

# Collaborative Initiative for Paediatric HIV Education and Research

## **Growing the Leaders of Tomorrow Fellowship**

Call for applications

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## I. Fellowship information

The [Collaborative Initiative for Paediatric HIV Education and Research \(CIPHER\)](#) of IAS – the International AIDS Society – launched the Growing the Leaders of Tomorrow Fellowship Programme in 2017 to strengthen research expertise in paediatric and adolescent HIV. It provides two-year research fellowships of up to USD 70,000 to emerging investigators in Asia-Pacific and central, eastern, southern and western Africa.

The objectives of the fellowship are to:

- Provide opportunities to enhance knowledge and skills in HIV research and strengthen capacity in real-world data methodologies to produce evidence.
- Enable fellows to compete more effectively for international research funding opportunities.
- Foster stronger relationships with leading scientists in paediatric HIV and institutions of excellence.
- Ensure that fellows' research contributes to generating evidence and developing methodological approaches on priority research gaps in paediatric HIV.

For the 2025/2026 round, the fellowship will be awarded in collaboration with the Global Accelerator for Paediatric Formulations Network ([GAP-f](#)).<sup>1</sup> GAP-f, hosted by the World Health Organization, provides an umbrella function for partners across the spectrum of innovation of and access to good-quality, safe, efficacious and affordable medicines for children.

In this round, fellows are expected to conduct research using real-world data to inform the uptake, safety and effectiveness of current paediatric HIV medicines and address the need for novel paediatric HIV medicines. Research may focus on such areas as long-term safety and efficacy of antiretroviral treatments, drug-drug interactions and resistance profiles, as well as treatments for co-infections and non-communicable diseases in children living with HIV. Approaches may include scoping the use of real-world data to support the planning or conduct of paediatric trials. The goal is to generate timely real-world evidence that contributes to the GAP-f initiative and ultimately contributes to improved health outcomes in children living with HIV.

The fellow should already have an established connection with a potential mentor. The mentor will be an internationally recognized expert in paediatric HIV, with extensive experience in generating evidence using real-world data. The awardee will also be linked with a technical advisor from the Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Unit at University College London for additional support.

## II. Eligibility criteria

### Fellows' eligibility criteria

- The fellow should be a junior investigator who holds a doctoral degree (PhD), Doctor of Medicine degree (for example, MD, MBBS or equivalent) or an advanced degree (for example, Master's degree) in public health, science, statistics, epidemiology or a related field. The degree must have been obtained within the past 10 years (up to the application deadline).
- The fellow must be a citizen of a country in Asia-Pacific or central, eastern, southern or western Africa.
- The fellow must fulfil one of the following criteria:
  - They are a research trainee or have a faculty or comparable position (such as assistant professor, lecturer or research officer) at an academic institute or an institute whose primary mission is research based in Asia-Pacific or central, eastern, southern or western Africa.
  - They are working at an organization with adequate research infrastructure to undertake the research activities in Asia-Pacific or central, eastern, southern or western Africa.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.who.int/initiatives/gap-f>

- They have access to real-world data that can generate evidence to meet one or more of the areas outlined above.
- The fellow (and mentor) must demonstrate that funding to support the direct costs of the proposed research is available and that adequate infrastructure for the period of the fellowship will be covered by other sources of funding.

#### Mentors' eligibility criteria:

- The mentor must be either an associate or full professor, chief/principal research officer or equivalent with an established position at a research institute in Asia-Pacific or central, eastern, southern and western Africa.
- They must have extensive experience in generating evidence using real-world data, including a publication record in paediatric HIV research.
- The mentor must establish a mentorship plan that demonstrates how the fellowship will contribute to skills building and professional development of the fellow, as well as ensuring successful completion of the fellowship.

### III. Funding information

The awardee will receive a two-year fellowship of USD 70,000 (USD 35,000 per year). The fellowship funds are to provide a stipend for the fellow and can support travel for a learning visit and/or to attend one international conference. Fellowship funds are not intended to cover direct research expenses; the host institution or additional grants must provide for these costs.

Fellowship award contracts will be made between the IAS and the Asia-Pacific or central, eastern, southern or western Africa institution where the mentor is based.

### IV. Overview and timeline

Activity	Key dates
Call for applications	28 October 2024
Submission deadline	29 November 2024
Invitation to interview (shortlisted applicants only)	January 2025
Notification of awardees	February 2025
Starting date	March 2025

### V. Instructions for applying

Applications must be submitted no later than **29 November 2024, 18:00 CET**.

Applicants are required to email the following documents to [cipher@iasociety.org](mailto:cipher@iasociety.org):

- Completed [application form](#). Please download the application form and ensure that all sections are completed.
- Applicant's curriculum vitae (CV) – *maximum of three pages*
- Applicant's academic transcripts
- Letter of support from the host institution
- Mentor's letter of commitment
- Mentorship plan with names and contact details of the mentor
- Applicant's passport or national ID card. Applications are open only to citizens of Asia-Pacific or central, eastern, southern or western Africa.

Note that we will review only applications made using the provided form.

Please direct enquiries about the fellowship and application process to [cipher@iasociety.org](mailto:cipher@iasociety.org).