

2020 SITC-Merck Cancer Immunotherapy Clinical Fellowship

- Eligibility:** To be eligible for this fellowship, applicants must:
- Hold an MD or combined MD/PhD degree
 - Currently hold a position at a leading academic cancer center as a post-doctoral fellow, resident, research scientist or comparable position
 - 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
 - Commit 75% of their workday to research supported by the fellowship
- Selection:** Selection is made by the SITC Awards Review Committee. Applicants will be notified via email of their application's acceptance or decline within 10-12 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 **2020 SITC-Merck Cancer Immunotherapy Clinical Fellowship** 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 and a final written progress report to SITC, including disposition of funds. Any unused funds will be returned to SITC.
- Application process:** Applicants will submit a completed application form, sponsor statement of purpose (from a mentor/supervisor), an applicant statement of purpose, curriculum vitae, research plan, description of facilities, and personal references (full details on application sample). Application submission will be open for five weeks.
- Reporting:** The fellowship recipient will be required to submit a 6-month progress report, which will be reviewed and approved by SITC. **Once the report is approved, the second half of the fellowship funds will be released.** A final progress report is required after the fellowship term has ended.

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

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

Summary/Outline of Online Application Packet:

All application information must be submitted as a single PDF with images and charts included within the document. Personal reference letters and Curriculum Vitae will be submitted separately. Application information must adhere to the listed page limits and not exceed a total of 25 pages.

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. Sponsor's Statement of Purpose (maximum 2 pages)

This letter should be from the program director, division or department chair sponsoring the candidate and acting as a fellowship mentor. It must clearly present:

- A description of current or proposed programs in cancer immunotherapy research and development
- Program support now available or intended for the term of the fellowship
- The program's placement within the institution and any interdisciplinary activities
- The candidate's role and academic appointment(s)
- Further training required by the candidate, as documented by the appropriate academic official
- Plans and potential for the applicant to develop into an independently funded investigator

III. 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**)

IV. 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.

V. Two Personal References (Letters can be submitted separately and do not count towards the total page limit)

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

VI. Candidate's Curriculum Vitae (CV can be submitted separately and do not count towards the total page limit)

The CV must include a full disclosure of all grants or awards currently received or pending

VII. Sponsor's Curriculum Vitae (CV can be submitted separately and do not count towards the total page limit)