

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Houston Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

GSBS Research Awards

The MD Anderson UTHealth Houston Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences is accepting applications for the **GSBS Research Awards** ranging in support between \$35,000 - \$50,000 of research expenses over a one-year period (please see below for budget restrictions). Awards are intended to provide pilot funding for innovative research projects to GSBS PhD and MD/PhD students in good academic standing. This year four awards are available and will be selected via a common review process.

The Dr. John J. Kopchick Research Award (up to \$50,000) - 1 award

Available to GSBS student/advisor teams from either UTHealth or MD Anderson conducting research in any area of biomedical science.

The President's Research Excellence Award (up to \$50,000)- 1 award

Available to GSBS student/advisor teams from UTHealth Houston only, conducting research in any area of biomedical science.

The Pauline Altman-Goldstein Discovery Research Award (up to \$35,000)- 2 awards

Available to GSBS student/advisor teams from MD Anderson only, conducting cancer-related research.

Michael R. Blackburn, PhD, Research Accelerator Award (Up to \$10,000)- 1 Award

Available to GSBS student/advisor teams from either UTHealth Houston or MD Anderson conducting research in any area of biomedical science.

Academic Standing: Students on academic probation or not in good standing (e.g., late on advisory committee meetings) at the application deadline are ineligible for these awards.

Because of the high interest in these awards, applications will be reviewed in two-steps. Pre-applications will initially be solicited and reviewed to select no more than 10 finalists who will each be asked to submit a more extensive application that will be reviewed to select the winning student/advisor teams. Applicants need submit only one pre-application which will be considered for all eligible awards.

Review Criteria:

1. Quality of the research plan and its potential impact on the field of study
2. Potential of the project for enhancing the training of the participating GSBS student
3. Academic excellence of the student and faculty advisor.

Pre-Application

The pre-application should be prepared together by the student and faculty advisor. It should include the following components (all 11-point Arial, 0.5" margins or larger).

1. Pre-application cover page (provided below)
2. Specific Aims page (one page)
3. NIH biographical sketches of both the student and faculty research advisor. On the student's biosketch only, it is acceptable to list publications that are currently in submission.
4. Applicant's last advisory committee meeting report including the evaluation pages. If the most recent meeting was the candidacy exam, then instead submit the exam results and evaluation pages.

All items should be assembled into a single PDF file and submitted to Ms. Joy Lademora (Joy.Lademora@uth.tmc.edu). Please include "GSBS Research Awards" followed by the student's last name into the email subject line.

Deadline – July 5, 2024 5:00 PM

All pre-applications will be reviewed to select no more than 10 finalists.

The finalists will be notified of their selection by July 29th.

**The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
UTHealth Houston Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences**

GSBS Research Awards

Pre-application Cover Page

A. Applicants

GSBS Faculty Advisor Name:

GSBS Student Name:

Semester/Year of GSBS Enrollment:

Date of Last Advisory Committee Meeting: (If late, provide brief justification)

Estimated Semester/Year of Graduation:

B. Project

Project Title:

Please describe the respective roles of the student and advisor in preparing the specific aims page:

Finalist Application (to be completed only if notified by GSBS)

The application should be prepared together by the student and faculty research advisor. It should include the following components (all in 11-point Arial, with 0.5" margins or larger):

1. Finalist Application Cover page (provided below).
2. A research proposal, not to exceed six pages (excluding bibliography): The proposal should describe the hypothesis, specific aims, background, significance and experimental strategy of the project.
3. A one-page Training Plan for the student, written by the advisor should be provided. In it describe unique aspects of the training that are tailored to meet the student's needs and career goals. Also indicate how the proposed research project will impact the student's training.
4. NIH Biographical Sketches for both the student and the faculty advisor. On the student's biosketch only, it is acceptable to list publications that are currently in submission.
5. A one-page budget for the project. Please note that funds provided by this award may not be used for capital expenses, administrative salaries, overhead, support staff, equipment, faculty salaries, student stipends or grant writers. Funds must be expensed at either UTHealth Houston or MD Anderson within one year of the time of award and all expenditures must be made in compliance with institutional policies and procedures.

All items should be assembled into a single PDF file and submitted to Joy Lademora (Joy.Lademora@uth.tmc.edu). Please include "GSBS Research Award" followed by the student's last name in the subject line of the email.

Deadline for submission of Finalist Application materials: September 1, 2025 at 5:00 PM

Final Review and selection of winners.

Applications will be reviewed by an *ad hoc* committee of GSBS faculty who will recommend winners to the Dean. The winners will be notified in October and funds will become available by November 1, 2025.

**The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Houston
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences**

GSBS Research Awards

Finalist Application Cover Page

A. Applicants

GSBS Faculty Advisor Name:

GSBS Student Name:

Semester/Year of GSBS Enrollment:

Estimated Semester/Year of Graduation:

B. Project

Project Title:

Please describe the respective roles of the student and advisor in preparing the research proposal:

C. Site of Research

Institution:

Department:

Contact Person:

Frequently Asked Questions – GSBS Research Awards Application

Q: Is my stipend an allowable expense?

A: No, student stipends or benefits may not be supported by these awards.

Q: Can I use funds to attend a conference or course related to my research project?

A: Yes, travel expenses and registration costs can be used.

Q: Can the award be used to pay for my tuition and fees?

A: No

Q: Exactly what expenses are allowable?

A: See the table at the end of this FAQ page.

Q: Does "overhead" in the instructions mean the same thing as indirect costs?

A: Yes

Q: Can the project involve others in the lab?

A: Yes, but stipend and salaries may not be supported.

Q: Do the Specific Aims in the Finalist Application count toward the six-page limit?

A: Yes

Q: Should the proposal be written on research that will be performed only in the next year?

A: The research proposal should focus on what will be accomplished during the year that funding is provided. However, these awards are intended to fund pilot projects, and so, in the proposal, it is helpful to briefly outline the longer-term goals and significance of the project.

Q: How many awards are being given?

A: Four awards will be given this year (1-John J. Kopchick Research Award, 1-President's Research Excellence Award and 2- Pauline Altman-Goldstein Discovery Research Awards)

Q: Can I apply again if I don't get an award this time?

A: Yes, there is no limit on applying again. However, for the winner, this is a one-year award and may not be renewed and you can only win it once. Also note that if you get one GSBS Research Award (for example the Kopchick Research Award), you are not eligible to apply for the other awards (President's Research Excellence and Pauline Altman-Goldstein Discovery Research Awards).

GSBS Research Awards – Expense Allowability Grid

Expense Category	Allowable	Unallowable
Alcoholic Beverages		X
Books/Periodicals	X	
Capital Expenses: Computer Software >\$100K Equipment >\$5K		X
Computer Equipment	X	
Computer Software	X	
Scientific Services (animal costs, DNA sequencing, etc)	X	
Registration fees and housing for conferences, workshops, courses	X	
Consultant Services (except for grant writing)	X	
Consumable Lab Supplies and Reagents	X	
Copying/Printing	X	
Fringe Benefits		X
Grant Writers		X
Meals related to travel	X	
Membership Fees and Dues	X	
Office Supplies	X	
Parking	X	
Postage/Mail	X	
Publication Costs	X	
Research Subject Incentives (except cash and gift cards) examples might include mugs, pens, keychains, etc.	X	
Salaries		X
Stipends		X
Travel	X	
Tuition and Fees		X

Expenditures of these funds must be in accordance with institutional policies and procedures at MD Anderson/UTHealth Houston.

Prior to ordering any materials with the GSBS logo, please contact Tracey Barnett, GSBS Communications Manager at Tracey.R.Barnett@uth.tmc.edu or 713-500-9887

For questions please contact Karen Weinberg, GSBS Interim Associate Dean for Management at Karen.Weinberg@uth.tmc.edu or 713-500-9878