



Research
Scholars

A female scientist with dark hair in a braid, wearing a white lab coat over a blue shirt, is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. In the foreground, a microscope is visible on the left. The background is a bright, out-of-focus laboratory setting.

Gilead's Research Scholars Program in Primary Biliary Cholangitis

Building the Future Together

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Research Scholars Program Overview

The Research Scholars Program supports innovative, independent 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 \$33 million USD into meaningful basic and clinical scientific research conducted by more than 280 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 instalments of \$65,000* USD per year directly to the scholars' institution. Funding for the second year is contingent upon submission of a progress report by the grant recipient 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.



** Award value is subject to country regulations*

Primary Biliary Cholangitis Program Overview

The program is designed to support any basic or translational research that addresses an unmet medical need and closes scientific gaps in the field of Primary Biliary Cholangitis (PBC) in Australia, Canada, and Europe.

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

- Impact of other concomitant liver diseases in addition to autoimmune hepatitis and metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH)
- Fibrosis progression and regression pathways
- Novel biomarkers and pathways associated with symptomatology and extra hepatic manifestations including bone related diseases
- Understanding epidemiology, pathophysiology and natural history of PBC across different racial/ethnic groups and genders
- Investigation into PBC pathogenesis, including genetic predisposition and triggers for disease development
- Molecular mechanisms of cholestatic pruritus



The PBC program provides a minimum of 2 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 utilizing 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 [External-Sponsored Research Grant Program](#).

Program Timeline

Application Deadline: 28 March 2025, 23:59 Central European Time

Awardee Notification: 29 August 2025



“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 PBC is open to emerging investigators from Australia, Canada, and Europe. **Prior research experience in PBC is not necessary as long as the applicant meets the requirements below:**

- Hold an MD or PhD (or equivalent degree) at time of award. MD qualifications should have been obtained within the last 10 years and PhD qualifications should have been obtained within the last 5 years
- Early career scientists with a strong track record of published research, who hold a position at a research institution for the duration of the award tenure
- Have a strong career interest in PBC
- Have a research mentor with extensive experience in the field of PBC related research
- 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

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Co-principle investigators are not eligible for funding.

Citizenship

The Research Scholars Program in PBC is open to:

- Europe (all countries)
- 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.



The Gilead Research Scholars Program award provided additional support and funding to really make my research more innovative.

– 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 recognized experts in basic, translational, and clinical research in the field of PBC.

Proposals utilizing Gilead 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 PBC related research
- Academic record (presentations, publications etc)
- Prior research experience and/or publications focused on PBC

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.

Co-mentorship is permissible

- 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 PBC. The proposed study will have an effect on concepts, methods, and/or technologies related to PBC 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 instalments 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 the grant recipient 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 utilization 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 with a single item value of greater than \$2,500 is not permitted 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.

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

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Chair



Anna Lleo, MD, PhD
Professor of Internal Medicine and Hepatology
Head, Center of Autoimmune Liver Disease
Humanitas University
Milan, Italy

Committee



Gideon Hirschfield, MA, MBBChir, FRCP, PhD
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Toronto General Hospital
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Maria Londoño, MD, PhD
Associate Professor
Consult Hepatologist
Hospital Clinic Barcelona
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Sara Lemoine, MD, PhD
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Director of the Department of Medicine II
University Medical Center Homburg
Homburg, Germany



Prof Michael Trauner, MD
Professor
Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Medical University of Vienna
Vienna, Austria

Contact Information

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

https://researchscholars.gilead.com/primary_biliary_cholangitis_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 call or email:

Gilead Sciences Research Scholars Program in PBC

Attn: RSP Coordinator // PBC ACE

Email: gileadsciencersp@bcdme.com