

Bern, January 2026

Swiss Cancer Institute / Roche Young Investigator Award

The “Young Investigator Award” aims to promote and support talented young professionals in oncology with innovative ideas and clinical research projects that enhance our understanding of the field and address emerging challenges in cancer care.

Recognizing that the future of oncology is driven by the efforts of those exceptional researchers and their teams, the Swiss Cancer Institute and Roche Pharma (Schweiz) AG (Roche) strive to honor and support young professionals on this important journey. To achieve this mission and to advance clinical oncology research in Switzerland, the Swiss Cancer Institute and Roche have established the Swiss Cancer Institute / Roche Young Investigator Award.

The primary focus of the award is on projects with the potential to make significant improvements in patient management and outcomes in cancer treatment in the following indications: lung, breast, gastrointestinal, hematological cancers or pan tumor. The award, endowed with CHF 30,000, is intended to encourage clinical research activities. Therefore, the awarded sum is to be used for ongoing or future research within the respective malignancies.

Call for Applications

Prior to your application, please carefully read the applicable award rules. In case of questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Swiss Cancer Institute.

Please send your application until April 27th, 2026.

Full applications must be sent via e-mail to events@swisscancerinstitute.ch and shall include:

- Project proposal (see Eligible Projects) max. 5 pages including the rationale, methodology, feasibility, budget and potential impact
- Curriculum vitae of the candidate
- Letter of support from the respective head of the candidate's current institution, incl. guarantee to provide sufficient research time for the project
- Publication list of the candidate
 - Publications may be primary research or review articles
 - The candidate must be an author in all publications
 - Publications must have been published in the period 2016-2026 in a peer-reviewed journal or must be accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal
- If applicable, any other relevant information or documentation

Selection Process

An independent jury of experts, elected by the Swiss Cancer Institute scientific committee, will evaluate the submitted applications based on (i) alignment with the scope of the award, (ii) quality, (iii) clinical impact, (iv) innovative potential and novelty and (vi) feasibility.

Award Announcement

The winner of the Swiss Cancer Institute / Roche Young Investigator Award 2026 will be awarded during the Swiss Cancer Institute semi-annual meeting on 18th June 2026.



Award Rules

Roche distributes the Swiss Cancer Institute / Roche Young Investigator Award with the support of the Swiss Cancer Institute and the support of an independent jury at the Swiss Cancer Institute semi-annual meeting on 18th June 2026. The award will be conferred to an eligible candidate, who may be a healthcare professional active in oncology research within Switzerland in the following indications: lung, breast, gastrointestinal, hematological cancers or pan tumor.

Eligible Candidates

An eligible candidate must fulfill the following criteria:

- a. a medical doctor or researcher from the Swiss Cancer Institute network,
- b. whose project is performed mainly in Switzerland,
- c. ≤40 years of age as of December 31st, 2026 (may be waived if e.g. candidate has changed career),
- d. research focuses on one of the following indications: lung, breast, gastrointestinal, hematological cancers or pan tumor.

Eligible Projects

Eligible projects should intend to enhance our understanding and address emerging challenges in the treatment of cancer in one or more of the following indications: lung, breast, gastrointestinal, hematological cancers or pan tumor.

1. Projects shall have a research character and may include, but are not limited to:
 - Prospective clinical research
 - Translational research
 - Registry or database research
 - Novel patient care models
 - Supportive care
 - Assessment tools

Note that no basic science projects will be considered for evaluation.

Eligible projects can be planned or ongoing and might be part of a larger trial or research project. In the latter case, the submitted project must contribute to a substantial part of an overarching research project.

2. Projects should not have a primary focus on Roche products
3. Projects should not receive additional cross-financing/support from Roche

Valid Applications

1. Candidates can nominate themselves
2. The application must be submitted in English
3. Resubmission of applications that did not win in past editions are permitted as long as eligibility criteria are met
4. Applications must be sent via e-mail to the Swiss Cancer Institute, events@swisscancerinstitute.ch

Evaluation of Applications

1. An independent jury composed of 2-3 Swiss experts and a jury chair determined by the Swiss Cancer Institute scientific committee. Employees of Roche must not be part of the jury
2. Jury members must not evaluate applications of their own institution or university
3. Project proposals will be evaluated only if they are deemed to be eligible and feasible
4. The independent jury will evaluate the submitted valid applications on a scale from 1-10 (1 = worst, 10 = best) for each of the following criteria:
 - a. Alignment with scope of award, i.e. potential tangible improvements for patient management and outcomes in the treatment in oncology and hematology
 - b. Quality
 - c. Potential impact of career development of applicant



- d. Feasibility within 24 months after being awarded the grant
5. The jury elects the winner based on the evaluation scoring. In case different applicants achieve the same scoring, the top scoring applications shall be discussed amongst the jury members. The jury shall elect 1 winner by consensus. In case consensus cannot be reached, the jury chair has the final decision
6. The jury is free and independent in its decisions. Its decisions are final and not subject to appeal
7. If additional expertise is needed the jury chair can request written evaluations from additional reviewers
8. The Swiss Cancer Institute and Roche may waive the Swiss Cancer Institute / Roche Young Investigator Award if the jury considers none of the submitted applications worthy of support

Awarding

1. At least 2 weeks before the award ceremony, all applicants will be notified and the winner shall be confidentially informed about winning the Swiss Cancer Institute / Roche Young Investigator Award
2. The winner or, if unable to attend, a representative of the winning research group or project shall present the scientific and/or clinical achievements for which the award is distributed at the Swiss Cancer Institute semi-annual meeting on 18th June 2026.
3. After the winner announcement, the Swiss Cancer Institute / Roche Young Investigator Award shall be distributed officially to the winner by a Roche representative and the jury chair
4. Three weeks at most after the ceremony Swiss Cancer Institute will transfer the prize money to the winning research group or project
5. The prize money must be used for the awarded project. Future evidence should be given at the next year Swiss Cancer Institute semi-annual meeting with a brief presentation (10 min.) on how the money used has supported further research steps. The winner must further provide a written summary of the project no later than 1 year after the award ceremony. The written summary sent to the Swiss Cancer Institute, will be forwarded to the jury president and the sponsor Roche
6. The winning project should be concluded within 24 months after election

Role of Roche

1. Roche is the sole sponsor of the Swiss Cancer Institute / Roche Young Investigator Award
2. Roche may inform about the Swiss Cancer Institute / Roche Young Investigator Award on its own website, describing the award, the candidature process and the selection of the winner. Roche shall refer to the website of Swiss Cancer Institute "Grants and fellowships".
3. Roche must not be part of the award jury and thus must not evaluate applications
4. Together with the support of the Swiss Cancer Institute an employee of Roche will announce the winner together with the jury chair and hand over the award at the Swiss Cancer Institute semi-annual meeting on 18th June 2026.