



PARC Early Career Award 2026

Questions & Answers

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The 2026 PARC Early Career Award is made possible by the generous support of the NaiKong and Irene Cheung Family and the Rally Foundation

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1. What is the PARC Early Career Award?

The PARC Early Career Award is a two-year research grant designed to a) support young clinical investigators working in low- and middle-income countries (LICs and MICs) in the field of paediatric oncology and b) increase the capacity of an existing research cooperative group in LICs/MICs to do research.

It supports career development through research funding, structured mentoring (LIC/MIC + HIC mentor), travel funding, attendance at at least one SIOP Annual Congress, and institutional collaboration. Through the Award, the PARC Committee aims to strengthen the national, regional or international research cooperative groups that operate in LICs and MICs, where the majority of children and adolescents sick with cancer live.

2. Who is eligible to apply?

Applicants must:

- Be a physician (MD, DO, MD/PhD or equivalent)
- Be working in a LIC or MIC
- Be within the first 10 years of obtaining their last degree
- Conduct research in collaboration with a recognized childhood cancer cooperative group
- Hold a valid medical license
- Be a SIOP member in good standing with membership fees paid for year 2026
- Commit at least 25% of full-time effort to research

3. Who is NOT eligible?

Applicants are ineligible if they:

- Previously received the NaiKong and Irene Cheung Family Career Development Award
- Are not SIOP members in 2026
- Lack support from a cooperative group in LIC/MICs
- Conduct research in high-income countries (HICs)
- Reside in HICs
- Don't reside in the country of research
- Are current or past members of the SIOP Board of Directors or PARC Committee

4. What type of research is supported?

The Award supports patient-oriented clinical research, including:

- Clinical studies involving human subjects
- Translational research linked to patients
- Implementation science

One award will be made for survivorship research in China.

Projects focused primarily on in vitro or animal studies are not prioritized.

5. Is mentoring required?

Yes. The awardee must be willing to work with mentors:

- A mentor from a LIC or MIC country
- A mentor from a High-Income Country (HIC)

The LIC/MIC mentor must be identified before submission. The HIC mentor can be identified after award approval (within 2 months of start). If the warranty is struggling to identify the HIC mentor, he/she may reach out to the SIOP Secretariat for support in identifying HIC mentor.

Mentors will not get support for their mentoring services.

6. How many awards will be given?

We will give several awards for paediatric oncology younger research from LICs/MICs. One award may be dedicated to survivorship research in China, depending on proposal quality.

The final decision about the total number of awards rests with the PARC Committee.

7. What type of cooperative group should support my research?

Your research should be supported by an existing childhood cancer research cooperative group. The group may be of national/ regional / international but should be working with a large enough pool of childhood cancer patients in LICs / MICs. Research groups operating in HICs are out of scope for this award.

Past recipients worked on research projects in collaboration with INPHOG (a national cooperative group with a large patient pool) and GALOP (an international cooperative group with a large patient pool).

8. Can the Chair / President of the Cooperative Group be my LIC/MIC mentor?

For the purposes of this award, you need to have two separate recommendations – one from our LIC/MIC mentor and another from the chair / president of the cooperative group.

The chair / president of the cooperative group should **not** play a double role and serve also as a LIC/MIC mentor. The LIC/MIC mentor should be a different person from the chair / president of the corporate group.

9. What is the funding amount?

Maximum budget ceilings:

- Low Income Countries: €10,000

- Lower Middle Income Countries: €15,000
- Upper Middle Income Countries: €25,000

Please use the latest world bank listings in order to determine whether your country is classified as low income, lowermiddle income, or upper middle income.

The PARC Committee reserves the right to award lower-than-the-maximum-advertised budget ceilings if the applicant's budget includes items that the Committee deems as unacceptable.

10. What is the total pot of money available?

The total pot of funding available for all of the PARC Early Career Awards in 2026 is US\$180,000 made possible through the generous support of the NaiKong and Irene Cheung Family and Rally Foundation.

11. What expenses are allowed?

Funds may cover:

- Research staff salaries and benefits
- Research assistants
- General research expenses
- Software licenses
- Training courses
- Administrative and grant management support
- Publication fees
- IRB fees
- Travel to HIC mentor institution
- Registration and attendance at one SIOF Annual Congress

The above list of items is not exhaustive and it's only provided for illustration.

12. What expenses are NOT allowed?

- Laboratory reactants
- Academic or tuition fees
- Research conducted in HICs
- Payments/fees to the mentors for the mentoring services
- Salary exceeding 40% of total award

13. What are the research expectations?

Applicants should:

- Address an unmet clinical need
- Explain how the proposed research strengthens cooperative group capacity

14. Will I be guaranteed an abstract acceptance to the SIOPI Annual Congress?

No, awardees are not guaranteed abstract acceptance. Awardees are encouraged to submit abstracts to the SIOPI Annual Congresses. Abstract selection is done by the SIOPI Scientific Committee exclusively and awards will have to submit the abstract like any other Congress delegate.

15. What documents must be submitted?

Applicants must use the submission portal in order to submit their application. Email submissions are not allowed. If you have difficulties accessing the submission portal, please email the SIOPI Secretariat at programs@siop-online.org at least five days before the deadline.

Required documents for submission are:

1. Completed Application Form (Template provided)
2. CV (max 3 pages)
3. Budget (Template provided)
4. Letter of Support from Cooperative Group Chair
5. Letter of Support from LIC/MIC Mentor
6. 2026 SIOPI Membership Certificate (you can download this from SIOPI connect after you login with your SIOPI username and password)

The submission requires all three parties – applicant, mentor from low or middle income country, chair of the cooperative group – to be SIOPI members for year 2026. The submission portal request only one membership certificate – that of the applicant. The membership certificates for the mentor and for the chair of the cooperative group will be verified by the SIOPI Secretariat administratively and do not need to be uploaded in the submission portal.

16. What is the link for the submission portal?

Please submit your application at this link here:

<https://siopoffice.wufoo.com/forms/z6z3of5032cvzd/>

17. How are funds disbursed?

Funds are disbursed in two tranches:

- At award signature 50%
- At the start of Year 2, provided that you have spent at least 80% of the previous tranche.

Funds are sent to the institution/cooperative group where the research is to be conducted.

18. What is the deadline?

April 15, 2026 @ 1 PM CEST (Geneva time)

In order to be fair to other candidates, late applications will not be accepted. Email applications will also not be accepted – please use the submission portal to submit your application.