Gilead's Research Scholars Programs in Oncology Solid Tumors

2023-24 Cycle: Focused on breast, bladder, and lung cancer research only
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Research Scholars Program Overview

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 240 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 two 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 chair 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.
Solid Tumors Program Overview

The program is designed to support any basic and clinical research focused on breast, bladder, or lung cancer that addresses an unmet medical need in the field of Oncology Solid Tumors, in the United States.

This may include, but is not limited to, research focused on:
• Disparities and inequities in cancer care
• Agnostic approaches to breast, bladder, or lung cancer
• Combinational drug strategies/approaches to treatment
• Resistance mechanism identification/novel approaches to addressing resistance mechanisms
• Transformative, therapeutic modalities/approaches to treatment
• Patient-specific factors that are predictors of toxicity
• Genomic polymorphisms that impact treatment response
• Novel targets and/or biomarkers/imaging techniques
• Novel diagnostic, prevention and treatment strategies
• Research to improve Quality of Life (QoL) Patient-Reported Outcomes (PRO’s) e.g., adverse events, addressing unmet needs for patients
• Any other basic, translational and clinical research that addresses an unmet medical need or gap in scientific knowledge

The Solid Tumors program provides a minimum of 4 awards

Program Timeline
Application Deadline: January 19, 2024 11:59 PM, Pacific Standard Time
Applicant Notification: April 12, 2024

“\nThe 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\n”
Eligibility Criteria

The Research Scholars Program in Solid Tumors is open to emerging investigators from the United States. For the 2023-24 cycle, the program will focus on Breast, Bladder, and Lung cancer.

Applicants must meet the following requirements:
- MD or PhD (or an equivalent degree) at time of award
- Received an initial faculty appointment within the last 7 years in association with a research institution in the United States at the time of application
- Have a strong career interest in Oncology Solid Tumors
- Have a research mentor with extensive experience in the field of Solid Tumors
- Be able to devote at least 30% of professional time to research for the next two years (versus administrative, patient care, or teaching responsibilities)
- Be able to complete the proposed research within the two-year award period, providing evidence (manuscript, presentation, or abstracts) resulting from the research

Exceptions to the above can apply, for example, having taken time out for parental leave or family bereavement

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 two-year award period from the United States. This non-immigrant visa/work permit must be valid for the two-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 two-year award period.

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

– 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, translational, and clinical research in the field of Oncology Solid Tumors.

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.

All applications are reviewed by two Scientific Review Committee members based on the criteria listed below.

The highest scoring applications will then be discussed at length by all Scientific Review Committee members at a review meeting. The awardees and runners up are then selected by consensus of the committee.

All the applications that make it through to this stage are deemed highly competitive and will receive feedback outlining their research proposal strengths and areas for development.

The committee will consider the following criteria when evaluating applications:

1. Evaluation of the applicant
   - Potential for a career in Oncology related research
   - Academic record (presentations, publications etc)
   - Prior research experience and/or publications focused on Oncology Solid Tumors

2. Evaluation of the Mentor Support and Mentoring Plan
   - 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
     - Letter of support from mentor(s) which includes: mentor's 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 protected 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 applicant's 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.

3. Evaluation of the proposal
   - Innovation and Significance: The research proposal is new and original and addresses an important question/issue related to Solid Tumors. The proposed study will have an effect on concepts, methods, and/or technologies related to Solid Tumors 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 Chair 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 with a single item value of greater than $2,500 is not permitted 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.

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

The above are guidelines only and can be addressed on a case by case basis if necessary for the research.

*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.*
### Scientific Review Committee

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

**Chair**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title and Institution</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sara M. Tolaney, MD, MPH</td>
<td>Chief, Division of Breast Oncology</td>
<td>Boston, MA</td>
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<td>Associate Director, Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers</td>
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<td>Senior Physician, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute</td>
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<td>Associate Professor of Medicine Harvard Medical School</td>
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**Committee**

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<td>Jaffer A. Ajani, MD</td>
<td>Professor of Medicine</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
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<td>MD Anderson Cancer Center</td>
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<td>Taofeek K. Owonikoko, MD, PhD, MS</td>
<td>Professor of Medicine</td>
<td>Pittsburgh, PA</td>
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<td>Edith Mitchell, MD</td>
<td>Professor of Medicine and Medical Oncology</td>
<td>Philadelphia, PA</td>
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<td>Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Jefferson</td>
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<td>Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center</td>
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<td>Petros Grivas, MD, PhD</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Seattle, WA</td>
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<td>Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center</td>
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<td>Mary Jo Fidler, MD</td>
<td>Medical Oncology Section Chief Professor</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
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<td>Adam Brufsky, MD, PhD</td>
<td>Professor of Medicine</td>
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<td>UPMC Hillman Cancer Center</td>
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<td>Bora Lim, MD</td>
<td>Associate Professor of Medicine</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
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<td>Komal Jhaveri, MD</td>
<td>Associate Professor of Medicine</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
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<td>Gregory Cote, MD, PhD</td>
<td>Assistant Professor of Medicine</td>
<td>Boston, MA</td>
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<td>Mass General Hospital Cancer Center</td>
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<td>Jhanelle Gray, MD</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Tampa, FL</td>
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<td>University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine</td>
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Contact Information

For more information about the Gilead’s Solid Tumors program and to receive updates about future program cycles, visit:


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

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

Gilead Sciences Research Scholars Program in Oncology Solid Tumors

Attn: RSP Coordinator // ST US

Email: gileadsciencesrsp@bcdme.com