



2019 LIVER SCHOLAR AWARD
APPLICATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2018
AWARD PERIOD: JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2022

DESCRIPTION

The Liver Scholar Award provides early career scientists with support for their research to bridge the gap between completion of research training and attainment of status as an independent research scientist. The additional research experience provided by this award is intended to enable early career scientists to successfully compete for research awards from national sources, particularly the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Well-trained investigators who hold MD, PhD or MD/PhD degrees and are pursuing a career in liver disease research are encouraged to apply.

The Liver Scholar Award is intended to develop the potential of outstanding, early career scientists and encourage research in liver physiology and disease. Individuals who are already well-established in the field are not eligible for this award.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must meet the following guidelines in order to be eligible for a Liver Scholar Award:

1. Applicant must be sponsored by a public or private non-profit institution accredited in the United States, Canada or Mexico engaged in health care and health-related research.
2. Applicant must apply within the first three (3) years of his/her first faculty appointment (including prior appointments in universities outside of North America) and commence the award within the first four (4) years of faculty appointment.
3. If the applicant does not have a faculty appointment at the time of application, a letter signed by the department chair confirming that the applicant will have a faculty appointment (a) no later than the Liver Scholar Award start date and (b) for the full award cycle must be submitted.
4. At the time of application or during the Liver Scholar Award cycle, the applicant cannot hold or have held any of the following awards: NIH R01, P01, R29, R21, or any K award; AASLD Pinnacle Research Award in Liver Disease; Veterans Administration Merit Review, Associate Investigator, Research Associate, or Clinical Investigator Award; AGA Research Scholar Award; Glaxo Institute for Digestive Health Award; American Heart Association Award, or any other similar award that is intended to primarily support the salary of early career investigators.
5. The American Liver Foundation must be notified immediately if the applicant receives another research award during the application process or after the receipt of an award.
6. Applicant must be sponsored by a research mentor.
7. Applicant may only apply for one award or fellowship offered by the American Liver Foundation.

AWARD DETAILS

An award of \$225,000 will be provided over three years (\$75,000 per year) in quarterly installments of \$18,750. Funds may only be used for *salary support* for the recipient. No additional or indirect costs, benefits, fringe, travel, or technical support/laboratory supplies are covered under this award; it is expected that additional funds are available to the investigator in order to carry out the proposed research. Annual renewal will depend on scientific progress, verification of faculty status, and other received or pending research funding.

Recipients are directly responsible to the sponsoring institution. Awards cannot be transferred to another mentor or institution without prior written approval from the American Liver Foundation. Recipients must acknowledge the award in all publications (abstracts, manuscripts, or other documents) resulting from research performed during the tenure of this award. A maximum of one award will be made per mentor. If the award is relinquished prior to the specified end date of the award cycle, any funds applicable to the unused portion of time are to be returned to the American Liver Foundation.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants will be evaluated based upon their background, their commitment to a research career, the scientific merit of their research project and the environment in which they will conduct this project.

Applications will be reviewed based on the written materials submitted. **Incomplete applications and applications that fail to adhere strictly to the instructions (including the submission deadline and page limitations) will not be reviewed.** All decisions are final.

PROGRESS/FINANCIAL REPORTS

Scientific progress and financial reports must be sent to the American Liver Foundation at the end of the first award year and within 60 days of completion of the award. Annual renewal of the award is contingent upon receipt of reports.

Following the conclusion of the award, recipients must provide an updated bibliography once a year for three (3) years of articles published or accepted for publication resulting from work performed during the tenure of the award, including after termination or completion of the Liver Scholar Agreement.

THE LIVER MEETING[®]

The award recipient is strongly encouraged to both attend and present their work at The Liver Meeting[®].

RESEARCH AWARD GLOSSARY

Advanced Fellow: A research fellow who will have completed at least two years of fellowship training/research at the start of the award.

Collaborator: An individual who works with the principal investigator in the scientific development or execution of the project. This individual would typically devote a specific percent of effort to the project and would be identified as key personnel. The collaborator may be employed by or affiliated with either the grantee organization or an organization participating in the project under a consortium or contractual agreement.

Indirect Costs: Costs that are necessary to support a particular activity project or program but that cannot be easily or directly attributed to such activity, project or program. Examples of indirect costs are rent, utilities, and administrative personnel.

Junior Faculty: Faculty at or below the rank of Assistant Professor for no more than four years at the time of the award.

Mentor: Senior professional who provide guidance, direction and support to the applicant. This person should have a vested interest in the career development and research experience of the applicant.

Public Health Service (PHS) 398 Form and NIH Guidelines: The PHS 398 Form is the application form used to obtain federal grant support. According to NIH guidelines, the research plan should contain: title, specific aims, background and clinical significance, preliminary results, and methods. To access the PHS 398 Form via the Web, go to www.grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html and select "Biographical Sketch Format Page."

Senior Faculty: Faculty at or above the rank of Associate Professor.

Grant Administrator: The staff member who oversees new grant agreements and grant payments; ensure that grants comply with relevant laws and regulations; guarantees that all required reports are submitted; and administers the grant after award.

APPLICATION FOR THE 2019 LIVER SCHOLAR AWARD

INSTRUCTIONS

1. On the Liver Scholar Award webpage click “download application form” and save the application form on your computer.
2. Complete the form by typing responses.
3. Include required documents and provide signatures as requested.
4. Put your name (last name, first name) and the name of the award in the upper right-hand corner of each page.
5. Use one-inch margins. Do not use lettering smaller than 10 point.
6. Assemble the application package in the order listed in the Required Documents section below.
7. Be sure to adhere to page limits and complete all sections. Applications that do not meet the requirements, in content or format, will not be reviewed.
8. The completed application, letters of support or commitment, and other required documents mentioned below, must be combined into and submitted as one PDF document. Name the PDF as follows: Last name_First Initial__Liver Scholar (Example: Johnson_S__Liver Scholar). Your single PDF file must be no larger than 9MB (megabytes).

SUBMISSION

The application deadline for this award is **11:59 pm Eastern Time, Friday, December 14, 2018**. **Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed.**

Submit your application according to the instructions on the Liver Scholar Award webpage. You will be sent an email confirmation that the PDF was received. If an email confirmation is not received in 2 business days, please contact research@liverfoundation.org to confirm receipt.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

1. **Title Page** – This is page 1 of the application form.
2. **Applicant Information and Required Signatures** – This is page 2 of the application form. It must be completed and signed by the appropriate individuals and included in the award application.
3. **Summary and Abstract** – This is page 3 of the application form. Provide a lay summary of your research along with your project’s abstract.
4. **Curriculum Vitae** – Provide biographical sketches using the current PHS 398 Form (see glossary) for the applicant and mentor, as well as any other key personnel.
5. **Research Plan** – The research plan must be prepared and assembled in the following order: (1) Specific Aims, (2) Background and Significance, (3) Preliminary Results, (4) Research Design and Methods, and (5) References. Results of unpublished observations may be summarized using text, tables or figures and they must be included in the eight-page limit. **Limit eight pages, not including references.**
6. **Research Facilities** – The research environment should be described, including access to patients, laboratory space (if applicable), consultants and technical (including computer) resources. **Limit one page.**
7. **Institutional Review Board (IRB) and Animal Experimentation** – This is page 4 of the application form. All human and animal studies require IRB and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval, respectively. Verification of IRB or IACUC approval of the proposed research in the applicant’s institution must be provided prior to the award being granted. If IRB or IACUC approval is not necessary or not attached, please state why.
8. **Candidate’s Statement** – Describe the benefits of this award to your research career and the impact your mentor will have on your research development, and your academic goals. Please also highlight your previous studies and any contributions to knowledge in this field. **Limit to one page.**
9. **Letter of Commitment from Department Head and Mentor** – Letter must be provided from the head of the candidate’s department confirming that 50% of the available time will be devoted to the research project on which this application is based. A letter of support from your mentor (if different from the department head) is also required, stating that he/she will be available to provide advice and guidance to you during the award cycle. **Limit to one page each.**
10. **Letters of Recommendation** – Two additional letters of recommendation attesting to the candidate’s qualifications, commitment to research and quality of scientific work should be submitted with the application. The recommendation letters cannot be provided by your department head or mentor. **Limit one page each.**