



## EMERGING LIVER SCHOLAR PROGRAM 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.

### Program Overview:

The Emerging Liver Scholar (ELS) program provides residents with the opportunity to explore hepatology as a career through educational and professional development programming, learning directly from leaders in the field, and networking with hepatology KOLs and peers from around the globe.

Selected Scholars for this highly competitive program receive complimentary registration and travel support to attend [The Liver Meeting](#), where they will participate in exclusive networking and educational events while also having full access to all scientific programming the meeting has to offer. During their award year, Scholars will also receive complimentary AASLD membership, subscriptions to AASLD journals, and be able to participate in special virtual professional development activities led by AASLD / AASLD Foundation leadership.

**Who Can Apply:** Medical Residents (see eligibility section for details)  
**Type:** Travel/Career Development  
**Award Term:** July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027 (1 Year)

The application deadline for this award is **11:59 pm Eastern time, April 13, 2026**. Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed.

### 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:

- Raymond T. Chung Emerging Liver Scholar Award**
- Guadalupe Garcia-Tsao Emerging Liver Scholar Award**
- Bruce A. Luxon Emerging Liver Scholar Award**
- Hugo Ramon Rosen Emerging Liver Scholar Award**

### Key Dates:

<b>RFA Posted</b>	Jan 30, 2026
<b>Application Portal Opens</b>	Feb 2026
<b>Application Deadline</b>	Apr 13, 2026
<b>Peer Review</b>	Apr – May 2026
<b>Earliest Notification Date</b>	Jun 10, 2026
<b>Earliest Funding Start Date</b>	Jul 1, 2026
<b>The Liver Meeting 2026 (Denver, CO)</b>	Thursday, Nov 5 <sup>th</sup> through Monday, Nov 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2026

### Selection Criteria:

Candidates will be evaluated on their potential for a career in academic hepatology including their background and professional potential, scholarly activities and research productivity, and demonstration of motivation, self-direction, and personal integrity.

Individuals who practice in underserved communities or identify as part of a systemically marginalized group in medicine that has historically faced barriers due to factors such as their race, ethnicity, gender expression,

sexual orientation, disability, or socioeconomic status (e.g., first generation college graduate, from low-income communities, etc.) are strongly encouraged to apply.

To promote health equity, increase patient access in medically underserved communities, and support increased diversity in the hepatology workforce, each year a minimum of 30% of available awards will be reserved for applicants who are practicing in federally designated health professional shortage areas, employed at Minority-Serving Institutions (MSI) for groups underrepresented in medicine, or who identify as a member of a group underrepresented in medicine.

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. Applicant Requirements

- The applicant must currently be in an Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Med-Peds, Pathology, Radiology, or Surgery residency program in the US, Canada, or Mexico **at the time of application submission**. The eligibility window for each residency type is listed in the table below.

Residency Program	Eligible PGYs at Time of Application
Internal Medicine Pediatrics Pathology Radiology	PGY 1-2 PGY 3 <b>only</b> if completing a PGY4 as Chief Medical Resident
Med-Peds	PGY 1-3
Surgery	PGY 1-4

- They must be interested in choosing adult or pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology, hepatopathology, surgery or GI radiology with an emphasis on hepatobiliary imaging as their career focus.
- Have a mentor who is active in hepatology and who is an AASLD member in good standing.
- Candidates do **not** need to be an AASLD Member to apply for this program.
- Previous participants of the Emerging Liver Scholar program are not eligible to apply again. Previous applicants who were not selected are encouraged to re-apply if they continue to meet eligibility criteria.

2. Mentor & Application Requirements

- The mentor must be active in hepatology and be an AASLD member in good standing.
  - Each Mentor may support up to two applicants per year.
  - Two mentors may act as co-mentors for one ELS applicant, if appropriate.
- There is no limit to the number of applications that will be accepted per institution, but only one candidate may be selected per distinct residency program at a single institution (i.e., one resident from the internal medicine program and one from the pediatric program at the same institution may be selected, but two internal medicine residents at the same institution will not be selected in the same program year, even if they are in different PG years).

## Participation Requirements:

The Emerging Liver Scholar program combines a fully sponsored trip to The Liver Meeting and ongoing virtual engagement and development activities to help participants explore a career in hepatology.

During their one-year award term, Emerging Liver Scholars will be required to participate in the following activities:

### 1. Conferences and Events

- The Liver Meeting 2026 – Emerging Liver Scholars will receive a fully sponsored trip to attend The Liver Meeting in person, including rail/airfare/mileage, 5 nights lodging, registration, and a stipend for meals/incidentals.
- Virtual Meetings – Regular virtual meetings will be held throughout the year on various topics within hepatology.

### 2. Mentoring

- Ongoing Mentor Meetings - Participants will be expected to meet independently with their program mentor regularly throughout the program year.
- Participants will work with their mentor to identify a proposed schedule for The Liver Meeting to maximize learning activities related to their specific areas of interest.

Awardees are expected to remain active participants in all activities throughout their award. If an awardee has not met minimum participant expectations, it could impact future availability of funding for the awardee or their residency program.

## 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.

Report Type(s)	Due to Foundation
Mentoring Plan Worksheet	September 30, 2026
The Liver Meeting 2026 Proposed Schedule Worksheet	October 15, 2026
The Liver Meeting 2026 Post-Meeting Evaluation	December 31, 2026
Final Activities Report	June 30, 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 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.

## Other Program Details:

1. Awards are made to the individual and not their institution. Awards cannot be transferred to another individual at the same institution.
2. Awardees are expected to attend The Liver Meeting in-person during their award year.
  - AASLD Foundation will be directly responsible for registration, housing, and travel costs.
  - Awardees will receive a stipend of \$400 to defray costs for meals not provided during the meeting and other incidental expenses.

- Awardees unable to attend The Liver Meeting in-person due to an extenuating circumstance (e.g., illness, personal emergency, or other unforeseen or unavoidable reason outside of their control) may request deferment of travel support for one year. Requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and approval is at the discretion of AASLD Foundation. All decisions are final. Awardee noncompliance with AASLD Meeting Attendee or Health and Safety Rules and Policies (and, if AASLD's Meeting Rules and Policies allow for exemptions, failure or inability to submit necessary documentation for an applicable exemption), negligence to plan to attend, or inability to secure leave on the meeting dates are not considered extenuating circumstances.
3. Awardees are expected to remain active participants in program activities throughout their award. If an awardee has not met minimum participant expectations, as outlined in this RFA, it may impact future availability of funding for the awardee or their residency program.

#### **Application Resources:**

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

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

#### **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 ELS\_Last name, First name (Example: 2026 ELS\_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@asld.org](mailto:awards@asld.org) to confirm receipt.

2026 AASLD Foundation Emerging Liver Scholar Application	
Applicant Name (last, first, middle initial)	Applicant Degrees(s)
Institution or Employer Name	
<b>Training Program:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Internal Medicine <input type="checkbox"/> Med-Peds <input type="checkbox"/> Radiology <input type="checkbox"/> Pediatrics <input type="checkbox"/> Pathology <input type="checkbox"/> Surgery	<b>Residency Year at Time of Application:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> PGY 1 <input type="checkbox"/> PGY 3 <input type="checkbox"/> PGY 2 <input type="checkbox"/> PGY 4

**Required Document Checklist**

Submit only the documents listed below as a single PDF and in the order listed below at [www.liverresearchawards.org](http://www.liverresearchawards.org). Please name your PDF as follows: 2026\_ELS\_Last Name, First Name (example: 2026\_ELS\_Smith, John)

Included	Document	Description
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cover Page	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use this page as your application's cover page.</li> <li>Complete all information and sign your name where indicated.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Applicant's CV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a copy of your <b>comprehensive Curriculum Vitae</b>, including publications, abstracts, presentations, and extracurricular activities.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicants must include dedicated sections within their CV organizing relevant scholarly work into the following: publications (subsections for original papers, review articles, and case reports), poster abstracts, and oral presentations. Omission of these sections and subsections will be considered an incomplete application.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Personal Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a Personal Statement addressing the following items:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe your background and both short and long-term career goals. (500 words recommended)</li> <li>Describe how you were first introduced to the field of hepatology, or what about hepatology interests you the most. (250 words recommended)</li> <li>Describe what you hope to learn or experience through participating in the Emerging Liver Scholars Program. (250 words recommended)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	One Letter of Recommendation from Mentor(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Mentor letter should:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirm your personal support of the candidate and briefly describe their analytical ability, curiosity, and foundational knowledge to excel in hepatology training.</li> <li>Provide specific examples demonstrating the candidate's sustained commitment to hepatology, motivation, and potential to contribute to the field of hepatology.</li> <li>Describe the candidate's dependability, initiative, and performance in scholarly activities and projects.</li> </ul> </li> <li>A single letter of recommendation should be included on the mentor(s) institution's letterhead. If a candidate has two co-mentors, the application can include either a letter from only one of the mentors, or a combined, co-signed letter of recommendation.</li> </ul>

**REQUIRED SIGNATURES**

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

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Applicant Signature	Name	Date
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Mentor Signature	Name	Date
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