



## 2020 AASLD FOUNDATION PINNACLE RESEARCH AWARD IN LIVER DISEASE

**Application Deadline: December 4, 2019**  
**Award Period: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023**  
**Award Amount: \$300,000 (\$100,000/Year)**

### Description

The Pinnacle Research Award in Liver Disease is a three-year basic science award that provides young 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 young 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 Pinnacle Research Award is intended to develop the potential of outstanding, young 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

In order to be eligible for this award, the applicant must adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Applicant must be within the first five (5) years of his/her first faculty appointment (including prior appointments in universities outside of North America) at the start of the award (July 1, 2020).
  - a. 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 Pinnacle Research Award start date and (b) for the full award cycle must be submitted.
2. If funded, at least 50% of the available time will be devoted to the research project on which this application is based.
3. The applicant must be a member of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) at the time of award application and maintain active membership for the duration of the award period.
4. The applicant must be sponsored by a research mentor. The mentor must be an AASLD member in good standing at the time of application and maintain active membership for the duration of the award period.
5. 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. The funded research project must be conducted at the sponsoring institution within the United States, Canada or Mexico.
6. At the time of application or during the Pinnacle Research Award cycle, the applicant cannot hold or have held any of the following awards: NIH R01, PO1, R29, R21, or any K award; American Liver Foundation Liver Scholar Award; Veterans Administration Merit Review Grant or Career Development Award; AGA Industry 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 young investigators.
7. The AASLD Foundation must be notified immediately if the applicant receives another research award during the application process or after the receipt of an award.
8. Applicant may only apply for one award offered by the AASLD Foundation per application cycle.

### Award Details

Award of \$300,000 will be provided over three years (\$100,000 per year). Funds may only be used for *salary support* and/or for *technical support/laboratory supplies* (excluding capital equipment) for the recipient. No indirect costs, registration fees, or travel expenses are provided; 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.

Awards cannot be transferred to another institution without prior written approval from AASLD Foundation. Recipients must acknowledge the award in all publications (abstracts, manuscripts, or other documents) resulting from research performed during the tenure of this award.

## 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.

## Reporting

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

## The Liver Meeting®

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

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## Research Award Glossary

**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.

**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.

**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 five 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.

**Standard Form 424 (Research & Related) Biosketch and NIH Guidelines:** The SF424 (R&R) biosketch is the application form used to obtain federal grant support. According to NIH guidelines, the research plan should contain: title, specific aims, significance, innovation, and approach. To access the biosketch via the Web, go to <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/index.htm#biosketch> and select the General Blank Format Page under "Biosketches"

## Pinnacle Research Award Application Instructions

1. Use the provided cover pages (pg. 5-6). Print or type responses.
2. Include only the required documents and provide signatures as requested.
3. Put your name (last name, first name) and the name of the award in the upper right-hand corner of each page.
4. Use half-inch margins. Do not use lettering smaller than 10 point.
5. Assemble the application package in the order listed in the Required Documents section below.
6. 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.
7. The completed application, letters of support or commitment, and other documents as applicable must be combined into and submitted as one PDF document. Name the PDF file as follows: 2020 Pinnacle - Last name, first name (Example: 2020 Pinnacle – Smith, Jane)

## Submission

The application deadline for this fellowship is **11:59 pm Eastern time, December 4, 2019**. **Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed.**

Submit your application at [www.liverresearchawards.org](http://www.liverresearchawards.org). You will be sent an email confirmation that the PDF was received. If an email confirmation is not received in two (2) business days, please contact [awards@aasld.org](mailto:awards@aasld.org) to confirm receipt.

## Required Documents

**Submit only the documents listed below, using page 5-6 as cover pages. Any additional documents (including additional letters of recommendation or documents that exceed the stated page limitations) will be removed from consideration.**

1. **Cover Pages and Required Signatures** – Complete all information on pages 5-6 and use as application cover pages.
2. **Abstract** – Provide your project's abstract on page 7 of this application.
3. **Applicant's and Mentor's Biosketches** – Provide biographical sketches using the current SF 424 Form (see glossary) for the applicant and mentor, as well as any other key personnel.
4. **Resubmission Information** – if this application is a resubmission to the AASLD Foundation awards program, complete page 8 of this application.
5. **Research Plan (Limit eight pages, not including references)** – The research plan must be prepared and assembled in the following order: (1) Specific Aims, (2) Significance, (3) Innovation, (4) Approach, 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.
6. **Research Facilities (Limit one page)** – The research environment should be described, including access to patients, laboratory space (if applicable), consultants and technical (including computer) resources.
7. **Research Support** – Accounting of all other institutional, federal and non-federal support is required. The NIH "Other Support" form should be used and is available through academic institutions' Office of Grants and Contracts. Include all funding available from collaborators and sponsors.
8. **Institutional Review Board (IRB) and Animal Experimentation** –Page 9 of this application must be completed and included in the award application. 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. **IRB/IACUC approval (if necessary) must be applied for at time of application.** If IRB or IACUC approval is not necessary or not attached, please state why.

9. **Letter(s) of Collaboration (if applicable, limit one page each)** - Letters of collaborative arrangements that are significant to the proposal may be included.
10. **Candidate's Statement (Limit one page)** – 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.
11. **Letter of Commitment from Department Head (Limit one page)** – Letter should be provided from the head of the candidate's department confirming that a minimum of 50% of the available time will be devoted to the research project on which this application is based. If the applicant does not have a faculty appointment at the time of application, this letter should also confirm that the applicant will have a faculty appointment (a) no later than the Pinnacle Research Award start date and (b) for the full award cycle.
12. **Letter of Support from Primary Mentor (Limit one page)** - A letter of support from your primary mentor stating that he/she will be available to provide advice and guidance to you during the award cycle.
13. **Letters of Recommendation (Two letters maximum, one page each)** – 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 primary mentor.

## **Funding Notifications**

Funding notifications for the 2020 awards cycle will be sent no later than May 1, 2020.



APPLICATION FOR THE  
**2020 PINNACLE RESEARCH AWARD IN LIVER DISEASE**

**APPLICANT NAME:**

**SPONSORING INSTITUTION:**

**The applicant certifies that at the time of application:**

I am currently a Junior Faculty member who will be within the first five (5) years of my first faculty appointment (including prior appointments in universities outside of North America) at the award start date (July 1, 2020).

Yes

If yes, please list faculty start date: \_\_\_\_\_

No

If no, what is the anticipated start date of the applicant's faculty appointment? \_\_\_\_\_

I have not held nor currently hold any of the following awards:

NIH R01, PO1, R29, R21, or K award (other than the K24); American Liver Foundation Liver Scholar Award; Veterans Administration Merit Review Award or Career Development Award; AGA Industry 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 young investigators.

I **have not** held nor currently hold any of these awards

I **have** held or currently hold one or more of these awards

**Is this application a resubmission to the AASLD Foundation awards program?**

Yes. If yes, please complete the information on page 8.

No.

# APPLICATION FOR THE 2020 PINNACLE RESEARCH AWARD IN LIVER DISEASE

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

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Applicant (last, first, middle initial)

AASLD Member Number

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Project Title

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Degree(s) and year(s) granted

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Current Position

Appointment Date (month & year)

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Address, City, State, Zip Code

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Telephone

Email

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Sponsoring Institution

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Mentor (last, first, middle initial)

AASLD Member Number

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Address, City, State, Zip Code

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Telephone

Email

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Institution's Grants Administrator

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Grants Administrator's Address, City, State, Zip Code

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Grants Administrator's Phone

Grants Administrator's Email

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Institution Fiscal Officer, if different (please print)

### REQUIRED SIGNATURES

**NOTE:** By signing below, you are certifying that the information in this application is accurate and that you understand that AASLDF guidelines do not allow for any indirect costs (e.g. facilities management and utilities; general-purpose or capital equipment; travel; memberships and dues; subscriptions/books/periodicals; etc.).

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Signature of Applicant

Name

Date

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Signature of Mentor

Name

Date

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Signature of Department Chair

Name

Date

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Signature of Grants Administrator

Name

Date

## Abstract of Proposed Research

In the box below, briefly describe the research project, technical approach and anticipated results.

### Research Information

Current Percent Effort:

\_\_\_\_\_ Research  
\_\_\_\_\_ Administration  
\_\_\_\_\_ Clinical Activities  
\_\_\_\_\_ Teaching

100%=Total

Projected Under This Award:

\_\_\_\_\_ Research  
\_\_\_\_\_ Administration  
\_\_\_\_\_ Clinical Activities  
\_\_\_\_\_ Teaching

100%=Total

**Resubmission Information (if applicable)**

In the box below, briefly describe how your resubmission responds to the issues and criticisms raised by reviewers in the original application. Also briefly describe any major additions, deletions, or changes to the application.

[Empty box for resubmission information]



**\*\*IRB/IACUC approval (if necessary) must be applied for at time of award application.\*\***

**INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD**

- A. Does the proposed study require Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval?  Yes  No
- B. If the proposed study requires IRB approval, has the documentation verifying approval been obtained and included in the award application?  Yes  No

If the proposed study has been approved, please provide documentation of verification with your application **(limit 2 pages)**.

If IRB approval is not necessary or not attached, please state why below:

**ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION**

- A. Does your proposed study involve the care and use of animals?  Yes  No
- B. If the proposed study involves the care and use of animals, has the proposed study been approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) of the applicant's institution and do they follow the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Guidelines on the care and use of laboratory animals?  Yes  No
- C. If the proposed study requires (IACUC) approval, has the documentation verifying approval been obtained and included in the award application?  Yes  No

If the proposed study involves the care and use of animals, and has been approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, please provide documentation of verification with your application **(limit 2 pages)**.

If approval by the Animal Care and Use Committee of the applicant's institution is not necessary or not attached, please state why below: