

STRAVITZ VISIONARY AWARD 2027 REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Issued August 3, 2026

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:

This award is intended to support highly innovative research projects that will allow an early- to mid-career investigator to pursue studies with the potential to transform the care of patients with liver disease.

All categories of research will be considered (basic, translational, or clinical), with priority given to those with strong potential to result in transformation in patient care. MPI/multi-institution studies will be considered. Multidisciplinary science is encouraged.

Who Can Apply: Early to Mid-Career Faculty (within 10 years of completion of training)
Award Term: 3 Years
Award Amount: \$500,000 (\$150,000 year 1, \$150,000 year 2, \$200,000 year 3)

Key Dates:

RFA Posted	Aug 3, 2026
Letter of Intent Deadline	Oct 12, 2026
Application Deadline	Jan 11, 2027
Peer Review	Jan – Mar 2027
Earliest Notification Date	Apr 2, 2027
Earliest Funding Start Date	Jul 1, 2027

Letter of Intent is Required:

A competitive letter of intent (LOI) is required as part of a pre-application. A subset of proposed projects (dependent on quality and total number of submissions) will be invited to submit full applications.

Research Objectives and Selection Criteria:

AASLD Foundation is soliciting innovative research proposals with the potential for broad and sustained impact on the field of hepatology.

Priority will be given to:

- Innovative/transformational projects with human application(s)
- Multidisciplinary projects

Applicants will be evaluated based on the importance of the proposed research (significance and innovation), rigor and feasibility (approach), and expertise and resources (individual and environment).

Eligibility

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

1. The applicant must:

- Be early- to mid-career faculty (Assistant to Associate Professor level), who has completed their training within the last 10 years at the start of the award.
 - If the applicant does not have a faculty appointment at the time of application, the letter of commitment from their department chair must explicitly confirm that the applicant will have a faculty appointment (i) no later than the Award start date and (ii) for the full award cycle.
 - Applicants must demonstrate their ability to pursue the proposed project independently, as this is not a mentored award.
- 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.
- Be able to devote at least 30% effort to the research project on which this application is based.
- Be a citizen of the United States, Canada, or Mexico, or a visa holder with sponsorship from their institution throughout the projected timeline of the proposed project.
- 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. Individuals employed at the NIH, FDA, and CDC are not eligible to apply.
- Not hold/have held an R01/equivalent award prior to application or during the award term.
- Not hold/have held an AASLD Foundation Pinnacle or CTORA award prior to application or during the award term.

2. The proposed project must:

- Be conducted at the sponsoring institution within the United States, Canada or Mexico.

3. Application limits:

- There is no restriction on the number of applicants an institution can sponsor each cycle, but only one applicant may be funded per distinct department within each institution in this award category.
- Applicants may only apply for one AASLD Foundation research award per calendar year.

Use of Funds:

Funds may only be used for **PI salary support (maximum 30% of NIH salary cap at the time of award initiation)**, **technical support**, **laboratory supplies**, and **limited travel support** for the recipient.

- PI salary support is limited to a maximum of 30% of the NIH salary cap at the time of award initiation per year.
- PI salary support or salary for technical support may include fringe.
- Capital equipment acquisition may be allowed with prior written approval from AASLD Foundation. Capital equipment is defined as items that cost \$5,000 or greater, have a useful life of more than one year, and will not be expended or consumed in research.

- PIs will receive complimentary registration for The Liver Meeting for the duration of their three-year grant term. Up to \$2,000 of Award funding may be used each year for travel support to attend The Liver Meeting.
- Indirect costs may be included at the discretion of the awardee.

Total Award Amount: \$500,000

- Award funds of \$500,000 will be provided in equal quarterly installments in July, October, January, and April each year, as outlined below:

Award Year	Installment Amount	Total Annual Funding
Year 1	\$37,500	\$150,000
Year 2	\$37,500	\$150,000
Year 3	\$50,000	\$200,000

- Annual continuation of funding is contingent on the receipt and approval of annual progress and financial reports and continued adherence to Award eligibility and effort requirements. Continuation of annual funding is not contingent on specific research outcomes/results.

Unexpended funds at the end of the Award term must be promptly returned to AASLD Foundation.

Reporting Requirements:

All reports to be provided by the PI for this award shall be in writing and acceptable to the Foundation as to the type of content and format. Failure by the PI to provide Research Progress or Fiscal Accountability Reports could jeopardize both the PI's and Institution's future eligibility to receive Foundation awards funding for other projects.

Written Report Types(s)	Reporting Period	Due to Foundation
Year 1 Interim Research Progress Report and Fiscal Accountability Report	Jul 1, 2027 – Mar 30, 2028	May 1, 2028
Year 2 Interim Research Progress Report and Fiscal Accountability Report	Apr 1, 2028 – Mar 30, 2029	May 1, 2029
Year 3 Final Research Progress Report and Fiscal Accountability Report	Apr 1, 2029 – Jun 30, 2030	Aug 31, 2030

PIs are further required to present an in-person progress update on their funded project in their third/final year of funding at an event held annually during The Liver Meeting.

PIs 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.

PIs 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 PI 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
- Applicant FAQ: <http://www.aasldfoundation.org/awardsFAQ>
- Previous Funding Programs Eligibility List: <http://www.aasldfoundation.org/eligibility>
- NIH Biosketch Format: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/forms-directory/biographical-sketch-common-form>
- NIH Other Support Format: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/forms-directory/cpos-common-form>

Letter of Intent Instructions:

In order to help recruit the most appropriate peer reviewers and assist with study section assignments, applicants are required to submit a brief, non-binding letter of intent (LOI) to the Foundation. A subset of proposed projects (dependent on quality and total number of submissions) will be invited to submit full applications.

LOI materials must be submitted via www.liverresearchawards.org by 11:59 PM ET on October 12, 2026.

The LOI must be saved as a PDF with ½ inch margins using 10-point font or larger, and include all of the following information:

1. Project Title
2. Name(s) and information of the Principal Investigator(s)
3. Names of other Key Personnel
4. Participating Institutions
5. Disease area (include patient population details, if applicable)
6. Primary research method/area (include a high-level overview of the research question, methodology, and expected outcomes)
7. Project goals (include how the project will create an impact in hepatology, limit 500 characters, including spaces).

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

Application Submission and Formatting:

Proposals will only be accepted from those invited to submit full applications based on review of their Letter of Intent.

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. Multiple PI proposals must designate one PI who will be responsible for the submission of the completed application package.
3. 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 PDF document. Name the PDF file as follows: 2027 VISION_Last name, First name (Example: 2027 VISION_Smith, Jane)

4. Submit your application at 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 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.

1	Cover Pages	- Use page provided in the RFA as your application's cover page. - Complete all information and include all required signatures. Signatures may be digital, electronic, or "wet."
2	Abstract	Provide your project's abstract using the form provided in the RFA.
3	Biosketches	Limit five pages each - Provide a Biosketch in NIH format for the applicant(s) and any other key personnel or other significant contributors/collaborators.
4	Multiple PI Leadership Plan (MPI applications only)	The Multiple PI Leadership Plan must describe: - A rationale for choosing the multiple PD/PI approach. - The governance and organizational structure of the leadership team and the research project, including communication plans, process for making decisions on scientific direction, and procedures for resolving conflicts. - The roles and administrative, technical, and scientific responsibilities for the project or program should be delineated for the PD/PIs, including responsibilities for human subject studies or studies with vertebrate animals as appropriate
5	Specific Aims	Limit one page - State the proposed project's overall research hypothesis, objectives, specific aims, and impact of the results.
6	Research Plan	Limit ten pages, not including references - Prepare according to NIH guidelines: background, significance, innovation, and approach. - The section on previous work should highlight the candidates' previous studies and their contribution to knowledge in this field. (Appendices should not be included.)
7	Budget and Justification	- Using the form provided, show proposed budget for use of \$500,000 AASLD Foundation funding during the three-year award term. - Equipment costs of \$5,000 or greater require specific justification. - Refer to the "Use of Funds" section of this RFA for guidance on allowable costs. - Provide a budget justification narrative to support the proposed budget.
8	Project Timeline and Milestones	Limit one page - Describe goals and timeline for completion of project milestones. - Proposed work must clearly be able to be accomplished in the award term (3 years).
9	Research Facilities	Limit three pages - The research environment should be described, including access to patients, laboratory space (if applicable), consultants and technical (including computer) resources.
10	Research Support	- Provide an accounting of all other institutional, federal and non-federal support using the NIH "Other Support" form (link goes to direct download). - Include all funding available from collaborators and sponsors.

11	Letter(s) of Collaboration/Support	• Limit one page each • If applicable, letters of collaborative or mentoring arrangements that are significant to the proposal may be included. • Biosketches for significant contributors/collaborators should be included as part of required documents section 3.
12	Letter of Commitment from Division Chief or Department Chair	• Limit two pages • The Division Chief/Department Chair's letter should: ○ Explicitly confirm the percent of available time that will be devoted to research activities on which this application is based during the award (minimum 30%). ○ Confirm and describe the institution's support of the candidate and commitment to their research success. ○ Attest to the applicant's ability to pursue projects independently. • If the applicant does not have a faculty appointment at the time of award application, the letter must explicitly confirm that the applicant will have a faculty appointment (i) no later than the Award start date and (ii) for the full award cycle.
13	Institutional Review Board (IRB) or IACUC Approval	• Use the form provided to verify if IRB or IACUC approval is needed for this project. • If human or animal subjects are to be used, verification of IRB or IACUC approval of the proposed research in the applicant's institution should be provided prior to the award being granted. • IRB/IACUC approval (if necessary) must be applied for at the time of application.

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

2027 STRAVITZ VISIONARY AWARD IN LIVER DISEASES APPLICATION COVER PAGE

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

Project Title	
Applicant Name (last, first, middle initial)	AASLD Member Number
Applicant Degrees(s)	Date of Terminal Degree (MM/YYYY)
Applicant Current Position Title	Appointment Date (MM/YYYY)
Applicant Telephone	Applicant Email
Sponsoring Institution	
Sponsoring Division or Department	
Institution's Grant Administrator Name (last, first, middle initial)	Institution Fiscal Officer Name, if different (last, first, middle initial)
Institution's Grant Administrator Telephone	Institution Fiscal Officer Telephone
Institution's Grant Administrator Email	Institution Fiscal Officer Email

REQUIRED SIGNATURES

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

Applicant Signature	Name (Printed)	Date
Department / Division Chair Signature	Name (Printed)	Date
Institution's Grant Administrator Signature	Name (Printed)	Date

ABSTRACT OF PROPOSED RESEARCH

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

as page 2 of your application package.

INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB)/ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC)

Complete this page and include it at the end of your application, with appropriate supporting documentation.

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: