

INTRODUCTION

The International Anesthesia Research Society is delighted to announce The Global Scholars Award (GSA), a **two-year, \$20,000** funding opportunity to support a global mentored research initiative. The focus of this inaugural initiative will be to support a well-defined project in perioperative anesthesiology, such as an observational study, in low- and lower middle-income countries (**LMICs I & II**) as defined here <https://iars.org/lmics/>, while promoting research training and mentoring for the candidate.

The Global Scholars Award is closely aligned with the IARS vision to lead the global anesthesiology community in advancing the science and practice of medicine. This proposal is a powerful call to action for anesthesia providers in LMICs who believe in the power of academic research to drive medical advances and improve patient care. IARS believes that with the right support and resources, research can be a driving force for scientific progress and career advancement globally. Low resource environments often face barriers to accessing funding and support, such as mentorship and limited access to laboratories. By providing access to funding and resources, we hope to help anesthesia researchers from LMICs to overcome these barriers, develop their scientific acumen, and fulfill their academic and leadership potential.

ELIGIBILITY AND SCOPE

GSA is an award of up to \$20,000 designed to foster innovation, creativity, and capacity building for an early career/young investigator/junior faculty interested in a career in academic research. The award will span two years (average \$10,000 per year). Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to research and the potential for leadership within their home country. Eligible Organizations must be located in an LMIC (low- and lower middle-income), as defined by The World Bank (<https://datatopics.worldbank.org/world-development-indicators/the-world-by-income-and-region.html>), and include an established university research institution. Prior or current recipients of award dollars totaling more than \$20,000/year are not eligible to apply.

Projects must have direct relevance to the practice of anesthesiology. Applications will be judged based on significance (answer a compelling clinical question relevant to the awardee's country/region and practice), innovation, approach (grounded in sound scientific methodology and using valid measures), impact on career development, and feasibility. Questions that can be effectively and ethically addressed via observational studies or analytics are particularly encouraged.

This funding opportunity requires applicants to have an experienced academic mentor or team of mentors, a detailed budget plan and timeline for implementation, as well as tangible metrics

of success. This approach helps ensure that IARS financial support is having a real impact on the lives of the scientists and the institutions that we fund. This model of mentored research grants builds on the IARS' experience with the IMRA awards (<https://iars.org/iars-mentored-research-award/>), but is customized to the needs of research relevant to LMICs.

The award will fund up to five researchers up to \$20,000/each. Applicants will delineate a plan to train with a primary, co-primary, and/or team of mentors, who can be at their home institutions, home country and/or international (in the case of an external mentor). Specific enumeration of how the award will position the candidate to build their own mentorship skills to provide in-country training to the next generation in subsequent years is encouraged. Payments will be made to a research institute that will oversee spending. Further details are provided below.

Potential research subject areas include:

Technology

Patient Safety

Quality Improvement

Sample Collection and Biomarker research

Population based research

GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS:

Global Mentorship and Networking: The applicant and the primary mentor must both be from academic institutions within an LMIC. The applicant and the mentor may be from different institutions within the same LMIC depending on availability of resources within the applicant's home institution. In the spirit of building synergistic, global mentoring networks, the applicant is strongly encouraged to identify an external, established mentor from outside of an LMIC who is best situated to provide additional mentorship on the chosen topic as needed. The IARS will work with applicants to identify external mentors if needed.

If financially feasible, within the duration of the GSA, the awardee is encouraged to include research-related training (mentioned in their career development plan) at an established host institution for up to 1 month. The awardee is also encouraged to use part of the grant support to attend and present at an appropriately timed IARS Annual Meeting. Peer-reviewed publications in leading journals in the field resulting from the funded work will be expected.

Towards building global networks, in addition to financial support, the external mentor may serve as a visiting scholar to the awardee institution to provide specialized research training relevant to the awardee's and institution's research goals, but is not currently available within that institution.

Fostering and sustaining local leadership: A major goal of the GSA is to support meaningful, sustainable research initiatives for the awardee and their institution. In years following the award duration, the awardee is expected to become a leader/mentor in their home institution and country. A plan to sustain the initiative/project beyond the award period should be delineated. Such a plan could include activities that facilitate ongoing research, research grant applications, and processes that would be initiated during the grant funding period with the goal to continue capacity building for the department and institution after the IARS funding has ended. Examples include, but are not limited to, development of standards in research and training for medical students, anesthesia residents and fellows interested in research. The GSA funding is intended to enable the awardee and their institutions to initiate and strengthen local research processes, and collect relevant data to demonstrate the importance of developing or strengthening research activities that can help to maintain institutional competitiveness and/or the efficiency and productivity of researchers.

APPLICATION COMPONENTS:

Applicants must be IARS members preferably having faculty appointments at an academic medical center in the LMIC (**low- and lower middle-income countries only**). The GSA Award grant applications are conducted through ProposalCentral. Please use the site listed below to access available grant opportunities and submission instructions. You may only submit one LOI per cycle.

The LOI will undergo initial review by an IARS International External Advisory Board to determine applicant eligibility and competitiveness of both the applicant and theme. Selected applicants will be invited to complete a full online application through the ProposalCentral platform (details will be communicated to the applicant).

Reviews of both LOIs and full proposals will consist of a holistic evaluation of the applicant, the local environment, the potential for successful completion of the study in that environment and its local vs. global impact, as well as the potential for sustained impact on the applicant, their institution and their country for building or sustaining an academic environment. Five awardees will be selected to receive up to \$20,000 USD to be spent over 24 calendar months.

ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS:

Non-domestic (non-U.S.) Entities (Foreign Institutions)

Organizations must be in a LMIC (**low- and lower middle-income countries only**), as defined by The World Bank, and include research institutions.

(<https://datatopics.worldbank.org/world-development-indicators/the-world-by-income-and-region.html>),

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants must be IARS members associated with an academic medical center in the LMIC. Applications are conducted through ProposalCentral (<https://proposalcentral.com>). Please use the information below to access the grant opportunity and submission instructions.

- If you are a new user of ProposalCentral, click the 'Need an Account!' link button to register as a new user in the system. After you register, complete your Professional Profile (4th tab from the left) before starting an application.
- If you are already registered with ProposalCentral, login with your username/email and password.
- To start an application, select the "Grant Opportunities" tab. A list of applications will be displayed. Find the Grant Maker "International Anesthesia Research Society" and "IARS Global Scholars Award." Click the "Apply Now" link to create an application.

If you have difficulties registering, logging in, or creating your LOI, contact ProposalCentral Customer Support:

Toll-free U.S. and Canada: (800) 875-2562

Direct Dial International: (703) 964-5840

Email: pcsupport@altum.com

Applicants must submit a letter of intent (LOI) as stage one of the application process. All applicants will receive an e-mail during the week of November 17, 2025 notifying them if they have been selected to move forward with stage two of the process. Stage two of the process will entail submitting a full proposal. Subsequently invited full proposals will be reviewed by an International External Advisory Board. Due to the nature of this award and its focus on LMICs, the reviews will use non-traditional metrics to establish the scientific endeavors most worthy of funding.

The electronic LOI must be submitted by September 30, 2025 at 11:59pm EST.

APPLICATION FORMAT

The following information is required to submit a complete LOI application. The numbers correspond to the application sections that appear on the left side of the online application.

1. **Title Page.** Enter the title of the research project. The title is limited to 75 characters in length (including spaces).
2. **Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal.** Optional. This section allows you to give other users access to your grant application, with varying levels of permissions.
3. **Applicant/PI.** Enter information for the applicant, including:
 - Indicate that the applicant is an active IARS member.

- Indicate that the duration since completion of clinical training or PhD is less than 10 years.
 - Indicate how much protected, non-clinical time the applicant has to conduct research
4. **PI Demographics.** Enter demographic information for the PI. Gender, race and ethnicity are optional. Data from this page will not be disclosed to reviewers.
 5. **Institution & Contacts.** Enter information regarding the lead institution, Signing Official, Financial Officer, Department Chair or equivalent, and the Principal Investigator of the research group, of which the applicant is a member, if applicable.
 6. **Collaborators.** Enter information regarding any co-investigators on the project. Additionally, please provide the names of significant contributors to the proposed research project. For example, list your In-Country Mentor (the applicant must identify mentors whose participation is vital to the success of the study) and External Mentor.
 7. **Attachments**
Required documents:
 - 1) ***Current Curriculum Vitae – Applicant/Principal Investigator***
Upload this document as a PDF (not to exceed 5 pages) that includes a brief personal statement, current position, education and training, ongoing projects, awards/positions/honors, contributions to science (i.e., publications, abstract presentations, etc.).
 - 2) ***Curriculum Vitae – In-Country AND External Mentor***
Upload documents as a PDF (not to exceed 5 pages) that includes a brief personal statement, current position, education and training, ongoing projects, awards/positions/honors, contributions to science (i.e., publications, abstract presentations, etc.).
 - 3) ***Curriculum Vitae – Co-Investigator (optional)***
Upload documents as a PDF (not to exceed 5 pages) that includes a brief personal statement, current position, education and training, ongoing projects, awards/positions/honors, contributions to science (i.e., publications, abstract presentations, etc.).
 - 4) ***Letter of Intent***

Outline your proposed study in your Letter of Intent, including the items delineated below. Your letter should also identify your mentoring team and their roles. If chosen to submit a full proposal, letters of recommendation will be requested from the Department Chair or equivalent, and In-Country Mentor, and a letter of support from External Mentor(s).

LETTER OF INTENT GUIDELINES

The letter should be single spaced, minimum of size 11 font (Arial or Times New Roman) with minimum borders of 0.5 inches

The letter of Intent should specifically include:

- Descriptive title of proposed research
 - Participating institutions for the study
 - Specific Aims
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- ☐ State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved.
 - ☐ List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed, e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology.

The LOI is due on September 30, 2025. Access to the application will be closed at 11:59 pm ET.

If you have questions or concerns contact Tricia Brazil, at tbrazil@iars.org or 415-296-6905.