AGA Research Foundation Awards Program
Frequently Asked Questions

Information is current as of July 2022

Before Starting Your Application

Do I need to be an AGA member to apply?

Yes. Applicants must be AGA members in good standing at the time of submission. Please visit https://gastro.org/membership/join-aga/ or call 301-654-2055 for membership information.

Am I eligible for an AGA research grant?

All AGA research grants require that applicants have an MD, PhD and/or equivalent degree (e.g., MBChB, MBBS, DO). A full-time faculty or equivalent positions at an institution in North America (Canada, Mexico, and United States) is required of applicants to all grant mechanisms except the Fellowship-to-Faculty Transition Awards.

How does AGA define "Early Career Investigator"?

If you are an MD (or equivalent), no more than seven years shall have elapsed following the completion of clinical training (GI fellowship or its equivalent) and the start date of the award you are applying to.

If you are a PhD (or equivalent), no more than seven years shall have elapsed following the awarding of the PhD degree and the start date of the award you are applying to.

An appropriately documented leave of absence, such as parental or medical leave, will not count toward the seven-year limit for early career investigators. Exceptional circumstances may also be considered. Exemption requests must be submitted to AGA via email at awards@gastro.org at least three weeks prior to the application deadline.

Please contact awards@gastro.org with any additional questions.

What type of research does AGA accept?

Proposals must be relevant to digestive or liver diseases. AGA accepts applications across the research spectrum, including basic, translational and clinical research. AGA defines these research categories as follows:

- Clinical: Research involving direct contact with human subjects or using clinical data to address problems related to the prevention, diagnosis treatment or outcome of human diseases (e.g., clinical epidemiology). This category also includes research related to health care delivery (e.g., health services, health IT).
- Basic/Translational: Research with the primary goal of understanding basic biology or disease mechanisms. It can involve animal subjects, cell culture, human biospecimens or human data as resources for laboratory- or informatics-based investigation.

How do I apply?

When you are ready to apply, you can access the award application on the [AGA Research Awards page](). Select the award you are interested in to read the specific requirements and limitations. If the award is accepting applications, it will have a blue "Apply Now" button at the top of the page. All submissions are completed online through AGA's grants management system; hard copies and email attachments are not accepted.

Can I see a copy of the application without logging into the grants management system?

Yes. Within each award on the Apply for Awards page, you will find a "*Preview Application"* link to access a PDF printout of the application.

Application Questions

What is the difference between a mentor and a sponsor?

A sponsor takes responsibility for the quality assessment of the proposed research, the quality of the research environment the project will be conducted in, and the credentials of the principal investigator and other key researchers/staff involved in the project.

A mentor supervises the principal investigator's research activities. In the Personal Statement section of their biosketch, the mentor should note their relationship with the principal investigator and the proposed research project.

What should be included in the research plan?

The research plan should include three distinct sections: Significance, Innovation and Approach (including preliminary data). The research plan should include sufficient information to evaluate the project independent of any other document. Be specific, informative and succinct.

Do you have page limits?

Yes. These vary by award mechanism:

	Digestive Cancer Awards (e.g., Funderburg, Augustyn)	Fellowship-to-Faculty Transition Awards	Pilot Research Awards	Research Scholar Awards
Specific aims	1 page			
Research plan	3 pages	4 pages	3 pages	6 pages
References	No page limit			
Career development plan	n/a	2 pages	n/a	2 pages
Biosketch ([template](#))	5 pages per biosketch			
Budget ([template](#))	No page limit; AGA template must be used			
Budget justification	No page limit			
Facilities and resources ([template](#))	No page limit; AGA template must be used			
Research mentor letter of support	1 page	2 pages	1 page	3 pages
Division/department letter of support	Refer to award description	1 page		
Other letters of support (if applicable)	1 page per letter			

Are there formatting requirements for application materials?

Yes. The specific aims, research plan, references, career development plan (if applicable), biosketches, budget justification, and letters of support should all follow these guidelines:

File Types

- Upload all supporting application materials in PDF format.

Document Layout

- Format documents in portrait orientation at a standard letter size, measuring 8.5 by 11 inches (21.6 x 28 cm).
- Margins must be 0.5 inches (1.3 cm) or larger.
- Except to label documents, avoid the use of headers, footers, and page numbers.

Font Type

- Use Arial, Calibri, Times New Roman or Helvetica fonts.
- Use 11 point or larger font size in the main text. Smaller font sizes are allowable in tables, figures, diagrams or other supporting information, but must be no smaller than 8 point and must be legible when the page is viewed at 100 percent zoom.

References

- Use the *Gastroenterology* citation style for in-text referencing and to format citations in the bibliography.
- Full instructions are available within the Instructions to Authors.

Are there required letters of support?

Yes, if you are an early-career investigator at the instructor or assistant professor level (or equivalent), a letter of recommendation from your division chief or department chair is required for Research Scholar Awards, pilot research awards, and other specialty research grants. Please see the *Requirements* section within the criteria for your specific award of interest for additional guidelines.

Do you have a budget template?

Yes, it is available on the Award Resources page, along with templates for your biosketch and the facilities and resources information.

Do you have budget limitations?

Yes. For all awards, indirect costs and costs for mentors/sponsors are not allowed. Please see the *Requirements* section within the criteria for your specific award of interest for any additional budget limitations.

Can I save my progress in AGA's grants management system?

Yes. You may enter the information all at once or enter it in stages and save your progress.

After You Apply

Can I change the contents of my application after it is submitted?

No. Once an application is submitted, you cannot alter its contents. Please thoroughly review your application to ensure it is correct before submitting. Due to the high volume of applications we receive, any incorrect or incomplete submissions are automatically removed from consideration.

Who reviews the applications?

Members of the AGA Institute Research Awards Panel are charged with scientific review of all applications and selecting award recipients for all research and travel awards. Applications are matched with reviewers based on their areas of expertise. The full roster is available on the Research Awards Panel webpage.

When should I expect to hear a decision on funding?

For all research awards, including Research Scholar Awards and pilot research awards, up to five months after the application deadline. For abstract and travel awards, up to two months after the application deadline.

How will I be notified about funding?

All applicants will receive an e-mail from awards@gastro.org whether or not they are chosen to receive funding.

Who do I contact if my question has not been answered above?

If you have additional questions, please contact the AGA Awards Program via email at awards@gastro.org. You will receive a response within 48 hours.