

2024 SITC-Merck Cancer Immunotherapy Clinical Fellowship Award

One-year, \$100,000 Award

- Eligibility:** To be eligible for this fellowship, applicants must:
- Hold an MD or combined MD/PhD degree
 - Currently hold a position at an academic institution or government cancer center as a post-doctoral fellow, resident, research scientist or comparable position, prior to obtaining a tenure track faculty position
 - Be within postdoctoral or postgraduate training, or no more than four years from completing such training
 - Be a SITC member in good standing at time of submission (i.e., current in dues)
 - Name a pre-arranged fellowship mentor
 - Submit a letter of recommendation from the mentor along with the application
 - Domestic and international applicants are eligible to apply

The ideal candidate meets the eligibility criteria above and is at a career stage before independence, has not yet secured significant independent funding, and should demonstrate how this award will aid in advancing to the next stage in their career.

Selection: Selection is made by the SITC Awards Review Committee, and applications are scored on the NIH scoring scale. Applicants will be notified via email of their application's acceptance or decline within 7-10 weeks of the application deadline.

Terms: Receipt of this award does not preclude the applicant from obtaining grant support from other sources. Support from the **2024 SITC-Merck Cancer Immunotherapy Clinical Fellowship Award** is to be acknowledged in presentations and publications resulting from the research sponsored by the award.

The award is nontransferable. The award recipient is directly responsible as an employee to the supporting academic institution. The sponsoring institution is responsible for documenting their role in terms of supporting the education and research efforts as well as providing adequate research capacity, including space and equipment, for the award.

SITC may discontinue the award if it is documented that the purpose or the terms of the award are not being fulfilled. In this event, the recipient will be notified in writing of this determination, the reason, and the effective date.

The recipient must submit a halfway point (six months) and a final written progress report to SITC, including disposition of funds. Any unused funds will be returned to SITC. The recipient is invited to submit an abstract during the regular abstract submission process for the chance to present the final results of his/her research at a SITC Annual Meeting.

Application process:

Applicants will submit a completed application form, applicant statement of purpose, mentor statement of support, curriculum vitae/biosketch, research plan, description of facilities, and personal references. (full details on application sample). Application submission will be open for six weeks.

Reporting: 6-month Report Request Requirements

1. Project title, award amount, recipient's name
2. Brief overview of the project progress to date
3. Describe highlights related to the award (presentation, publication, abstract, etc.)
4. Outcomes determined at this date.

12-month Report Request Requirements

A 1-2 page synopsis of research project with the following information.

1. List the original specific aims of project. If the aims have changed, please explain.
2. Synopsis of research progress to date
3. Abstracts or other publication resulting from the research project (please provide copy)
4. Any additional pending funding resulting from the studies performed in this research project (title of grant, PI, amount, duration, and agency)
5. Plans after the award term

Diversity & Inclusion Statement:

In SITC's continued efforts to promote diversity and inclusion, SITC will be following the NIH's Statement on Diversity, as well as their Under Represented Populations in the U.S Biomedical, Clinical, Behavioral and Social Sciences Research Enterprise recruitment plans for the Named Postdoctoral Cancer Immunotherapy Fellowships. Applicants **may** self-identify ethnic minority status according to the NIH's guidance on Underrepresented Populations (*The following racial and ethnic groups have been shown to be underrepresented in biomedical research: Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders*)

Self-selected race/ethnicity data and gender data will be available to reviewers and staff. This information will not be shared publicly. Race/ethnicity and gender are not included in the eligibility criteria for this specific fellowship.

Summary/Outline of Online Application Packet:

All application information must be submitted as a single PDF with images and charts included within the document. Application information must adhere to the listed page limits.

I. Applicant's Statement of Purpose (maximum 2 pages)

This letter should outline the award and career objectives of the applicant toward cancer immunotherapy research. This letter should specify:

- Current and future cancer immunotherapy research objectives
- Further training requested by the candidate

II. Applicant's Biosketch (maximum 5 pages)

NIH Biosketch format, instructions and samples available [here](#)

- Use the "non-fellowship" format
- Add this section at the end of the document to disclose additional research funding:

D. Additional Information: Research Support

III. Mentor’s Statement of Support (maximum 2 pages)

This letter should be from individual acting as a fellowship mentor to the applicant. It must clearly present:

- The applicant’s role and academic appointment(s)
- The sponsor’s role in the proposed research, including plans to provide support as necessary
- Plans and potential for the applicant to develop into an independently funded investigator

IV. Mentor’s Biosketch (maximum 5 pages)

NIH Biosketch format, instructions and samples available [here](#).

V. Institutional Letter of Support (maximum 2 pages)

The letter must be written on letterhead by the department head, dean, or other senior member of the institution on behalf of the applicant. It should explain the applicant's relationship with the institution, and the nature and extent of support for the proposed research available from the institution, including laboratory space, financials and other resources.

VI. Research Plan and Budget

Required Formatting: Calibri 11pt, Single Spaced, 1 inch margins

Figures do not count towards section page limits, but must fit within overall page limit.

The research plan should include a thorough statement of the candidate’s proposed research plan in cancer immunotherapy, including:

- a) Specific aims (**maximum 1 page**)
- b) Background and significance (**maximum 1.5 pages**)
- c) Preliminary results (if applicable) (**maximum 1.5 pages**)
- d) Methods and procedures (**maximum 4 pages**)
- e) Anticipated outcome (**maximum 1 page**)
- f) Long-range objectives (**maximum .5 page**)
- g) References (**no limit**)
- h) Research project budget (Note: The budget should outline the anticipated spend of the award among salary, research and other associated costs.) (**maximum 1 page**)

VII. Facilities (maximum 1 page)

Required Formatting: Calibri 11pt, Single Spaced, 1 inch margins

A description of the facilities for research and training needed by the candidate must be included.

VIII. Two Personal References (maximum 2 page each)

Two letters of recommendation from two persons familiar with the candidate’s qualifications must be included with the application.