



**GILEAD**

Research  
Scholars

# Gilead's Research Scholars Program in HIV

Building the  
Future Together



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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 \$130,000 USD over two years, paid as annual installments of \$65,000 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.



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# HIV Program Overview

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

- Basic, clinical, behavioural, epidemiological, implementation science and community-based participatory research
- Management of complications, co-morbidities and/or co-infections e.g. HIV and aging
- HIV Prevention



**The HIV program provides a minimum of 3 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 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](#).**

## Program Timeline

**Application Deadline:** December 20, 2022, 11:59 PM, Central European Time

**Applicant Notification:** April 7, 2023



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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

# Eligibility Criteria

The Research Scholars Program in the field of HIV is open to emerging investigators from the Europe, Canada and Australia.

## Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- 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 duration of the award
  - For candidates who are clinicians, they should have graduated with a medical degree, have post-graduate clinical experience and undertaken a period of post graduate research leading to the award of a higher degree (PhD, MD by research or equivalent) and be no more than 7 years post PhD or 12 years post-graduation from medical school
  - For candidates who are not clinical doctors, they should have research experience to the level of PhD and should be no more than 7 years post PhD
- Have a strong career interest in HIV
- Have a research mentor with extensive experience in their field (co-mentorship is permissible)
- Be able to devote approximately 50% of their professional time to research for the next 2 years
- Be able to complete the proposed research within the 2-year award period

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

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

Europe (all countries), Canada and 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.

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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



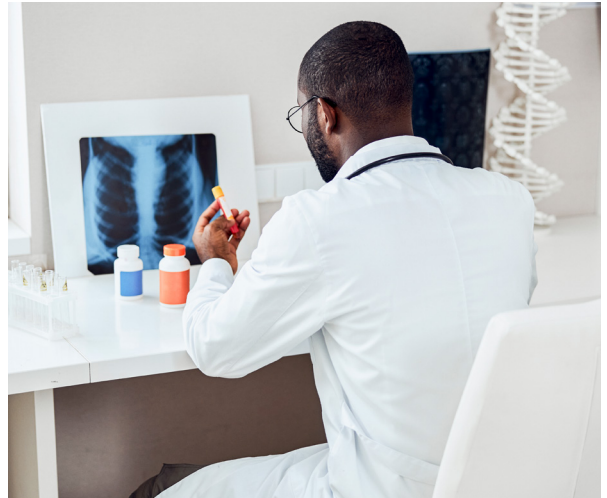
# Application Information

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 recognised 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 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](#).**



Applications will be initially reviewed and scored by 2 Scientific Review Committee members on the one page research summary submitted per application. The scores allocated will then be discussed at an initial review meeting by all Scientific Review Committee members and the top 8 scoring applications will be then be selected for the next review stage.

The top 8 applications will then be reviewed and scored by all Scientific Review Committee members and then individually discussed at length during a review meeting where awardees and runners up are then selected by consensus. All applications that make it through to this final stage are highly competitive and will receive feedback outlining their research proposals 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 for a 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 National Institutes of Health (NIH), in the United States, 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 \$130,000 USD (inclusive of any indirect costs), to be paid in two annual installments of up to \$65,000 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 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

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, 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 \$50,000 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 recognised experts in basic and clinical research in the field of HIV:

## Chair



**Patrick Mallon, MBBCh, PhD, FRACP, FRCP1**  
**Professor and Consultant in Infectious Diseases**  
St Vincent's University Hospital  
Dublin, Ireland

## Committee



**Susanne Dam Poulsen MD, DMSc**  
**Professor Consultant**  
University of Copenhagen  
Rigshospitalet, Denmark



**Justyna Kowalska, MD**  
**Professor**  
Hospital for Infectious Diseases  
Warsaw, Poland



**Juan Berenguer, MD, PhD**  
**Professor**  
Infectious Diseases, Hospital General  
Univeritario, Gregorio Maranon  
Madrid, Spain



**Georg Behrens, MD**  
**Professor**  
Department of Rheumatology  
and Immunology  
Medical School  
Hanover, Germany



**Cristina Mussini, MD**  
**Professor**  
Clinic of Infectious Diseases  
University of Modena and Reggio  
Emilia, Italy



**Linos Vandekerckhove MD, PhD**  
**Professor**  
HIV Cure Centre  
Ghent University Hospital  
Ghent, Belgium



**Laura Waters, MD, FRCP**  
**GU/HIV Consultant & Hepatitis Lead**  
Mortimer Market Centre,  
University College London  
London, England



# 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/intl\\_hiv\\_portal](https://researchscholars.gilead.com/en/intl_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)



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