

## Application deadline: Friday, January 16, 2026, 11:59 PM Eastern Time

Potential applicants must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) no later than  
**Tuesday, September 30, 2025, 11:59 PM Eastern Time.** Please see additional information below.

## Program Information and Scoring Criteria

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Jenesis Innovative Research Awards™ provide support to US- or Canada- based investigators who are engaged in innovative research that will advance scientific knowledge and enhance patient care in pulmonary hypertension (PH), idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), or lung transplantation (LTx). The program encourages submissions exploring topics in health equity, determinants of health, and marginalized populations. Applicants must be part of an appropriate research group and under the supervision of a qualified mentor. Up to four awards of up to \$100,000 each will be issued annually.

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The program provides financial support to up to four junior faculty for a 1-year period. Each award is funded up to \$100,000. Recipients of these competitive awards will be selected by an independent Scientific Review Committee (SRC), comprised of leaders in the fields of PH, IPF, or LTx. The SRC will review complete applications and select research proposals based on their scientific merit, feasibility, and innovation. Recognition of award recipients will be made at events hosted or sponsored by United Therapeutics. Please refer to the Applicant Eligibility section below to review the criteria applicants must meet to be considered for the award.

**Award Amount:** \$100,000

**Award Duration:** 1 year

### SCIENTIFIC FOCUS

The program is designed to support basic, translational, clinical, and population research in the fields of PH, IPF, or LTx, as well as to encourage research in health equity, determinants of health and marginalized communities. The program addresses three types of awards:

#### Jenesis Clinical Investigations and Outcomes Award™

—exploring populations with unmet needs or novel treatment approaches, as well as exploring the science of clinical or patient-reported outcomes research

#### Jenesis Pre-Clinical Award™

—exploring the mechanisms behind PH, IPF, or LTx disease processes and effects of therapies

#### Jenesis Determinants of Health Award™

—exploring health equity and outcomes gaps among marginalized communities

The intention is for one award to be reserved for a qualified research proposal advancing the field of LTx. However, this will depend on the number and quality of submissions. Final award decisions will be made based on scientific merit, regardless of category.

The 2026 award program will accept LOIs for research proposals related to PH, IPF, or LTx. The program will support new original research. Proposals with significant budgetary or scientific overlap with funded research projects from a peer review agency or industry source will **not** be considered. If you plan to request treprostinil product for use in your Jenesis Award research proposal, you must clearly indicate the product and quantities requested in your proposal and in the application form at the time of submission.\*

Applicants may submit more than one application but only one will be eligible for an award.

*\*United Therapeutics cannot guarantee the availability of certain products in Canada.*

**Note: Applications must be completed online and submitted electronically.**

### ELIGIBLE SPONSORING INSTITUTION

These awards provide grants directly to the institutions of the selected researchers. The institutions are limited to US- or Canada-based, nonprofit organizations, including medical and osteopathy schools, pharmacy schools, universities and colleges, and hospitals that demonstrate the ability to support the proposed research. Employees of the United States federal government are not eligible.

### SCIENTIFIC REVIEW COMMITTEE (SRC)

Applications will be assessed by an independent SRC comprised of leaders in the fields of PH, IPF, or LTx.

### **CHAIR:**

#### **Stephen Chan, MD, PhD, FAHA**

Vitalant Chair in Vascular Medicine  
Professor of Medicine, Division of Cardiology  
Director, Vascular Medicine Institute  
Director, Center for Pulmonary Vascular Biology and Medicine  
Associate Chief of Cardiology, Basic Science  
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and UPMC  
Pittsburgh, PA

### **REVIEW COMMITTEE:**

#### **Sophia Airhart, MD, FACC**

Medical Director, Pulmonary Hypertension  
Regional Medical Director of Heart Failure  
Baystate Health  
Springfield, MA

#### **Pedro Catarino, MD**

Professor, Cardiac Surgery  
Director, Aortic Surgery  
Staff Physician, Smidt Heart Institute  
Department of Cardiac Surgery  
Cedars Sinai  
Los Angeles, CA

#### **Murali Chakinala, MD**

Professor of Medicine  
Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine  
Director, Pulmonary Hypertension Care Center  
Director, Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia Center  
Washington University in St. Louis  
St. Louis, MO

#### **Vinicio A. de Jesus Perez, MD, FCCP, FAHA, ATS**

Associate Dean of MD Admissions, Stanford School of Medicine  
Professor of Medicine with Tenure  
Co-Director, Stanford Translational Investigator Program (TIP)  
Division of Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Medicine  
Stanford University Medical Center  
Stanford, CA

#### **Deborah Levine, MD**

Clinical Professor of Medicine  
Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine  
Lung Transplantation  
Stanford Medicine  
Director, Lung Transplant Outreach  
Stanford, CA

#### **Bradley Maron, MD**

Professor of Medicine  
Senior Associate Dean for Precision Medicine  
Executive Co-Director, Institute for Health Computing  
Director, Pulmonary Hypertension Center  
University of Maryland  
Baltimore, MD

#### **Kenneth McCurry, MD**

The Jack B. Lally Endowed Chair in Thoracic Surgery  
Surgical Director, Lung and Heart-Lung Transplant Program  
Director, Ex Vivo Lung Perfusion Program  
Director, Respiratory ECMO Program  
Cleveland Clinic  
Cleveland, OH

#### **Lana Melendres-Groves, MD**

Assistant Dean of Faculty Affairs  
Vice Chair of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion  
Clinical Professor  
Director, Pulmonary Hypertension  
Medical Director, Clinical Trial Unit  
Department of Internal Medicine  
University of New Mexico School of Medicine  
Albuquerque, NM

#### **Imre Noth, MD**

Dudley F. Rochester Professor of Medicine  
Chief, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine  
University of Virginia  
Charlottesville, VA

#### **Joshua Solomon, MD**

Associate Professor, Department of Medicine  
Director, Interstitial Lung Disease Program  
Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine  
National Jewish Health  
Denver, CO

### **APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY**

These awards are intended for junior faculty who are in the early stages of their career. An applicant may not be a recipient of a career development (K) award (or equivalent multi-year development award) or an R category grant. At the time of proposal submission, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Hold a PhD degree or equivalent, or a doctoral-level clinical degree, such as MD, DO, or PharmD
- Be a US or Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or hold a valid nonimmigrant visa. This visa must be valid for the one-year award period (October 1, 2026 – October 1, 2027)
- Be within five years from completion of final training (e.g. fellowship, postdoctoral position) in association with an academic research institution in the US or Canada at the time of the application
- Demonstrate a strong career interest in PH, IPF, or LTx
- Have a research mentor with extensive experience in the fields of PH, IPF, or LTx
- Have at least 40% protected time to devote to research in general (instead of administrative or clinical duties that are not part of the research)
- Be able to complete the research within the 1-year award period

- Certify applicant will have an academic appointment at the institution where the research will be conducted at the time of award
- Employees of the United States federal government are not eligible

## REVIEW CRITERIA

**Applications are evaluated based on the following criteria:**

### CRITERION 1: EVALUATION OF THE APPLICANT

- Mentor's assessment of the applicant
- What is the applicant's previous research experience and/or publications
- Potential for a career in PH, IPF, or LTx-related research
- Is the proposal well-structured and clearly written
- Applicant's contribution to the proposal, as well as other research experiences listed on the applicant's biographical sketch

### CRITERION 2: MENTOR/TRAINING PLAN AND ENVIRONMENT

- The mentor should be an independent investigator in PH, IPF, or LTx and have the experience to direct the proposed research training, as demonstrated by a track record of funding, productivity, and success with prior trainees
- Detailed description of the training plan should be provided by the mentor that demonstrates familiarity with the applicant's career and developmental goals
- The mentor should ensure that the expertise, laboratory facilities, and protected time at the sponsoring institution will support the applicant's progress toward his/her research goals
- Is the institution willing and able to commit the resources necessary for the applicant to complete the proposed research, including sufficient protected time

### CRITERION 3: EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSAL

- **Innovation and Significance:** The proposal should be new, original, and address important concepts, methods, and/or technologies pertaining to PH, IPF, or LTx
- **Approach:** The proposal should be appropriate for the applicant, given his or her education and experience. The conceptual framework, aims, preliminary data, design, methods, and analyses should be appropriate to the aims of the project. The proposal should acknowledge potential problems and address alternative approaches
- **Feasibility:** The project should be feasible within the one-year time frame and proposed budget

## PROGRAM TIMELINE FOR LETTER OF INTENT

### Letter of Intent Deadline:

Tuesday, September 30, 2025, 11:59 PM Eastern Time

### Letter of Intent Notification:

Friday, October 31, 2025

## GUIDELINES FOR THE LETTER OF INTENT

Prior to submitting a complete application/research proposal, potential applicants must submit a Letter of Intent and supplemental materials as noted below. Members of the SRC will review and determine if the applicant may proceed to submit a complete application. The following materials need to be submitted:

- Letter of Intent
- Applicant's biographical sketch (NIH biosketch)
- Proposed Research Abstract
  - The proposed research should be outlined in an abstract of no more than 500 words
- Completed Applications for Funding Form (available on the portal)

## PROGRAM TIMELINE FOR THE APPLICATION

### Application Deadline:

Friday, January 16, 2026, 11:59 PM Eastern Time

*No applications will be accepted after this date.*

### Applicant Notification:

Monday, March 30, 2026

### Jenesis Awards Reception:

ISHLT 2026 (April 21-25, 2026, Toronto) Exact Date TBD

### Award Disbursement:

October 1, 2026, contingent upon an agreement being finalized between the awardee's institution and United Therapeutics

## GUIDELINES FOR THE APPLICATION

### ***You will be able to save and return to your application.***

Upon saving your application, you will receive an email with a direct link to return to your saved application. If you do not receive an email, please notify the program coordinator at [utjenesisawards@j-jhealth.com](mailto:utjenesisawards@j-jhealth.com).

The applicant must take primary responsibility for the writing and preparation of the various components of the proposal, which are to be submitted electronically using the forms provided. Other individuals (eg, the mentor) will provide supporting documents that should be included with the application.

**Please be sure to complete all required fields or you will not be able to submit!**

### The application must include:

#### APPLICANT'S BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH (NIH BIOSKETCH)

#### RESEARCH ABSTRACT

The proposed research should be outlined in an abstract of no more than 500 words.

## PROPOSAL

The proposal should be a clear presentation of the project, single-spaced (11-point Arial font), and limited to 5 pages, not including the bibliography. Proposals of more than 5 pages will not be accepted.

### The proposal must include:

- Title
- Background and significance
- Preliminary results, if applicable
- Research design and methods, including any requests for treprostinil and quantities
- Anticipated results and potential pitfalls
- Figures and tables, if applicable, should be included in the body of the text
- Description of potential challenges and possible approaches to address them
- Bibliography (not included in the 5-page proposal count)

## MENTOR'S BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH (NIH BIOSKETCH)

### LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM MENTOR WHICH INCLUDES:

- Prior experience to direct the proposed research training, as evidenced by mentor's track record regarding productivity, funding, and prior trainees
- Detailed description of the mentoring plan, including available resources allocated to the proposed research project, provision of protected time, and available laboratory facilities
- A plan for instruction and supervision in the responsible conduct of research
- A plan for the applicant's career and developmental goals
- Applicant's contribution to the proposal, as well as other research experiences listed on the applicant's biographical sketch
- Letter of support from department head or division chief which includes confirmation of academic appointment and protected time for research

## DETAILED BUDGET

- In order to maximize the benefits of the grant, indirect costs may not exceed 10% of the award and should be included in the budget
- Salary and fringe benefits support may be allocated for the applicant or technician
- There is no limitation on cost of supplies
- Travel costs are limited to \$2,000 and may only be used to present data associated with this grant
- Salaries and fringe benefits support for mentors, post-doctoral fellows, or students may not be included

## TEMPLATES *(Please use the templates provided on this website.)*

- Acknowledgement of Indirect Costs Limitation signed by an authorized institutional official

- Applications for Funding
- Certification of Faculty Appointment, signed by the applicant and mentor

If the research project includes investigations on human subjects, a copy of the submission to the institutional review board (IRB) must be submitted prior to award disbursement.

If the research project involves laboratory animals, researcher must certify that he/she will comply with all laws and regulations pertaining to the case and use of animals in research prior to award disbursement.

United Therapeutics will require IRB approval for clinical work and Institutional Animal Care Committee (IACUC) approval for nonclinical work prior to award disbursement.

## INQUIRIES/CONTACT INFORMATION

### For general inquiries, please call or email:

**Attn:** Jenesis Trailblazer Awards Coordinator

**Tel:** 516-287-5015

**Email:** utjenesisawards@j-jhealth.com

## FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

If you are selected as an award recipient, you and your institution must agree to the following items, including but not limited to:

- **Exclusive Use of Funding:** In order to maximize the benefits of the grant, indirect costs may not exceed 10% of the award and should be included in the budget.
- **Publications:** The support of the Jenesis Innovative Research Awards™ Program must be acknowledged in any publications or abstracts resulting from research funded by this award. Draft publications must be submitted to United Therapeutics 30 days prior to submission to any scientific congress or journal.
- **Intellectual Property:** The host institution shall retain ownership of any inventions made by the institution and investigator during the conduct of the research.
- **Change of Institution or Discontinuation:** United Therapeutics must be notified immediately if the award recipient leaves the host institution or discontinues the research funded by the program. In the event the award recipient moves to another institution, the grant may be transferred at the sole discretion of United Therapeutics with advice from the Scientific Review Committee, as needed. The new host institution must also agree to accept the terms and conditions of the existing award.

In the event the host institution or award recipient is unable or desires to discontinue the research before its completion, institution will be required to return all unexpended funds.

Award recipients and their institutions will be required to enter into a written grant agreement with United Therapeutics prior to receipt of funding.

## PREVIOUS AWARD RECIPIENTS

2025

**Caitlin T. Demarest, MD, PhD**

**Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN**

*"Evaluating the Long-Term Effects of a Wearable Right Ventricular Support System on Right Ventricular Recovery in a Sheep Model of Chronic PH with Wireless Monitoring of Right Ventricular Pressure"*

**Jacqueline DesJardin, MD**

**University of California, San Francisco, CA**

*"Feasibility, Acceptability, and Efficacy of a Joint Addiction-Cardiology Co-Management Clinic for the Treatment of Methamphetamine-Associated PAH"*

**Katarina Zeder, MD, PhD**

**University of Maryland Institute for Health Computing, Bethesda, MD**

*"Deep Phenotyping of COPD-PH Patients Using Invasive Hemodynamic and Advanced CT Imaging Data Identifies Novel and Clinically-Relevant Sub-Groups"*

2024

**Muhtadi Alnababteh, MD**

**National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD**

*"Risk Stratification of De Novo Donor-Specific Antibodies in Lung Transplant Patients Using Tissue-Specific Cell-Free DNA"*

**Roberto Bernardo, MD, MS**

**Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN**

*"Race, Ethnicity, Social Deprivation, Social Determinants of Health and Allostatic Load in Patients with Pulmonary Hypertension"*

**Neil J. Kelly, MD, PhD**

**University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA**

*"Epidemiologic and Mechanistic Links Between Circadian Chronotype and Pulmonary Hypertension"*

2023

**Joel James, PhD**

**Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN**

*"Targeting the Stratifin Mediated Endothelial-Pericyte Crosstalk in Pulmonary Hypertension"*

**Jasleen Minhas, MD, MS**

**University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA**

*"Physical Frailty in Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension"*

**Maryam Sharifi-Sanjani, PhD**

**University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA**

2022

**Vineet Agrawal, MD, PhD**

**Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN**

*"Harnessing Genetics for Novel Therapeutic Targets in Pulmonary Hypertension due to Heart Failure"*

**Rahul Kumar, PhD**

**University of California, San Francisco, CA**

*"Role of Classical Monocytes in Hypoxic Pulmonary Hypertension"*

**Justin K. Lui, MD, MS**

**Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA**

*"Biomarkers of Left Ventricular Strain in Systemic Sclerosis-Related Pulmonary Hypertension"*

**Yogesh N. Reddy, MD, MSc**

**Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN**

*"Comprehensive O<sub>2</sub> Transfer Analysis from the Lung to Mitochondria with Inhaled Treprostinil in ILD Pulmonary Hypertension"*

2020/2021

**Jonathan Florentin, PhD**

**University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA**

*"CX3CR1 Triggers Neutrophil Recruitment to the Lungs and Enhances Smooth Muscle Cell Proliferation in Pulmonary Hypertension"*

**Daniel Lachant, DO**

**University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY**

*"Cardiac Expenditure Correlates With Right Ventricular Function Measured by Cardiac MRI"*

2019

**Benjamin Korman, MD**

**University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY**

*"Modulation of TNF-alpha as Cause and Treatment of Connective Tissue Disease-Associated Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension"*

**Kurt Prins, MD, PhD**

**University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN**

*"Protein O-GlcNAcylation in RV Failure"*

**Samuel Rayner, MD**

**University of Washington, Seattle, WA**

*"Establishing Patient-Specific Microvessel Models of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension"*

2018

**Kara Goss, MD**

**University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI\***

*"Cardiac Metabolic Remodeling After Pulmonary Vasodilator  
Therapy in Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension:  
A Pilot Study"*

**Yen-Chun (Charly) Lai, PhD**

**Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN**

*"Mechanistic Role of Skeletal Muscle SIRT3 in Parenteral  
Treprostinil-Mediated Improvement of Pulmonary Hypertension  
Associated with Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction"*

**Sara Vargas, PhD**

**The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University,  
Providence, RI**

*"Health-Related Quality of Life: Patient-Focused Strategies for  
Measuring and Improving Sexual Health and Functioning Among  
Patients with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension"*

*\*At time of award*