



CLL SOCIETY

RESEARCH PROGRAM REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS 2026 CLINICAL SCHOLAR AWARD

Introduction: CLL Society is pleased to announce a funding opportunity for exceptional physician researchers who have already established themselves in the field of CLL/SLL. This Award is designed to support the research efforts of an advanced physician scientist who is engaged in independent clinical research and has demonstrated exceptional leadership, scholarship, and academic success.

Award Amount: CLL Society's 2026 Clinical Scholar Award is \$300,000 which will be distributed in three annual payments of \$100,000. The first \$100,000 will be paid within 30 days of the effective date, the second \$100,000 will be paid within 30 days after CLL Society's approval of the first submitted annual Scientific Progress Report and Financial Report. The final \$100,000 will be paid within 30 days after CLL Society's approval of the second annual Scientific Progress Report and Financial Report.

Eligibility: Applicants must review CLL Society's general eligibility criteria which are located on the website [here](#). This grant does allow for concurrently held research awards from other non-profit organizations or government institutions on a case-by-case basis. Applicants must provide documentation of current and pending support within the application. Eligible applicants must currently be practicing at an accredited academic clinical research institution located within the United States and perform their research at that institution for the duration of the award. US citizenship is not required, but the research itself must be conducted in the United States.

Cancer center directors should not apply for the Clinical Scholar Award and contact Principal Investigators on P-series grants (i.e., P01, P02, P30, P50) are ineligible.

In addition to CLL Society's general eligibility criteria, Clinical Scholar Award applicants must:

- Be an MD, DO, or the equivalent.
- Be an independent clinician investigator who is mid-stage in their career with a strong focus on CLL research and/or treatment. *Mid-stage independent clinician investigators are defined by CLL Society's Research Program as being someone who is either an associate professor, or within five years or less from acquiring full professorship as of the funding date of July 1st, 2026.*
- Be an established career physician researcher in the field of CLL as evidenced by having received some prior funding (examples may include R01 funding or mid-career awards from LLS or the DOD) and they must possess a broad knowledge of the disease.
- Currently spend 30% or more of their time on basic, translational, or clinical research efforts in their current position, but still have direct patient contact and clinical responsibilities in their role.

Goal: The Clinical Scholar Award is intended to advance the development of treatment and/or preventative options that lead to a higher quality of life for those living with CLL and SLL, while continuing to support the careers of established physician scientists.



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Study Design: Research proposals should be clinical and/or translational in nature. laboratory studies must directly relate to clinical studies. For this Award, clinical research is defined as patient-oriented research conducted with human subjects. Translational research is defined as patient-oriented research conducted on material of human origin such as tissues, specimens, and cognitive phenomena. Research proposals can include clinical trials, therapeutic interventions, mechanisms of human disease, and the development of new technologies. Emphasis will be placed on the innovation and transformative potential of the submitted proposals. Sufficient information must be included in the application to allow CLL Society's Research Review Committee to evaluate the significance, feasibility, and scientific strength of the project. Applicants should also demonstrate that their investigative team has the appropriate expertise to complete the proposed research project.

Projects Considered: Proposals must focus exclusively on research projects directly related to CLL/SLL and related disorders (for example, Richter's transformation) that will potentially lead to scientific progress in the field. Priority will be given to applications that specifically address any of CLL Society's Research Program Objectives and/or the critical areas of unmet need as provided on CLL Society's website [here](#). *If clinical trials are involved in the proposal, then it must be a researcher-sponsored trial rather than an industry-sponsored trial.* Retrospective study proposals are allowed but will receive low priority.

Budget: Funding should be used to support the Awardee's time through salary support, with a maximum allowable institutional overhead of 10%. Major equipment is not allowed, and no overhead will be provided for outside institutions. Funding is intended to cover the research rather than administrative costs. We encourage applicants to work with their institutions to reduce administrative costs so that the maximum amount of the award can be used for the research project. Travel expenses are allowed for no more than one hematology/oncology meeting per year up to \$2,500. The estimated funding period is July 1st, 2026, to June 30th, 2029.

Request for Letters of Intent: Applicants should submit their Letters of Intent through [ProposalCentral's application portal](#) **no later than October 20, 2025 at 11:59 PM EST**. Letters of Intent will not be received after this date/time. Applicants will be notified via email if they have been selected to submit their full research proposals through ProposalCentral by **November 27, 2025**.

Request for Full Research Proposals: Full proposal submissions are by invitation only after review and approval of the Letter of Intent. Those approved will be invited via email to submit their full research proposal through [ProposalCentral's application portal](#). The deadline for submission of the full proposal is **no later than January 30, 2026, at 11:59 PM EST**. Any applications received after this date/time will not be considered. Incomplete applications will also not be considered.

Required Documents: Please read through the [Application Instructions](#) and [Program Guidelines](#) in full prior to beginning the application process.

Selection Process: Full research proposals will undergo a formal peer-review process by CLL Society's Research Review Committee and will be critiqued and ranked for funding priority based on strategic and scientific merit. Applicants will be notified of the status of their application no later than **May 1, 2026**. Written critiques will be available to the applicants who submitted a full research proposal. In submitting a full proposal, applicants agree to allow CLL Society's Research Review Committee and program staff access to your full application materials.