



GILEAD

Research
Scholars

Gilead's Global Public Health Awards Program

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Overview

The Research Scholars Program supports innovative research from emerging investigators around the world to incorporate new perspectives in our pursuit of scientific understanding and progress. We believe that new voices and research topics are needed to advance scientific knowledge in areas of unmet medical need and create a healthier world.

Since 2008, Gilead's Research Scholars Program has invested more than \$31 million USD into meaningful basic, translational and clinical scientific research conducted by more than 240 scholars to help transform scientific understanding, address knowledge gaps and drive medical breakthroughs.

Each of our Research Scholars Programs is overseen by a scientific review committee comprised of distinguished experts in their respective fields who are independent from Gilead to ensure equal, objective evaluation of all applicants and their applications. This enables us to maintain the program's overall integrity and competitive standards, and to ensure awards support the next generation of breakthrough scientific discovery.

Each award is funded up to \$100,000 USD over two years, paid as annual installments of \$50,000 USD per year directly to the scholars' institution. Funding for the second year is contingent upon submission of a progress report and approval by the chair of the scientific review committee.

Diversity Fosters Innovation

The Research Scholars Program is actively working towards reducing potential barriers to entry and success for applicants from population groups who are typically underrepresented in research. We are committed to supporting researchers and research projects addressing unmet patient needs and health inequities in order to build a more inclusive research landscape.

Award selections are made without discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, genetic information or characteristic, gender identity and expression.



Global Public Health Program Overview

The Global Public Health Awards support the development of independent investigators from low and middle-income countries with an interest in supporting country driven research priorities to meet sustainable development goals for people infected with or at risk for **viral Hepatitis (B,C,D) and/or HIV**.

Research proposals should be **exclusively focused on implementation science or clinical epidemiology** and be centered around strengthening the cascade for surveillance, screening, linkage to care/treatment, and prevention. Applicants need not focus on all aspects of the care cascade but can focus on any one or more of the aspects or helping populations enter and/or navigate the care cascade.



Examples of areas of research could include, however, are not limited to:

- Advancing health equity / addressing societal barriers to care
- Community-led models (e.g., community ART refill groups, KP-led models, peer health models)
- Person-centered models of care
- Digital health initiatives including the use of AI, Machine learning to improve outcomes
- Self-care including self-testing, self-collection/swabbing, etc.
- Strategies to improve treatment outcomes
- Barriers/facilitators to novel therapies (e.g., LA ART, LA PrEP)
- Modelling (cost effectiveness/infectious disease dynamics)
- Surveillance (e.g., burden of infection, drug resistance, causes/predictors of mortality and/or advanced HIV disease)
- Stigma and discrimination as barriers to care

Research proposals can focus on more than one of the above topics, however, should be limited to populations living with or vulnerable to HIV and/or viral hepatitis (B,C,D).

We encourage proposals that seek to work with the following:

- people who engage in transactional sex
- people who inject drugs
- people who are incarcerated
- transgender people
- men who have sex with men
- children and adolescents (<18 years)
- women

The Global Public Health program provides a minimum of 8 awards

Program Timeline

Application Deadline - One Page Specific Aims Summary: July 24th, 2023 11:59 PM CET

Application Deadline - Detailed Proposal*: October 25th, 2023 11:59 PM CET

Applicant Notification: December 11th, 2023

**only applicable if successful from initial one page summary review stage*

Eligibility Criteria

The Global Public Health Awards are open to emerging investigators from the following regions:

- Africa and certain countries within the Commonwealth of Independent States
- Latin America and Caribbean
- The Middle East
- South Asia
- Southeast Asia

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Hold an MD/MBChB/MBBS or PhD at time of award
 - Applicants without these qualifications, however, with research skills in Public Health and implementation science are also welcomed to apply at the committee's discretion. Please be sure to contact the RSP coordinator to seek permission to submit an application.
- Currently working with an academic research institution or public health organization (e.g., Ministry of Health or within a hospital) or non-governmental organization and be on track to achieving a research scientist appointment, faculty appointment or other equivalent positions
- Have a strong interest in public health research focused on HIV and/or viral hepatitis
- Have a research mentor with extensive experience in the field of HIV and/or viral hepatitis or expertise in a discipline relevant to implementation science e.g., economics, engineering, psychology, anthropology, etc.
- Be able to devote approximately 50% of professional time to research for the next two years (versus administrative, patient care or teaching responsibilities)
- Be able to complete the proposed research within the two-year award period, providing evidence

Exceptions to the above can apply, for example, having taken time out for parental leave or family bereavement.

The Research Scholars Program is actively working towards reducing potential barriers to entry and success for applicants from population groups who are typically underrepresented in research. Award selections are made without discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, genetic information or characteristic, gender identity and expression.

Citizenship

Applicants must reside in one of the following eligible countries/regions:

Africa and certain countries within the Commonwealth of Independent States, Latin America and Caribbean, The Middle East, South Asia, Southeast Asia

An applicant must be a citizen or permanent resident of the country/region in which they propose to conduct the research, or subject to the qualifications noted below hold a temporary study or non-immigrant visa. This visa must be valid and must allow the applicant to undertake the research over the two-year award period from the country/region in which they propose to conduct the research. This non-immigrant visa/work permit must be valid for the two-year award period or applicant must be able to establish that he or she is eligible for an extension, renewal or other status that will enable the applicant to perform the research in the applicable jurisdiction for the entirety of the two-year award period.

“

The Gilead Research Scholars Program award provided additional support and funding to really make my research more innovative.

”

– Dr. Kristine Mace Erlandson



Application Information

Applications must be completed online via the [program portal](#) and submitted electronically with the required supplementary materials. Applications are reviewed and selected by an independent Scientific Review Committee comprised of leaders in the field of global public health research focused on either HIV or viral hepatitis related research.

Gilead Sciences is not involved in the review and/or selection of awardees in order to maintain the scientific integrity and independence of the program.

Proposals utilizing Gilead product(s) are not eligible for funding through the Research Scholars Program. Proposals involving Gilead product(s) should be submitted for review under the Investigator-Sponsored Research Grant Program through the ISR online portal

Applications will be initially reviewed and scored by 2 Scientific Review Committee members based on a one-page specific aims summary using the provided template. The 20 highest scoring applicants will then be invited to submit a detailed five-page research proposal.

The Scientific Review Committee will then review and score the 20 detailed proposals and discuss each one individually at length during a review meeting where awardees and runners up are then selected by consensus. All applications that make it through to this final stage are highly competitive and will receive feedback outlining their research proposals strengths and areas for development regardless of whether they are selected for an award.

The committee will consider the following criteria when evaluating applications:

1. Evaluation of the Applicant

- Potential for a career in Public Health focused on either HIV or viral hepatitis related research
- Academic record (presentations, publications, etc.)
- Prior research experience and/or publications focused on Public Health

2. Evaluation of the Mentor Support and Mentoring Plan

A mentor is someone who makes a commitment to your research career. They should be responsible for guiding not only your research proposal but also your application for funding and help you with your professional development and advancement. As mentorship can come from different people for different aspects of your research career, we do allow co-mentorship. In their evaluation, the committee will consider the following:

- Letter of support from mentor(s) which includes: mentor's track record of productivity, funding, and success with prior trainees; detailed description of the mentoring plan, including resources allocated to the proposed research project, provision of protected time, and available laboratory facilities (if relevant)
- The mentor(s) is an independent investigator
- The mentor(s) has the experience to direct the proposed research training, as evidenced by the letter of support.
- The mentoring training plan and mentor-mentee relationship is sufficient to facilitate the applicant's progress towards their research career goals
- Letter of support from the department chair or division chief to document the institution is willing, and has the ability, to commit the resources necessary for the applicant to complete the proposed research, including sufficient protected time

It's important that your mentor reviews your research proposal and associated documentation before submission to ensure it is at the highest standard and submitted error free.

3. Evaluation of the Proposal

- **Innovation and Significance:** The research proposal is new and original and addresses an important question/issue related to Public Health. The proposed study will have an effect on concepts, methods, and/or technologies related to Public Health research.
- **Approach:** The conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses are adequately developed, well-integrated, well-reasoned, feasible (as determined by preliminary data or the expertise available), and appropriate to the aims of the project. The applicant acknowledges potential problem areas and considers alternative tactics.
- **Feasibility:** The project, as described in the submitted proposal and budget, can be accomplished within the timeframe of the award.

Budget Guidelines

Each selected Awardee is funded up to \$100,000 USD (inclusive of any indirect costs), to be paid in two annual installments of up to \$50,000 USD per year directly to the researcher's institution. Funding for the second year is contingent upon submission of a progress report by each junior faculty researcher and approval by the Chair of the Scientific Review Committee.

Should the applicant be successful following the initial round of review for the one page specific aims summary submitted, the applicant will be invited to submit a detailed application.

An itemized budget must be submitted with the proposal, consistent with the following guidelines:

Indirect Costs

To maximize the research benefit of the award, the program encourages that every effort be made to minimize the utilization of the award to cover indirect costs. Indirect costs may not exceed 10% of the award value, and are included as part of the budget, not as an addition to the value of the award (subject to local variances to be approved by Gilead Sciences).

Indirect costs are defined as overhead costs paid directly to the institution, for example maintenance of labs/space and departmental/admin costs.

Salaries

The applicant may allocate salary support annually in accordance with local customary compensation and fringe benefits support for the applicant and/or a technician.

Salaries and fringe benefits for mentors or students may not be included.

Supplies

Supplies such as disposables, chemicals, reagent kits, animals, etc., may be included.

Purchases of durable equipment with a single item value of greater than \$2,500 is not permitted within the budgets, however, the budget can support rental/lease of this durable equipment.

- Durable equipment would be lab tools and devices that are designed for use over a long period of time (e.g., many years), being resistant to wear and generally would be items that can be rented.
- Durable equipment excludes lab supplies and similar single-use or disposable products.

Travel and Training

Up to \$1,500 USD per year for applicant's travel to a scientific meeting for presentation of data may be included.

Applicants may include costs to support training up to \$2,500 USD per year.

Other Allowable Costs

Applicants may include costs to support mentored research projects. Costs should not exceed \$10,000 USD per year.

The above are guidelines only and can be addressed on a case-by-case basis if necessary for the research.

If the research project includes investigations on human subjects, a copy of the submission to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) must be submitted prior to award. Award will be contingent upon IRB approval.

If the research project involves laboratory animals, researcher must certify that he/she will comply with all laws and regulations pertaining to care and use of animals in research prior to award.



Scientific Review Committee

Applications will be reviewed by the Committee, comprised of leaders in the field of global public health research focused on either HIV or viral hepatitis related research.

Chair



Sunil Suhas Solomon, MBBS, PhD, MPH

Professor of Medicine
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Professor of Epidemiology
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Baltimore, MD

Committee



Pedro Cahn, MD, PhD

Past Professor on Infectious Diseases
Buenos Aires University
Scientific Director
Fundacion Huesped
Buenos Aires, Argentina



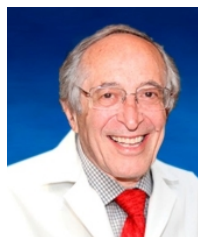
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Infectious Diseases Specialist
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Makerere University - John Hopkins
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Salome Charalambous, MBBCh, MSc, PhD

Group Chief Scientific Officer
The Aurum Institute
Associate Professor, Wits University
Adjunct Professor, Vanderbilt and Yale
University
Johannesburg, South Africa

Contact Information

For more information about the Gilead's Global Public Health program and to receive updates about future program cycles, visit:

https://researchscholars.gilead.com/en/public_health_portal



Please subscribe to the portal in order to be informed about future program cycle timelines.



For general inquiries about the Research Scholars Program, please call or email:

Gilead Sciences Global Public Health Awards Program

Attn: Research Scholars Program Coordinator

Email: gileadsciencesrsp@bcdme.com