

## **AACR Annual Meeting 2022 Travel and Scholar Awards**

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) is extremely pleased to announce the availability of Scholar/travel awards for the AACR Annual Meeting 2022. Apart from the monetary benefit, this award mechanism provides early-career investigators opportunities for professional development and engagement with other cancer researchers, leading to the creation of collaborative networks and friendships. In the article below, we provide information on available travel awards for the AACR Annual Meeting 2022 and testimonials from previous award winners. Please note that these opportunities are available exclusively to AACR Associate Members in good standing (except for MICR) and must be the first (and presenting) author on a proffered abstract for the AACR Annual Meeting 2022. More information about the individual travel awards can also be found [here](#).

### **ANNUAL MEETING SCHOLAR-IN-TRAINING AWARDS (SITA)**

Since its inception in 1986, the AACR Scholar-in-Training Award (SITA) program has provided almost 4,900 grants to young investigators and has received support from 64 cancer research foundations, corporations, individuals, and other organizations dedicated to the fight against cancer. SITAs are highly competitive and recognize outstanding young investigators presenting meritorious proffered papers at the AACR Annual Meeting. The funds are specifically provided to support attendance at the Annual Meeting.

After completing the abstract submission process, make note of the abstract control number, which is needed to complete the SITA application. Applicants will also be asked to submit the following: the name of the applicant's primary mentor, full CV (including a list of publications), a short personal statement describing the applicant's research area and interests, current work setting, reasons for attending the Annual Meeting, and career aspirations. Please note that SITAs are not available for late-breaking abstracts. Successful applicants will be selected based on the merit of their abstract, CV, and personal statement; every effort will be made to notify awardees by early February 2022. Questions regarding the Scholar-in-Training Awards for the Annual Meeting can be directed to [sita@aacr.org](mailto:sita@aacr.org).

The names and affiliations of the 2021 Scholar-in-Training Award recipients, along with the abstract numbers and titles of their abstracts, and more information on SITA applications can be found [here](#).

*"The Scholar-in-Training award has been instrumental in my growth and journey as a cancer biologist. In a very real sense, it served as my introduction to the cancer biology community. Through the Scholar-in-Training award, I learned about new opportunities that the AACR offered for early career investigators such as advocating for increased cancer research funding at Capitol Hill and being able to join the AACR Associate Member Council. Importantly, I was able to meet*

*other early career investigators working in a similar area of research and establish collaborations to exchange ideas and resources to further develop and test my hypotheses.”*

**Sunil K. Joshi, Ph.D.**  
**Knight Cancer Institute**  
**Oregon Health & Science University**

### **GLOBAL SCHOLAR-IN-TRAINING AWARDS (GSITA)**

Early-career investigators in countries [building cancer research capacities](#) who wish to participate in the AACR Annual Meeting and have submitted an abstract may be eligible for the Global Scholar-in-Training Awards (GSITA). These awards are intended to enhance the education, training, and professional network of scientists from these countries who are engaged in cancer research. Applicants will be asked to submit the title, body and control number of the abstract submitted for the AACR Annual Meeting, a CV that includes a list of publications, and a personal statement. The personal statement should describe the applicant's background, field of study, current research, work setting and long-term career aspirations; how they would benefit from participating in the Annual Meeting; and in what ways they would share the knowledge gained with their home country.

The travel award includes complimentary registration and housing to the Annual Meeting, and up to \$2,000 USD toward the cost of meals and travel. Awardees will participate in a welcoming event with Global Scholar-in-Training Awards Alumni at the start of the Annual Meeting. Following the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, award recipients also will have the opportunity to participate in a special networking event and tour state-of-the-art laboratory facilities at a leading academic institution. Questions regarding the Global Scholar-in-Training Awards can be directed to [internationaltravelawards@aacr.org](mailto:internationaltravelawards@aacr.org)

In 2021, the awardee class represented nine countries – Argentina, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, and South Africa. The 2021 Award recipients are listed [here](#).

*“The Global Scholar-in-Training Award from AACR helped me expand my professional network, even as the meeting was held online! I had the opportunity to present a poster and answer questions from other attendees, which allowed me to find other people interested in my research area from around the world. Also, the special awardee events were very valuable, I especially enjoyed the Professional Development session where we could discuss different approaches to be productive and achieve work-life balance.”*

**Dr. C. Daniela Robles-Espinoza, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**International Laboratory for Human Genome Research**  
**National Autonomous University of Mexico, Juriquilla campus**  
**Santiago de Querétaro, Qro; Mexico**

*“GSITA gave me a direct platform to learn and interact with world-class researchers I have admired for a long time. The award was timely in helping me chart a career road map by*

*accessing vital information on recent advancements and the future of cancer research. The award also allowed me to meet many brilliant minds, share great ideas, and network with colleagues and top scientists from various parts of the world.”*

**Dr. Isaacson Bababode Adelani, Ph.D**  
**Covenant University**  
**Ota, Ogun State; Nigeria**

## **WOMEN IN CANCER RESEARCH (WICR) SCHOLAR AWARDS**

The AACR-WICR Scholar Awards program aims to encourage and facilitate the participation of women in cancer research. Members of Women in Cancer Research who are full-time scientists-in-training (graduate students, medical students, residents, clinical fellows or equivalent, postdoctoral fellows) may apply for [this award](#). Candidates must be presenters of meritorious scientific abstracts at the AACR Annual Meeting.

Required application material include a completed on-line application, personal statement, one letter of reference, updated curriculum vitae, and a copy of the submitted AACR abstract with abstract control number. The personal statement must be no longer than two paragraphs in length and should highlight the reasons for the candidate’s interest in the conference and the benefits they expect to gain from the meeting. Letter of reference should be from a faculty member from the applicant’s institution or an institution that the applicant has attended, who can comment on the candidate’s academic and personal qualifications for this award. The letter should be on letterhead with a visible signature and addressed to the Women in Cancer Research Scholar Awards Committee. Curriculum vitae should include a complete list of publications.

Awardees will be selected by the WICR Scholar Award Committee after careful consideration of the candidate’s application materials. Awardees will participate in a Meet and Greet session with the WICR Council and are encouraged to take advantage of several career development and networking opportunities presented at the AACR Annual Meeting. The 2021 awardees are listed [here](#). Questions regarding the AACR WICR Scholar Award can be directed to [wicr@aacr.org](mailto:wicr@aacr.org).

*“I was incredibly honored to receive a WICR Scholar award to attend my first AACR Annual Meeting. Not only was the WICR Meet and Greet a great way to network with the inspiring women on the WICR Council, but I also learned an incredible amount from the mentoring and professional advancement sessions that were specifically for WICR Scholars and tailored to address my career questions. This award did more than just allow me to attend a conference: it built bridges to new collaborators, colleagues, and friends.”*

**Kristin Anderson, PhD**  
**Postdoctoral Fellow**  
**Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center**

## **MINORITY SCHOLAR IN CANCER RESEARCH (MICR) AWARDS**

Graduate/medical students, residents, and clinical/postdoctoral fellows from groups considered to be underrepresented in cancer research as defined by the National Cancer Institute (African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Native-Americans, Native Pacific Islanders, and Native Alaskans) may apply for [Minority Scholar in Cancer Research Awards](#) available for attendance at the AACR Annual Meeting. The 2021 awardees are listed [here](#). **Applicants need not to be AACR members to be considered for this award.**

Required application materials include a completed on-line application, personal statement, two letters of reference, updated curriculum vitae, and a copy of the submitted AACR abstract. The personal statement (no longer than two pages in length) should clearly convey the applicant's interest in attending the annual AACR conference and its benefit to their professional growth. Reference letters from faculty members from the applicant's current or former institution should be addressed to the AACR-Minority Scholar in Cancer Research Awards Committee and discuss the applicant's academic and personal qualifications for this award. Applicants should also provide contact information of one faculty member from the applicant's current institution who could verify the submitted application upon request. A copy of the submitted abstract with abstract control number should be provided along with an updated curriculum vitae that includes a complete listing of publications. Questions regarding the MICR awards can be directed to [micr@aacr.org](mailto:micr@aacr.org).

*"The Minority in Cancer Research (MICR) Scholar Award afforded me the opportunity to not only exchange scientific findings at the AACR Annual Meeting with other colleagues, but also to make friends for a lifetime through AACR. Through the MICR Scholar Award, I have been able to attend AACR Annual Meetings and meet with other scientists from around the world, including minority researchers that look just like me. This experience led me to become more involved in AACR and participate in programs for early-career investigators. I am also grateful to have been a part of the AACR Early-Career Hill Day these past few years, advocating for research funding to congressional members on Capitol Hill. Without the MICR Scholar Award, I may have not had the chance to network with professors or even have found a mentor, who would one day become my postdoc advisor. AACR has shown me that I can be a cancer researcher, a science advocate, and an active promoter of diversity and inclusion in science all at the same time."*

**Kimiko L. Krieger, Ph.D.**

**Postdoctoral Fellow**

**Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Baylor College of Medicine**

### **AACR UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLAR AWARDS**

Undergraduate students majoring in science may be eligible for a Science Education Award. The purpose of these awards is to inspire promising science students to enter the field of cancer research. Candidates must be Student members of the American Association for Cancer Research, and full-time, third-year undergraduate students majoring in science. There are no citizenship or residency requirements for this award; applications are encouraged from students in the US and abroad.

Awardees are required to participate in two consecutive AACR Annual Meetings, must attend scientific sessions at each meeting for a minimum of four days, and need to submit two annual reports each year commenting on the sessions they attended at each of the two annual meetings, as well as on the other activities they are pursuing.

Applicants will be asked to list at least one mentor in a faculty capacity at their institution who can certify the information in the application upon request. The application includes a personal statement describing the benefit he/she expects to derive from attending the conference and the reasons for the candidate's interest in the conference; two letters of reference from faculty members from the applicant's institution or an institution that the applicant has attended; a copy of the abstract submitted for presentation at the meeting and the temporary abstract number (if applicable); and a CV or resume.

The travel award includes complementary registration for participation in the 2022 and 2023 AACR Annual Meetings (AACR Annual Meeting 2022, April 8-13, 2022, in New Orleans, LA and AACR Annual Meeting 2023, April 14-19, 2023, in Orlando, FL) and a stipend each year for expenses incurred in connection with attendance at each annual meeting. (Remaining money can also be applied toward related school projects and events throughout the year.) Questions regarding the Undergraduate Travel Award can be directed to [scienceeducation@aacr.org](mailto:scienceeducation@aacr.org).

In 2021, AACR Undergraduate Awards were presented to 10 scholars representing two countries and seven states. The 2021 award recipients are listed [here](#).

*"The AACR Undergraduate Scholar Award was helpful for my education and career development as it helped me solidify my decision to pursue an oncology related specialty after completing medical school. I was able to make several connections with esteemed researchers, as well as other students who share in my passion for cancer research. I am appreciative for having received this award as it has allowed me to expand my horizons and learn about new and exciting discoveries in the field."*

**Sarah Emma**  
**Medical College of Wisconsin**

## **FINAL REMINDERS**

**The deadline to submit AACR Abstracts and scholar award applications for the AACR Annual Meeting 2022 is Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021.** The call for abstracts can be found [here](#), the abstract submission portal can be accessed through [myAACR.org](http://myAACR.org), and the link to submit applications can be accessed on the home page of [myAACR.org](http://myAACR.org). Please contact Abstract Submission Customer Service with questions (217-398-1792 or [aacr@support.ctimeetingtech.com](mailto:aacr@support.ctimeetingtech.com)). Please visit the AACR [website](#) for information on other Annual Meeting 2022 scholar and travel awards. We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans, LA!

AACR Associate Member Council 2020-2021