

ASTCT New Investigator Award 2021 Application (start date July 1, 2021)

Submission Deadline: PDF electronically sent to Olivia Gunn (ogunn@astct.org), on or before Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 24h00 Pacific Daylight Time in the US (GMT: --7h).

Purpose

- The ASTCT New Investigator Awards are designed to encourage clinical or laboratory research by young investigators in the field of blood and marrow transplantation. The award, \$50,000 per year for two years, is intended primarily to provide partial support of the investigator's salary in order to offset some of that burden from the mentor. Alternatively, the award may of course be used for direct support of research costs.

Eligibility

- By the award start date of July 1, 2021, the applicant must have completed at least two years of postdoctoral training. For applicants who are full-time junior faculty (Instructor, Asst Professor, or equivalent) at an academic institution, that appointment or promotion must have occurred on or after July 1, 2018 (i.e., no more than three years before the award start date of July 1, 2021). ***This date should be very clear in the application and the applicant's NIH-style biosketch.***
- Applicants may submit only one application per cycle.
- Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to be an ASTCT member. An applicant must have a sponsor who is an ASTCT member. The sponsor serves as a mentor for the applicant's research and career development.

Submission

- Applicants are required to submit this New Investigator Award application, a curriculum vitae that adheres to the **current** NIH biographical sketch format, a list of Other Support that also adheres to the NIH format, a letter of recommendation from the sponsor/mentor (maximum two pages), and a description of the proposed research that **must not exceed 5 pages**, including **legible** tables, figures, and legends. Applicants should be mindful of not squeezing so much into these 5 pages that legibility, especially of figures and legends, is compromised for the reviewers.

Judging and Evaluation Criteria

- Submitted applications will be reviewed by the standing core study section. The study section is chaired by a member of ASTCT, appointed by the ASTCT President with Board approval. As needed, the chair can appoint ad hoc reviewers based on specific expertise required to review the topics covered by the submitted applications.
- New Investigator Award applications will be evaluated for (a) scientific merit within the field of blood and marrow transplantation, (b) significance and anticipated overall impact of the potential findings, (c) institutional environment, (d) the mentoring record of the sponsor/mentor, and (e) the potential contribution of the proposed research to the field of blood and marrow transplantation. As these are "new" investigator awards, less emphasis is placed on preliminary data.
- Applicants with other significant new investigator funding from peer-reviewed and/or extramural sources, including funding for projects with different scopes and aims, may be viewed as less competitive by the

review committee. Institutional startup funds for junior faculty need not be disclosed, as these are neither peer-reviewed nor extramural.

- ASTCT commits to award at least five New Investigator Awards annually, with the potential for additional awards based on available funding from sponsors.
- Significant scientific or budgetary overlap is not allowed with other funded projects of the applicant or mentor.
- Unfortunately, due to the additional work that would be required of reviewers and the Chair, as well as the short turnaround times involved, applicants will not receive written critiques after review.

Timing

- Applicants will be notified of their award status (awardee, alternate, or not fundable) before the end of 2020.
- The review committee always selects and rank orders alternates, as successful awardees sometimes receive and accept grants from other sources for the same or similar project. Significant scientific or budgetary overlap is not allowed.
- The awards will be publicly announced at the 2021 Transplantation and Cellular Therapy Meetings of ASTCT and CIBMTR, February 10-14, 2021 in Honolulu, HI. ASTCT hopes that awardees will attend this meeting to accept their award in person. Attendance at the TCT Meetings is not a requirement for receiving a New Investigator Award, however, because ASTCT is unable to provide financial support for awardees' travel and attendance.

Funding

- Awards will be up to \$50,000 for the first year, renewable without reapplying for an additional \$50,000 for a second year, contingent upon a brief report of satisfactory progress.
- ***Applicants with other funding that overlaps an approved ASTCT NIA application's aims and/or scope of work must choose one or the other award but may not keep both.*** This applies up to and through the duration of the funded ASTCT NIA project. ASTCT expects mentors and applicants to follow an honor system and report any actual or potential overlap for review by ASTCT.

New Investigator Award Application Instructions

American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy
330 N. Wabash Ave., Suite 2000
Chicago, IL 60611
Phone: (312) 321-6820
Fax: (312) 673-6733

Submission Deadline

- **Print copies (2) - postmarked on or before Tues, 9/8/2020.**
- **PDF electronically sent to ASTCT Office (ogunn@astct.org) on or before Tues, 9/8/2020 at at 24h00 Pacific Daylight Time in the US (GMT: --7h).**

THE ENTIRE APPLICATION MUST BE TYPED AND USE

- **11 point, ARIAL, HELVETICA, OR CALIBRI**
- **LEFT (not FULL) JUSTIFICATION**
- **1-inch MARGINS ALL AROUND**
- **NUMBER ALL PAGES CONSECUTIVELY FROM BEGINNING TO END OF APPLICATION.**

APPLICATIONS NOT MEETING ALL THESE REQUIREMENTS WILL BE RETURNED WITHOUT REVIEW

1. The **face sheet** of your submitted application should be **Form Page 1**.
2. **Form Page 2** is the project **Abstract**. This should include a brief explanation of the relevance of your project to the field of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, if this is not already obvious. This page also includes **Key Personnel** and **Other Significant Contributors**.
3. **Form Page 3** is the Budget.
4. **Form Pages 4 and 5** cover Human Subjects, Biohazards, and Laboratory Animals.
5. **Form Page 6** is the Applicant's Certification.

*There are no Form Pages for the remainder of the application, which should be compiled in the following order with **sequentially numbered pages**:*

6. **Applicant's curriculum vitae** (max 5 pages), which must use the NIH biographical sketch format (not to exceed five -pages), Forms Version D, effective 3/25/16. See links via <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-16-080.html>
https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/faq_biosketches.htm
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>
7. **Other Support information**, following NIH format: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/competing_ot_hersupport.docx. Explain and justify any project or budgetary overlap with existing and/or pending funding resources for the applicant and/or the mentor. Indicate which source(s) will be accepted in case of overlapping award(s).
8. **Mentor/sponsor's letter of recommendation, followed by his/her CV, as per #6 above:** The sponsor must be (a) an ASTCT member and (b) willing to serve as a research mentor. The letter should specify the direct relevance of the research to the field of blood and marrow transplantation and outline the career plan of the applicant. The letter should not exceed 2 single-spaced pages.

The remainder of the application comprises the "Experimental Plan" and should continue sequential page numbering:

9. **Experimental Plan: MAX FIVE PAGES, adhering to the above guidelines. Applications NOT meeting these requirements will be returned WITHOUT REVIEW.**

Any figures and tables, with legends, must fit within these 5 pages and **must be fully legible**. Only legends may use a smaller font, e.g., no smaller than Arial 8pt or equivalent. **Review and scoring of the application will suffer if reviewers cannot easily read text, figures, tables, and legends because they are too small. Application length has been increased from 4 to 5 pages to facilitate legibility, not to facilitate squeezing in more text, figures, tables, etc.**

- A. **SPECIFIC AIMS:** appropriate to the scope and 2 yr term of the award. Aims should be testable and hypothesis-driven.
 - B. **BACKGROUND and SIGNIFICANCE:** Note the difference between Significance and Overall Impact. Discuss with mentor as needed.
 - C. **PRELIMINARY DATA:** For NEW Investigator Awards, there is less emphasis on preliminary data during review.
 - D. **RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS:** According to the Specific Aims, explain how you will experimentally test your hypotheses and analyze data. What are the expected results and alternative approaches? Remember to keep the experimental plan within the scope and 2yr time line.
10. **BIBLIOGRAPHY:** This does NOT count toward the 5 page limit. List numbered entries in the order of citation in the text. **INCLUDE ALL AUTHOR NAMES** (e.g., Smith JD, Jones BH). Do not truncate any authors by using *et al.*
 11. Include a max half page each for description of applicant's (a) career plans and (b) past clinical or bench research experience. **THIS IS NOT PART OF THE 5pg LIMIT FOR #9.**

IMPORTANT

An electronic PDF must be emailed **on or before Tuesday September 8, 2020 at 24h00 Pacific Daylight Time in the US (GMT: --7h)**, to: ogunn@astct.org. **Late submissions will not be accepted.**

The award will be activated on July 1, 2021, and conclude on June 30, 2022. The second year does not require re-application, but it is contingent upon a brief report of satisfactory progress in the first year.