS**  
**Trials Unit at Chapel Hill**  
The University of North Carolina at  
Chapel Hill, NC



**Nancie M. Archin, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor of Medicine**  
UNC HIV Cure Center  
The University of North Carolina at  
Chapel Hill, NC



**Oni Blackstock, MD, MHS**  
**Founder and Executive Director**  
Health Justice  
New York, NY



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# Contact Information

For more information about the Gilead's HIV program and to receive updates about future program cycles, visit:

[https://researchscholars.gilead.com/en/hiv\\_portal](https://researchscholars.gilead.com/en/hiv_portal)



Please subscribe to the portal in order to be informed about future program cycle timelines.



For general inquiries about the Research Scholars Program, please contact:

**Gilead Sciences Research Scholars Program in HIV**

**Attn:** Research Scholars Program Coordinator

**Email:** [gileadsciencesrsp@bcdme.com](mailto:gileadsciencesrsp@bcdme.com)