



## ADVANCED/TRANSPLANT HEPATOLOGY FELLOW AWARD 2026 REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

### AASLD Foundation's Mission:

The American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) Foundation invests in innovative hepatology research and in the people who study and treat liver disease.

### Grant Overview:

The purpose of this award is to encourage the academic career of exceptional hepatology trainees. The Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Fellow 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.

**Who Can Apply:** GI Fellows entering a 4th year Transplant Hepatology Fellowship or 3rd year GI/Hepatology dual certification program

**Type:** Travel/Career Development

**Award Term:** July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027 (1 Year)

**Award Amount:** \$4,000

The application deadline for this award is **11:59 pm Eastern time, March 16, 2026**. Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed.

### Key Dates:

<b>RFA Posted</b>	Jan 30, 2026
<b>Application Portal Opens</b>	Feb 1, 2026
<b>Application Deadline</b>	March 16, 2026
<b>Peer Review</b>	April 2026 – May 2026
<b>Earliest Notification Date</b>	June 1, 2026
<b>Earliest Funding Start Date</b>	Jul 1, 2026

### Named Awards

The following named awards of distinction are made possible through the generous support of donors committed to inspiring the next generation of hepatology leaders:

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

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

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

**Kimberly A. Brown Advanced / Transplant Hepatology Fellow Award**

One successful candidate per year will be named as the Kimberly A. Brown Advanced / Transplant Hepatology Fellow 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.

**Ashwani K. Singal Advanced / Transplant Hepatology Fellow Award*****For Research in Alcohol-Associated Liver Disease***

One successful candidate per year will be named as the Ashwani K. Singal Advanced / Transplant Hepatology Fellow Award for Research in Alcohol-Associated Liver Disease recipient, which is honorific and does not include additional research support funding.

**Vinay Sundaram Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Fellow 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.

**Selection Criteria:**

Applicants will be evaluated based upon:

- 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.

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.

**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, 2026; or is a current/accepted fellow in an ACGME approved GI/Transplant Hepatology combined program who will start their 3<sup>rd</sup>/final year of fellowship on July 1, 2026.
  - 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 transplants 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:

- **The AASLD Foundation will not fund multiple Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Awardees who share the same primary mentor or who are in the same department at an institutional training site per year/cycle.**
  - While there is no restriction on the number of applicants from the same institution, AASLD Foundation will not fund more than one applicant from each distinct department within an institutional training site per year/cycle.
  - Mentors may be the primary mentor on more than one application for this program, but AASLD Foundation will not fund multiple applicants who share the same primary mentor in a single year/cycle. This applies even when the applicants are in different departments/training programs at their institution.
- Applicants for this program may apply to another Foundation award program in the same award year.

### Use of Funds:

**Total Award Amount: \$4,000**

Funds may only be used to support travel-related costs 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.

- Awardees will receive complimentary registration for The Liver Meeting during their one-year grant term.
- Travel funds are paid to the individual awardee (not the sponsoring institution) on a reimbursement basis for actual travel expenses incurred.
- Detailed information on allowable travel expenses and reimbursement request guidelines can be [viewed here](#).
- Unused travel funds at the end of the award term will be forfeited.

### Reporting Requirements:

All reports to be provided by the recipient for this award shall be in writing and acceptable to the Foundation as to the type of content and format. Failure by the recipient to provide final progress reports could jeopardize the recipient's future eligibility for other Foundation funding programs.

Written Report Type(s)	Reporting Period	Due to Foundation
Final Activity Report	Jul 1, 2026 – Jun 30, 2027	Aug 31, 2027

Recipients of named awards of distinction may be further required to attend a virtual introductory meeting with donor representatives for their award to present information on their background, research interests, and career goals.

Recipients will be responsible for promptly responding to requests from the Foundation for updates on their scientific accomplishments and participate in all efforts to track outcomes associated with this funding, including responding to annual post-award impact update surveys for up to five years following completion of their award.

Recipients must also provide the Foundation with a digital copy of any published report of research sponsored in part or in full by the Foundation within one year of publication.

### Intellectual Property:

Applications for patents related to discoveries or inventions resulting from research during the award period will be subject to the policies of the Institution where the work is performed. However, the awardee must notify the Foundation in advance of the intent to file such an application.

**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>**Application Submission and Formatting:**

1. Assemble your application package in the order listed in the required documents section below.
  - Type responses where prompted and provide all requested signatures.
  - Include a header at the upper right corner of each page with your name (last name, first name) and award name.
  - Use half-inch margins. Do not use lettering smaller than 10 point.
  - Adhere to page limits and complete all sections.

**Applications that do not meet the requirements, in content or format, will not be reviewed.**

2. 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 below and submitted as one flattened PDF document. Name the PDF file as follows: 2026 AdvHep\_Last name, First name (Example: 2026 AdvHep\_Smith, Jane)
3. 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 (2) business days, please contact [awards@aasld.org](mailto:awards@aasld.org) to confirm receipt.

**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 page 6 of this document as your application's cover page.</li> <li>• Complete all information and include all required signatures. 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="https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm">biosketch in NIH format</a></li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<b>Candidate's Statement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Limit three pages</b></li> <li>• Describe your background, commitment to hepatology, academic career goals and objectives, planned research focus, and mentorship plan.</li> <li>• Include a summary of past research accomplishments and how this relates to your future research direction and outline 2-3 feasible ideas for future research projects.</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 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>

6	<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>
7	<b>One additional Letter of Recommendation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Limit one page</b></li><li>• Letter should attest 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>

**2026 ADVANCED/TRANSPLANT HEPATOLOGY FELLOW APPLICATION COVER PAGE**

Complete the form below and include the completed page as page 1 of your application package.

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

**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, 2026; or
- Is a current/accepted fellow in a U.S. ACGME approved dual certification GI/Transplant Hepatology combined program who will start their 3<sup>rd</sup>/final year of fellowship on July 1, 2026.

**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.

**REQUIRED SIGNATURES**

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

Applicant Signature	Name (Printed)	Date
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Mentor Signature	Name (Printed)	Date
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