



Research  
Scholars

Hematologic Malignancies

## Program Information

The Research Scholars Program supports innovative basic and clinical 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 research conducted by more than 240 scholars to help transform scientific understanding, address knowledge gaps and drive medical breakthroughs.

The program provides financial support to the institutions of 4 early career researchers for a two year period. Each award is funded up to \$180,000 USD (inclusive of any indirect costs), to be paid in annual instalments of up to \$90,000 USD per year for two years. Funding for the second year is contingent upon submission of a progress report by each early career researcher and approval by the Chair of the [Scientific Review Committee](#) which oversees the program.

Recipients of these competitive awards under the program will be selected by a Committee comprised of leaders in the field of Hematologic Malignancies (the "Scientific Review Committee" or the "Committee"). The Committee will review complete applications and select research proposals based on their scientific merit, feasibility, and innovation. Announcement of Award Recipients will be made at an awards acknowledgement session hosted by the Committee and senior representatives from Gilead.

Applicants must meet the [eligibility](#) criteria in order to be considered for an award.

## **All applicants must meet the following requirements:**

- Hold an MD or PhD (equivalent degree) at time of award. MD qualifications would have to have been obtained within the last 10 years and PhD qualifications would have to have been obtained within the last 5 years
- Early to Mid-career scientists with a strong research track record who hold a position at a recognised research institution in one of the eligible countries at the time of application (see below for list of countries) and whose tenure of that position encompasses the projected period of the award from the Gilead and Kite scholarship program
- Have a strong career interest in hematology/oncology
- Have a research mentor with extensive experience in the field of hematology/oncology
- 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**
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- 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.
- 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.

## **Citizenship**

- The Research Scholars Program in hematologic malignancies is open to emerging investigators from countries with the following regions and countries:
- **Europe, Asia, Australasia and South America**

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- An applicant must be a citizen or permanent resident of one of the eligible countries or subject to the requirements noted below with regards to temporary visa/work permit. This visa must be valid for the duration of the award period or the applicant must be able to demonstrate that they are eligible for an extension, renewal or other status that will enable the applicant to undertake the research for the entirety of the two-year award.
- This program is designed to support innovative translational research projects that address unmet
- medical needs in Hematologic Malignancies in Australia, Canada, and Europe.

Areas of research may include, but are not limited to:

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- Health inequities and disparities in cancer care
- A broad range of adult or paediatric blood cancers
- Clinical treatment modalities (IO, cell therapy, targeted therapies etc)
- Understanding the mechanisms of patient response or resistance to treatments
- Research to improve Quality of Life (QoL) / Patient-Report Outcomes (PROs) e.g. adverse events, addressing unmet needs for patients
- Any other basic, translational and/or clinical research that addresses an unmet medical need or a gap in scientific knowledge
- Novel diagnostic, prevention, and treatment strategies
- Patient-specific factors that are predictors of toxicity
- Transformative therapeutic modalities/approaches to treatment
- Agnostic approaches to Hematologic Malignancies

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 utilising Gilead or Kite product(s) are not eligible for funding through the Research Scholars Program. Proposals involving Gilead or Kite product(s) should be submitted for review under the Investigator-Sponsored Research Grant Program through the ISR online portal.**

*Proposals are reviewed by an independent Scientific Review Committee, (no Commercial involvement in review or selection, i.e., Marketing, Sales, and Commercial Strategy), and are reviewed based upon the criteria outlined on this website.*

**While the Research Scholars Program is intended to support independent research by emerging investigators that is unrelated to Gilead's and Kite's strategies, all research projects selected by the Scientific Review Committee will need to be approved by an internal validation committee that may, in rare circumstances, be unable to support research if it directly compromises the existing Gilead and/or Kite Oncology portfolio of evidence.**

All applications are initially reviewed by three Scientific Review Committee members as part of a triage and are marked as competitive vs. non-competitive.

Each competitive application is then further 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.**

**In their evaluation, the Committee will consider the following criteria:**

### **Criterion 1: Evaluation of the Applicant**

- Potential for a career in hematology/oncology related research, with a focus on hematologic malignancies
- Academic record (presentations, publications etc)
- Prior research experience and/or publications focused on Hematologic Malignancies

### **Criterion 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.**

### **Criterion 3: Evaluation of the Proposal**

- *Innovation and Significance:* The research proposal is new and original and addresses an important question/issue related to Hematologic Malignancies. The proposed study will have an effect on concepts, methods, and/or technologies related to Hematologic Malignancies 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.