



GILEAD

Research
Scholars

The Research Scholars Program supports innovative pre-clinical 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 3 early career researchers for a 2 year period. Each award is funded up to \$180,000 USD (inclusive of any indirect costs), to be paid in annual installments of up to \$90,000 USD per year for 2 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 Oncology Solid Tumors (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 awardee scientific meeting hosted by the committee and senior representatives from Gilead.

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

The program is designed to support pre-clinical and clinical research in the field of Oncology Solid Tumors in Australia, Canada, and Europe. **For the 2024 cycle, the program will focus on Breast, Bladder, and Lung cancer.** Areas of research may include, but are not limited to:

- Disparities and inequities in cancer care
- Agnostic approaches to target solid tumors
- 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 and 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 pre-clinical or clinical research that addresses an unmet medical need or gap in scientific knowledge

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.

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 clinical interventional studies that might compromise existing Gilead portfolio evidence e.g., focused solely on the safety and/or efficacy of competitor products, direct comparisons of Gilead products with competitors, etc.

For the 2023-24 cycle, the program will focus on Breast, Bladder, and Lung cancer.

All applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Hold an MD, or PhD, (or 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 as 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 scholarship program
- Have a strong career interest in Oncology Solid Tumors
- Have a research mentor with extensive experience in the field of Oncology Solid Tumors
- Be able to devote at least 30% of their 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 2-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.

- 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

Applicants must reside in one of the following eligible countries/regions:

Europe (all countries), Canada or Australia

An applicant must be a citizen or permanent resident of the country/region in which they propose to conduct the research, or subject to the qualifications noted below hold a temporary study or non-immigrant visa. This visa must be valid and must allow the applicant to undertake the research over the two-year award period from the country/region in which they propose to conduct the research. 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.

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.

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

Criterion 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

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 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.

If you are chosen for an award, Gilead will get in touch with you and we'll need to set up a contract with your institution. You will also receive an invitation to present your research to the Scientific Review Committee, Gilead Medical Affairs colleagues, RSP Alumni, and your mentor. This presentation will always occur around one of the key conferences in Oncology Solid Tumors.

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.

As an alumnus of the program, you'll be invited to all future RSP events, which will help you build your networking skills and collaborate with your peers. You'll also be invited to join Gilead's Alumni community, a closed LinkedIn group. After the research is complete, Gilead may contact you each year to answer a few basic questions about its impact on your career and the scientific community which is important to demonstrate the value of the program.



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Submission Deadline: 15 March 2024, 11:59 PM Central European Time

No applications will be accepted after this date

Applications must be completed online and submitted electronically with the required supplementary materials.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact **Research Scholars Program Coordinator**

Email: gileadsciencersp@bcdme.com

Application

Applicants must complete the online Application Form (all fields must be completed or the applicant will not be able to submit) and include the following supplementary materials as specified:

- Research abstract
- Research proposal
- Applicant's biosketch, inclusive of publications, using the template provided ([Download Applicants biosketch Template](#))
- Mentor's biosketch, if applicable, using the template provided ([Download Mentor's biosketch Template](#))
- Letter of support from mentor 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
- Bibliography of relevant references
- Detailed budget and completed budget summary
- Acknowledgment of Indirect Costs Limitation, using the form provided ([Download Acknowledgement of Indirect Costs](#))
- Current or Pending Applications for Funding, using the form provided ([Download List of Current or Pending Applications for Funding](#))
- Letter of support from the department chair or division chief that documents 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

All information you submit to Gilead will be subject to Gilead's Research Scholars Program [Privacy Statement](#)

The Research Proposal must be submitted using the [provided guidelines](#).

Proposals utilising 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 Proposal must include:

Research Abstract

Provide an abstract of no more than 325 words outlining the applicant's proposed research.

Research Description

Proposal must be submitted using the [provided guidelines](#). It should single-spaced, using 11 point Arial font, and limited to 5 pages total - not including the bibliography or budget. Research proposals over 5 pages will not be accepted. **Please include your bibliography with the research proposal but do not count these pages in the 5 page total.**

The proposal must include:

1. Title of the research project
2. Description of relevant past work by the applicant, including joint collaboration and references
3. Introductory Statement, Background, Preliminary Data, and Rationale
4. Specific Aims
5. Research Design and Methods
6. Significance and Statement of Relevance

Budget Guidelines

Each selected Awardee is funded up to \$180,000 USD (inclusive of any indirect costs), to be paid in two annual instalments 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 itemised budget must be submitted with the proposal, consistent with the following guidelines:

Indirect Costs:

- In an effort to maximise the research benefit of the award, the program encourages that every effort be made to minimise the utilisation of the award to cover indirect costs. Indirect costs may not exceed 10% of the award value. This award is developed as a gift and is not considered a research grant

Salaries:

- The applicant may allocate up to \$ 75,000 USD per year in salary and fringe benefits support for the applicant and/or a lab tech or similar position type
- 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.

The timeline, from application submission to award disbursement, is below:

Application Deadline: 15 March 2024, 11:59 PM Central European Time

Applicant Notification: 12 July 2024