GILEAD | Research Scholars

Gilead's Research Scholars Program in Oncology Solid Tumors

2025-26 Cycle: Focused on breast, endometrial, upper gastrointestinal, and lung cancer research only

Approved for Use on 10 Nov 2025

04 NOV 2025 MA-UNB-GLB-ALL-00103

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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 a range of voices, new perspectives, and innovative research topics are needed to advance scientific knowledge in areas of unmet medical need and create a healthier world.

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 scholar's 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

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.

> **The Gilead Research Scholars Program award provided additional support and funding to really make my research more innovative.**
>
> – Dr. Kristine Mace Erlandson

* Award value is subject to country regulations

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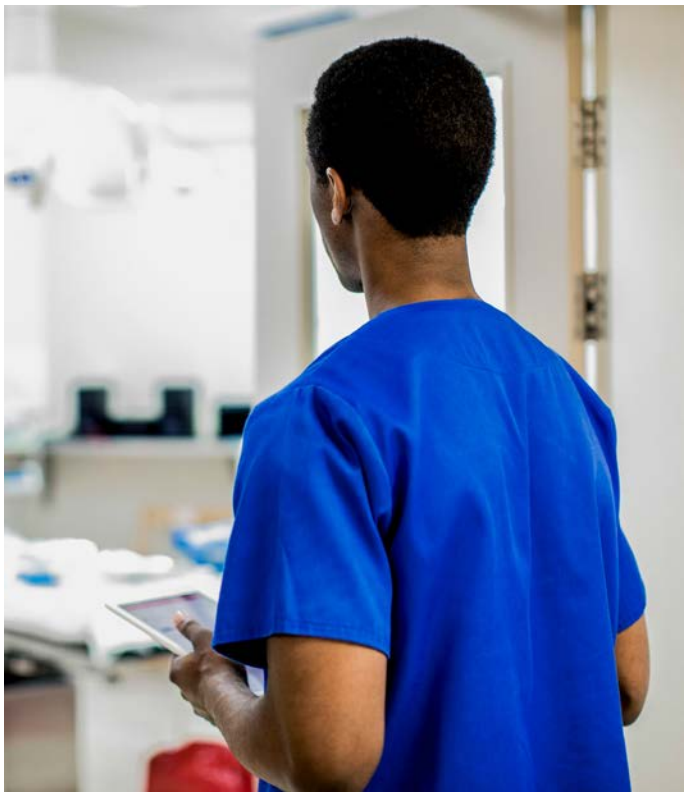
Solid Tumors Program Overview

The program is designed to support any pre-clinical or clinical research limited to **breast, endometrial, upper gastrointestinal** *(esophageal, gastric, & gastroesophageal junction cancer)* **or lung cancer** that addresses an unmet medical need in the field of Oncology Solid Tumors in Australia, Canada, or Europe.



This may include, but is not limited to, research focused on:

- Disparities and inequities in cancer care
- Agnostic approaches to breast, endometrial, upper gastrointestinal, 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 pre-clinical or clinical research that addresses an unmet medical need or gap in scientific knowledge

The Solid Tumors program provides a minimum of 3 awards

Program Timeline

Application Deadline: 13 March 2026, 11:59 PM, Central European Time

Applicant Notification: July 2026

> **Funding is important for a couple of reasons. It is recognition that your ideas exciting and have the potential to contact with a network of people that can help your research career as well**

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Eligibility Criteria

The Research Scholars Program in Solid Tumors is open to emerging investigators from Australia, Canada, or Europe. **For the 2025-26 cycle, the program will focus on breast, endometrial, upper gastrointestinal** (esophageal, gastric, & gastroesophageal junction cancer), **or lung cancer.**

Inclusion criteria:

- Early career scientists with a strong research track record of published research, who hold a position at a research institution for the duration of the award tenure
- Hold an MD or PhD (or equivalent degree) at the time of application submission
- MD qualifications should have been obtained within the last 10 years or PhD qualifications should have been obtained within the last 5 years

  Please note: this award is intended for those early in their career, therefore, those who undertook an MD outside of the 10 years and many years later studied a PhD most likely wouldn't be considered early career.
- Have a research mentor with extensive experience in their field of Oncology Solid Tumors (co-mentorship is accepted)
- Be able to devote at least 30% of professional time to research for 2-year award period (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
- Demonstrate a strong career interest in Oncology, Solid Tumors

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

Exclusion Criteria:

- Proposals utilizing Gilead product(s) are not eligible for funding through the Research Scholars Program.
- Clinical intervention research that is solely investigating Gilead competitor products. For example, studies focused solely on the safety, efficacy or tolerability of these products
- Co-principal investigators are not eligible for funding
- Duplicative funding: the RSP award cannot overlap with other current or pending funding. It can be used to support a larger research project, as long as it supports a specific component of it.
- Applicants on visas shorter than the 2-year award period who cannot provide evidence for the duration of the term for the contract
- Applicants who fall outside of the definition of 'early career investigators', for example, those who undertook a Medical Degree outside of the inclusion criteria and then completed a PhD (or other equivalent) many years later

  The RSP award is intended for promising early career investigators

Citizenship

The Research Scholars Program in Solid Tumors is open to:

- Europe
- Australia
- Canada

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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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 pre-clinical and clinical research in the field of Oncology Solid Tumors.

Proposals utilising Gilead and Kite product(s) are not eligible for funding through the Research Scholars Program.

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.
   - Letter of support from mentor(s) which includes: details on how they will support and mentor you with this research, their own track record of success with prior trainees and any resources they would allocate.
   - 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.

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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 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 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 $75,000 USD per year in salary and fringe benefits support for the applicant and/or a technician.

Salaries and fringe benefits for mentors, post-doctoral fellows, or students may not be included.

Supplies

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

Purchase of durable equipment over $2,500 USD is not permitted within the budgets, however, the budget can support rental/lease of this durable equipment. Rental of equipment is preferred where possible

- 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

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.

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Scientific Review Committee

Applications will be reviewed by the committee, comprised of internationally recognised experts in pre-clinical and clinical research in the field of Oncology Solid Tumors:

Chair

Evandro de Azambuja, MD, PhD
Head of Medical Support Team - ATPT
Institut Jules Bordet
Brussels, Belgium

Committee

Sheeba Irshad, MD, PhD
Medical Oncologist
Kings College London
London, United Kingdom

Christophe Borg, MD, PhD
Head of Department
Medical Oncology
University of Franche Comté
Besançon, France

Domenica Lorusso, MD, PhD
Director of Gynecological Oncology
Humanitas Clinical and Research Hospital
Milan, Italy

Jarushka Naidoo, MD
Professor of Medical Oncology
Beaumont Hospital
Dublin, Ireland

Nadia Harbeck, MD, PhD
Director Breast Cancer
LMU University Hospital
Munich, Germany

Lucia Del Mastro, MD
Director of Breast Unit
IRCCS Ospedale
Policlinico San Martino
Università di Genova
Genova, Italy

Enriqueta Felip, MD, PhD
Section in Chief, Medical Oncology Department
Head Thoracic Oncology Unit
Vall D'Hebron University Hospital
Barcelona, Spain

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Contact Information

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

https://researchscholars.gilead.com/solid_tumors_ace/about

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 // ACE Solid Tumors

Email: gileadsciencesrsp@bcdme.com

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