



## **REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

### **2023 AASLD FOUNDATION**

### **ADVANCED/TRANSPLANT HEPATOLOGY FELLOW AWARD**

**Application Deadline:** January 23, 2023  
**Award Period:** July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 (1 Year)  
**Award Amount:** \$4,000

#### **AASLD Foundation's Mission**

To invest in innovative hepatology research and in the people who study and treat liver disease.

#### **Award Description**

The purpose of this award is to encourage the academic career of exceptional hepatology trainees. The Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Award provides \$4,000 in travel funds to fourth year Transplant Hepatology fellows or third year GI/Hepatology dual certification program fellows in accredited U.S., Canadian, or Mexican programs to attend The Liver Meeting® and one additional educational meeting (approved by the Research Awards Committee).

Awardees will also receive enhanced career development opportunities throughout their fellowship year, including participation as an ex officio member of an AASLD/AASLD Foundation Committee or SIG Steering Committee and opportunity to cooperatively present an AASLD webinar on a clinical topic with mentorship from senior AASLD/AASLD Foundation leadership.

#### **Named Awards**

##### **Anna S. Lok Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Award**

One successful candidate per year will be named as the Anna S. Lok Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Award recipient, which includes an additional \$26,000 in research support funding during their first faculty year at a North American academic institution.

##### **Joseph R. Bloomer Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Award**

One successful candidate will be named as the Joseph R. Bloomer Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Award recipient, which is honorific and does not include additional research support funding.

##### **Vinay Sundaram Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Award**

One successful candidate per year will be named as the Vinay Sundaram Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Award recipient, which is honorific and does not include additional research support funding. Priority for this award will be given to Alumni of the AASLD Foundation Emerging Liver Scholar program, with preference to those with a focus in clinical health services/outcomes research.

#### **Award Details**

- The award provides \$4,000 travel support for the recipient to attend The Liver Meeting® and one additional educational meeting (subject to Committee approval, e.g., Digestive Disease Week, International Liver Congress, American Transplant Congress, or any course offered by AASLD) during their fellowship year.
- Travel funds are paid to the individual awardee (not the sponsoring institution) on a reimbursement basis for actual travel expenses incurred.
- Unused travel funds at the end of the award term will be forfeited.
- Awardees will be appointed to a standing committee or SIG steering committee for a one-year ex officio (non-voting) position.
- Awardees will be invited to cooperatively present an AASLD webinar on a clinical topic with senior leadership.
- Funding notifications for the 2023 awards cycle will be sent no later than May 15, 2023.

## Eligibility

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

1. The applicant must:
  - Have been accepted to a U.S. ACGME approved (or Canadian/Mexican equivalent) transplant hepatology training program with a start date of July 1, 2023; or plan to apply for the dual certification GI/Transplant Hepatology combined program with a start date of July 1, 2023. *Note: Prior to funding, successful applicants from 3rd year dual certification programs must have confirmed acceptance into the dual certification GI/Transplant Hepatology program.*
  - 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.
  - Have a faculty mentor who is active in hepatology at the applicant's transplant hepatology fellowship institution and who is an AASLD member in good standing. **Multiple applicants may apply with the same primary mentor for this program, but only one applicant will be funded per mentor for each award year.**
2. The institution/program where the Transplant Hepatology fellowship will take place must:
  - Have a United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) or Canadian/Mexican equivalent approved liver transplant program, which must be in good standing and must perform at least ten liver transplantations per year.
  - Have a full-time faculty member or members capable of teaching a curriculum with a broad base of knowledge in transplant medicine and hepatology.
  - Provide training in living donor transplantation.
3. Application limits:
  - **There is no restriction on the number of applicants from each institution, but only one applicant may be funded per distinct department within each institutional training site per cycle.**
  - **Mentors may serve as the primary mentor for more than one applicant, but only one applicant per mentor may be funded in each award year.** Under no circumstances will there be multiple Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Awardees under the same mentor funded in a single year.
  - Applicants for this program can apply to another Foundation award program in the same award year.

## Selection Criteria

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. Candidates will be evaluated on:

- Their background and professional potential of the applicant as an academic hepatologist (presentations at meetings, publications, etc.).
- Candidate statement reflecting strong academic career plan including planned research focus and mentorship plan if known.
- Demonstration, via the hypothetical specific aims page, of the candidate's planned research focus, sound reasoning skills, understanding of scientific study design and approach, and grantsmanship.

## Application Formatting Instructions

1. Use pages 4-5 of this application as cover pages. Type responses.
2. Include only the required documents and provide signatures as requested.
3. Include a header at the upper right corner of each page with your name (last name, first name) and award name.
4. Use half-inch margins. Do not use lettering smaller than 10 point.
5. Adhere to page limits and complete all sections. Applications that do not meet the requirements, in content or format, will not be reviewed.
6. The completed application, letters of support or commitment, and other documents as applicable must be combined in the order listed in the Required Documents section (page 3) and submitted as one PDF document. Name the PDF file as follows: 2023\_AdvHep\_Last name, first name (Example: 2023\_AdvHep\_Smith, Jane)

## Application Submission

The application deadline for this award is **11:59 pm Eastern time, January 23, 2023**. 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 application was received. If an email confirmation is not received in two business days, please contact [awards@asld.org](mailto:awards@asld.org) to confirm receipt.

## Application Resources

AASLD Foundation Research Award Glossary: [www.aasldfoundation.org/glossary](http://www.aasldfoundation.org/glossary)

Applicant FAQ: <http://www.aasldfoundation.org/awardsFAQ>

NIH Biosketch Format: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>

## Required Documents

Submit only the documents listed below. Any additional documents (including letters of collaboration, additional letters of recommendation, or documents that exceed the stated page limitations) will be removed from consideration.

<b>1</b>	<b>Cover Pages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use pages 4-5 of this RFA as your application's cover pages.</li> <li>Complete all information and include all required signatures.</li> <li>Signatures may be digital, electronic, or "wet."</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>Applicant's CV</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a comprehensive Curriculum Vitae (CV) including any publications, abstracts, or presentations.</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<b>Mentor's Biosketch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Limit five pages</b></li> <li>Provide the mentor's <a href="#">Biosketch in NIH format</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<b>Candidate's Statement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Limit two pages</b></li> <li>Describe your background, commitment to hepatology, academic career goals and objectives, planned research focus, and mentorship plan.</li> <li>Include the name of the second educational meeting you plan to attend if selected for this award, if you plan to submit an abstract/present at this meeting, and how attending this meeting this will enhance your clinical training and academic career.</li> <li>A career development timeline is encouraged.</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<b>Hypothetical Specific Aims</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Limit one page</b></li> <li>Draft a hypothetical specific aims page as if you were writing a K08/K23 award application today.</li> <li>The Specific Aims page should follow the NIH format including overall research hypothesis, objectives, specific aims, and impact of the results.</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<b>Mentor Letter of Recommendation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>One letter, limit one page</b></li> <li>The Mentor's letter should:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirm and describe their personal support of the candidate and commitment to their success.</li> <li>Attest to the candidate's qualifications, commitment to research and quality of scientific work.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>7</b>	<b>One Additional Letter of Recommendation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Limit one page</b></li> <li>One additional letter of recommendation should be provided attesting to the candidate's qualifications, commitment to research and quality of scientific work.</li> <li>This letter should not be provided by the applicant's mentor.</li> </ul>

The following pages must be included in **all** applications. Please refer to the list of required documents above when assembling your final application package.

## APPLICATION FOR THE 2023 ADVANCED/TRANSPLANT HEPATOLOGY AWARD

Applicant Name (last, first, middle initial)		AASLD Member Number
Applicant Degrees(s)		Date of Terminal Degree (MM/YYYY)
Applicant Telephone	Applicant Email	
Applicant Address	City, State, Zip, Country	
Transplant Hepatology Fellowship Institution		
Transplant Hepatology Fellowship Division or Department		
GI Fellowship Institution		
Mentor Name (last, first, middle initial)		AASLD Member Number
Mentor Telephone	Mentor Email	
Mentor Address	City, State, Zip, Country	

### Required Signatures

**NOTE:** By signing below, you are certifying that the information in this application is accurate.

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Signature of Applicant	Name	Date
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Signature of Mentor	Name	Date
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## 2023 ADVANCED/TRANSPLANT HEPATOLOGY AWARD ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST

Complete the eligibility checklist below and include the completed page as page 2 of your application package.

1. The applicant (select which applies):
  - Has been accepted to a U.S. ACGME approved (or Canadian/Mexican equivalent) transplant hepatology training program with a start date of July 1, 2023; or
  - Plans to apply for the dual certification GI/Transplant Hepatology combined program with a start date of July 1, 2023. *Note: Prior to funding, successful applicants from 3rd year dual certification programs must have confirmed acceptance into the dual certification GI/Transplant Hepatology program.*
  
2. The applicant confirms that:
  - They are a member of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) at the time of award application and will maintain active membership for the duration of the award period.
  - They have a faculty mentor who is active in hepatology at the applicant's Transplant Hepatology Fellowship or GI/Transplant Hepatology dual certification program institution and who is an AASLD member in good standing.
  
3. The institution where the fellowship will take place:
  - Has a United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) or Canadian/Mexican equivalent approved liver transplant program, which must be in good standing and must perform at least 10 liver transplantations per year.
  - Has a full-time faculty member or members capable of teaching a curriculum with a broad-base of knowledge in transplant medicine and hepatology.
  - Provides training in living donor transplantation.

### ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

In our efforts to fund more high-impact proposals, AASLD Foundation seeks partnerships with individual or private foundation donors that have expressed interest in supporting research projects in specific diseases or areas of focus.

Please indicate below if you give AASLD Foundation permission to share your de-identified application with potential individual or private (non-industry/corporate) foundation donors in the event your application is highly meritorious and matches with one of these opportunities.

- Yes, I agree to allow AASLD Foundation to share my de-identified application with potential individual donors or private (non-industry/corporate) foundations that have an interest in supporting research in my area of focus.
- No, I do not agree to allow AASLD Foundation to share my de-identified application with any potential private donors.