

**Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society
and St. Jude-Pediatric Infectious Diseases
Society Fellowship Awards Program**

Application Deadline: ~~HD~~ April 1, 2024 (10:00 AM Pacific Time)

The Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (PIDS) is now accepting applications for the 2025 cycle for the following awards: the *Stanley and Susan Plotkin and Sanofi Pasteur Fellowship Award* and the *St. Jude-PIDS Fellowship Award in Basic and Translational Science*.

The goal of these programs is to foster the academic career development of physicians in Pediatric Infectious Diseases. Applicants are encouraged to pursue opportunities to conduct cutting-edge clinical, translational, and basic science research in fields such as public health, epidemiology, antimicrobial stewardship, health disparities, infection control, outcomes research, pharmacokinetics, pathophysiology, molecular pathogenesis, vaccine development, and other fields relevant to Pediatric Infectious Diseases.

Stanley and Susan Plotkin and Sanofi Pasteur Fellowship Award

Established through the generosity of Stanley and Susan Plotkin and Sanofi Pasteur, these fellowship awards support outstanding basic, translational, or clinical research in Pediatric Infectious Diseases. The two-year grants are available for Pediatric Infectious Diseases fellows-in-training enrolled in certified US and Canadian programs. One of these awards will be available for 2025.

Eligibility:

- Candidates must possess a MD, MD/PhD, DO or equivalent and be a first or second year fellow in a Pediatric Infectious Diseases program in North America at the time of application.
- During the fellowship award period, the applicant is expected to devote the majority of effort (approximately 75%) conducting the research project under the direct supervision of a mentor.
- The primary or co-mentor must be a current PIDS member.

Support:

- The award provides \$50,000 in total costs per year for 2 years, with the 2nd year of support dependent upon satisfactory research progress.
- If the award is given to a second-year fellow, the award will support one year (year 3) of the fellowship. Approval for the second year of support may be allowed for the first year of a faculty appointment by special request in the progress report and will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the PIDS Fellowship Awards Subcommittee.
- The award may be used at the discretion of the applicant, such as salary support, purchase of small equipment, technical support, research supplies, statistical support, tuition or workshop fees, publication fees. Indirect costs and health insurance are not permitted.

St. Jude-PIDS Fellowship Award in Basic and Translational Science

Funded by St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and jointly sponsored by PIDS and St. Jude, the goal of this program is to develop an enhanced cadre of physician-scientists who are trained to conduct rigorous, high-quality, basic or translational research studies in the field of Pediatric Infectious Diseases. This award provides support for 3 years to maximize research time. Applicants are encouraged to consider mentors outside their Division of Infectious Diseases. A one-month rotation on the Infectious Diseases service at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is offered to provide an intensive experience in care of patients with compromised immunity. Collaboration with St. Jude investigators is encouraged but not mandatory. Award recipients will present their research each year at the St. Jude/PIDS Pediatric Infectious Diseases Research Conference.

Eligibility:

- Candidates must possess an MD or an MD/PhD or equivalent and be a first-year fellow in an accredited pediatric infectious diseases fellowship training program in North America.
- During the fellowship award period (July 1, 2025-June 20, 2028), the applicant is expected to devote the majority of effort conducting the research project under the direct supervision of a mentor –approximately 75% during the first year of support, increasing to approximately 90% during the subsequent 2 years.

Support:

- Support will begin July 1, 2025 (in the second year of fellowship). The award provides a total of three years of support.
- The award provides \$75,000 of salary support during the first year of support, with an incremental increase of \$5,000 for each subsequent year.
- An additional \$15,000 per year is provided for use at the discretion of the research mentor for supplies, small equipment, and meeting attendance by the fellow.

Application and Selection Process

A single application is used for all award mechanisms. All applications from candidates eligible for the St. Jude-PIDS Fellowship Award (focused on basic or translational research) will be reviewed by the St. Jude Review Committee in an initial round of review. As the St. Jude award requires a 3-year commitment, applicants can opt-out of consideration for this award. All applications, including those not selected for the St. Jude-PIDS Fellowship Award, will then be reviewed by the Fellowship Awards Committee to be considered for the Plotkin-Sanofi Pasteur Fellowship Awards. Applicants will receive funding decisions and feedback from the committee by June 1, 2025.

Applications for these awards must include the following items (please see following paragraphs for additional instructions):

1. Completed application form (online)
2. Applicant's biosketch in current NIH format (5-page limit)
3. Mentor's biosketch in current NIH format (5-page limit)
4. Personal statement from the applicant (1-2 pages)
5. Research proposal (5-page limit, including the statement of overall hypothesis and specific aims)
6. References (no page limit)
7. Budget justification (no page limit)
8. Letter of support from the applicant's division director or fellowship program director
9. Letter of support from the prospective research mentor, which should include a detailed career development plan for the applicant

The completed application should be submitted as a single .pdf file through the website portal by **11:59 PM Pacific Time on Tuesday, April 1, 2025.**

Additional Instructions

Personal Statement: The personal statement from the applicant should include a summary of career goals, reasons for applying for a fellowship award, and career development plans for the award period.

Research Proposal: The primary hypothesis of the research proposal and specific aims designed to address that hypothesis should be described clearly and concisely. The applicant should summarize the significance of the proposed research, relevant background information, and any available preliminary data. The experimental methods to be employed and plans for statistical analysis, including consideration for sample size (e.g., power analysis), should be described in detail. Implications and possible applications of results of the proposed project to the care of children should be discussed.

- Use Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype, or Georgia typeface and a font size of 11 points or larger. Type density, including characters and spaces, must be no more than 15 characters per inch. Type may be no more than six lines per inch.
- Use at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages.

References: References for the research proposal should be provided but are excluded from the 5-page limit.

Budget Justification: The budget justification should include proposed expenses, such as salary support, purchase of small equipment, technical support, research supplies, statistical support, tuition or workshop fees, publication fees. Indirect costs and health insurance are not permitted. The budget is requested for informational purposes only and will not affect funding decisions.

Division Director or Fellowship Program Director Letter: The statement from the applicant's division director or fellowship program director should summarize the applicant's qualifications and potential for success and provide support for the applicant's choice of research mentor and research project. This statement should also document the division's commitment to preserve the appropriate amount of protected time for the fellow to conduct research during the award period.

Mentor Letter: The letter of support from the research mentor should include a brief description of the current projects in their research program, a list of current research personnel, a summary of the applicant's proposed research project, and documentation of the commitment to directly supervise the fellow. The mentor should also describe in detail a specific plan to foster the applicant's career as a physician-scientist during their fellowship.

Questions regarding the Plotkin-Sanofi Pasteur Award, including eligibility, application process, or other issues, can be addressed to Dr. Masako Shimamura (masako.shimamura@nationwidechildrens.org). Questions regarding the St. Jude-PIDS Fellowship Award can be addressed to Dr. Joseph W. St. Geme, III (stgemeiii@chop.edu).

Progress Report

Recipients of the Stanley and Susan Plotkin and Sanofi Pasteur Fellowship Award or the St. Jude-PIDS Fellowship Award in Basic and Translational Science must prepare a progress report at the end of each year of support. The report should summarize experimental results, indicate problems encountered, and detail any alterations in the original protocol. In addition, the report should include a list of publications, pending publications, and presentations at scientific meetings. Requests for transitional support to a faculty position should be included in the progress report and should outline a description of sufficient protected time, resources, and institutional commitment to enable completion of the project. Reports should be submitted by May 1 to Christy Phillips in the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society Office (PIDS Headquarters) via email to cphillips@idsociety.org.

Final Report

At the completion of the award period, fellows must generate a final progress report summarizing their accomplishments. The report should be sent to Christy Phillips in the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society Office by August 1 following expiration of the award. Awardees may be asked to complete periodic follow-up surveys from PIDS to assess long-term outcomes of the award mechanism.

Acknowledgement

Recipients of the Stanley and Susan Plotkin and Sanofi Pasteur Fellowship Award and the St. Jude-PIDS Fellowship Award in Basic and Translational Science must acknowledge the program in all abstracts and publications that result from the research supported by the award.