



PARC EARLY CAREER AWARD

APPLICATION TEMPLATE

Deadline: Apr 15, 2026 @ 1pm CEST/Geneva

[SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION HERE](#)

AWARD DESCRIPTION

The PARC Early Career Award provides funding to clinical investigators associated with and working with childhood cancer research cooperative groups that operate in low- and middle-income countries (LICs & MICs). These clinical investigators should be participating or should plan to participate in clinical research in a cooperative group in their country or region. Research conducted in HIC is out of scope for this award.

This Award aims to support the career development of young future leaders in paediatric oncology in LICs and MICs helping to open up their horizon in their career as researchers affiliated with an existing cooperative group.

This Award comes with a mentoring requirement: the research project should be conducted under a co-mentoring guidance of a scientific mentor from a) the LIC or MIC, where the research is taking place and where the mentor is associated with an existing childhood cancer cooperative group, and b) a mentor in the same field of study from a high-income country (HIC).

The applicant **is expected** to have identified such a LIC/MIC mentor from the country- or regional cooperative group before submission of the Award application.

However, the applicant **is not expected** to have identified mentors in the HIC prior to submission of the Award application; the identification of the HIC mentor can come after winning the award and no later than 2 months from the start of the award period. If necessary, SIOp will work with the awardee to identify an appropriate mentor and help establish the relationship. The Award includes funds to support travel and stay at the HIC institution.

The candidate should carry out a research project with a patient-orientation focus, including a clinical research study that may include translational research related activities involving human subjects, projects focusing on quality improvement, implementation science, survivorship or palliative care etc. Proposals with a predominant focus on in vitro or animal studies (even if clinically relevant) are not considered a priority for this award. Applications in all areas of paediatric oncology research are accepted. With the exception for one survivorship focused research in China, there is no other preference for the type of childhood cancer which the researcher should focus on; however, projects dealing with topics of higher impact in quality of life for patients or patient survival will receive a higher priority.

Specifically, SIOp is looking to make several Awards to candidates who, as a result of this Award, will be able to establish a successful research program with regional or national impact. At the end of the two-year award period, the researcher is expected to have received specific and high-quality mentoring

enabling them to gain a comprehensive insight in the medical science of the tumor or topic of choice, guided by world renowned experts from leading institutions. It is hoped that this Award will increase the capability of the recipient to eventually lead national or regional clinical research programs.

The Award is a two-year grant that supports general research and travel expenses to attend at least one SIOF Annual Congress and at least one visit per grant to the MIC/HIC partner institution where the MIC/HIC mentor works. The awardee may use the Award for salary of the researchers/clinical research assistants, general research expenses, including licenses for software, specific training courses, administrative support and other expenses necessary for the research project.

This Award is made possible with the generous support of the NaiKong and Irene Cheung Family and the Rally Foundation.

Please note that award decisions will be made by the PARC Committee and during award considerations, we will keep in mind funds already given to cooperative groups and associated early career researchers by the PARC Committee.

Interested applicants are strongly encouraged to attend a virtual Q&A session about this early career award. Interested applicants can [express their interest in attending this session here](#).

The Award enables awardees to:

- Receive mentoring from leading researchers in LIC/MIC/HIC
- Develop and conduct research in childhood cancer under the guidance of leading researchers in LIC/MIC/HIC
- Present research findings at one SIOF Annual Congress during the life of the Award
- Visit the HIC mentor's institution for enhanced learning and in-person mentoring
- Develop long-term relationships for a long-lasting cooperation between institutions

Research Focus

- One award may be given for survivorship research in China in a research study that closely collaborates with APHOG; final decision depends on the quality of the submitted research proposals.
- Up to 3 to 6 awards total for paediatric oncology research in Africa, Asia, Oceania, Latin America¹ and Europe (LIC and MIC countries only; research in HIC countries is out of scope for this grant). Final decision on the total number of grants rests with the PARC Committee.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible to apply for a Early Career Award:

- Be a physician (MD, DO, MD/PhD or international equivalent) who is currently working in a LIC or MIC.
- Be in the first 10 years of obtaining their last degree (MD, PHD)
- Conduct research in LIC or MIC, which is approved by and/or in collaboration with an existing childhood cancer cooperative group in LIC or MIC.

¹ For the purposes of this Award, Latin America includes Mexico

- Have a valid, active medical license in the country where the research will be conducted at the time of application.
- Be a SIOF member in good standing with [their SIOF membership dues for year 2026](#).²
- Be able to commit at least 25% of full-time effort to research (applies to total research, not just the proposed research project) during the award period.

Ineligible Applicants:

- Past recipients of the NaiKong and Irene Cheung Family Career Development Award
- Applicants who are not members of SIOF in 2026
- Applicants who don't have a letter of support of an existing childhood cancer research cooperative group which operates in LIC or MIC
- Applicants who do research without the collaboration of a research cooperative group
- Applicants residing in HIC and applicants who don't reside full time in LICs or MICs.
- Applicants conducting research in HICs
- Applicants who have support from an existing childhood cancer research cooperative group which is registered and operates in HICs
- Applicants who are current or past members of the SIOF Board of Directors and/or SIOF PARC Committee

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT GUIDANCE

- Budget ceiling (in EUR):
 - Low Income Country: 10,000 EUR
 - Lower Middle Income: 15,000 EUR
 - Upper Middle Income: 25,000 EUR
- Include costs to travel to a HIC mentor for 3-7 days of mentoring per grant period
- Include costs to attend the SIOF Annual Congress at least once in the grant period
- If you decide to include funds for salary/benefits for **yourself** in the budget, please note that the % of your time/effort towards this research needs to match the percentage of your salary/benefits being charged to the grant and should not exceed 40% of the total award. Please enter the monthly unit rate for your salary/benefits correctly in the budget sheet.
- Expenses for laboratory reactants are not permitted
- You must disclose any existing co-funding for the same research already received; do not list "anticipated" funding; co-funding is not a requirement for this award/budget creation.
- Include publication submission fees, if relevant
- IRB fees and any other fees required for setting up and conducting the research, if relevant
- The Award funds cannot be used to cover academic/tuition fees from the academic institutions in LIC/MIC/HIC.
- Funds will be disbursed to the institution/cooperative group/university/hospital where the researcher works and/or where the research is taking place.
- Any other fees, if relevant

² To check your SIOF membership status for 2023, please email membership@siop-online.org. If you are not a member but would like to become a SIOF member, please visit www.siop-online.org/membership.

PARC EARLY CAREER AWARD - APPLICATION FORM

1. Applicant:
 - a. Title:
 - b. Name:
 - c. Address:
 - d. Email:
 - e. Mailing address:
2. Name of Cooperative Group supporting your research:
3. President/Chairperson of the Cooperative Group and their email address:
4. Is this cooperative group legally registered in the country/region of research: Yes/No
5. Country(ies) of Research Activities:
6. Name, Title, Institution and Email of Mentor from an institution in LIC/MIC who has agreed to mentor you:
7. Project Duration (24 months max):
 - a. Estimated Start Date:
 - b. Estimated End Date:
8. Please describe your research study (2 pages max), covering the following areas:
 - the current unmet needs / what unanswered questions does your research aim to address
 - Expected outcome of your research study
 - your research methodology, including info on statistics
 - the potential number of patients and country(ies) your proposal will cover
 - the knowledge you will obtain during the project and how this knowledge will be useful to set up a clinical research activity in your cooperative group
 - the limitations and risk management for your research study
9. How does this research benefit the strengthening of the research capacity of the childhood research cooperative group under whose auspices you will conduct the research? (1/2 page max)
10. What is the volume of new overall diagnoses of childhood cancer in your country of research (total per year, in numbers):
 - a. Country 1- xx new diagnosis/year
 - b. Country 2- xx new diagnosis/year, if applicable
 - c. etc
11. What is last year's annual budget of the cooperative group (in EUR) and from what sources of funding?
12. Have you already obtained an approval from your Institutional Review Board (IRB)? If not, please specify if you have already applied for IRB or when you plan to apply.
Yes/No
13. What percentage of your full time effort is/will be dedicated to this research study?
14. What percentage of your budget is dedicated to your own salary and benefits? Please note that there is a restriction that you are being asked to abide here – whatever % you commit to research in the

question above should match the % of salary/benefits that you can charge to this award and not more than 40% of the total grant amount.

15. What achievements do you plan to reach by the end of the 24 months of research?

16. Funding Disbursement

I acknowledge that PARC Early Career Award funds will be disbursed in two tranches, once at award signature and once at the start of Year 2 of research. **Please type your name here:**

Checklist: Please attach the following required documents to your application:

1. **Application** (Template above)
2. **CV** (no specific template for the CV, 3 pages long max)
3. **Budget** (use provided template)
4. **Letter of Support from the Chairperson/President of the Cooperative Group** (max 2 pages); It should state that:
 - a. the cooperative group supports the research study;
 - b. should specify that the country where the research is being conducted is a country that belongs to the scope of work of the cooperative group;
 - c. should explain how this Early Career Award will support the long term career development goals of the researcher and
 - d. how and why that is relevant to your cooperative group;
 - e. should detail how relevant the proposed research is to the research strategy of the cooperative group;
 - f. how feasible is the proposal project within the 2-year timeframe
 - g. specify the contact information, including email, for the Chair/President signing the support letter
5. **Letter of Support from Mentor from an institution in LIC/LMIC** (max 2 pages; specify commitment to mentoring the researcher; feasibility of the research study; frequency of mentoring meetings and interactions)³
6. **SIOPI Membership Certificate for Year 2026** - Please download your 2026 SIOPI Membership Certificate from the [SIOPI CONNECT website](#)

³ If the Chair of the Department of your Home Academic Institution is the same person as the LMIC mentor, you can provide only one letter but be sure to cover all areas mentioned above.