

## Young Oncology Academy: Rules and Regulations 2026

### 1. Purpose and Vision

The Young Oncology Academy (YOA), initiated by the Swiss Cancer Institute, is dedicated to cultivating the next generation of leaders in clinical and translational research in oncology. The program selects up to ten promising young physicians in oncology, hematology, or radio-oncology to receive structured mentorship, attend international congresses, and develop core competencies in research, presentation, and scientific publication.

**The overarching goal is to empower participants to become Principal Investigators (PIs) of Swiss Cancer Institute trials within five years of completion of the program, thereby strengthening Switzerland's clinical research landscape.**

### 2. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

- Be physicians with an MD degree and at least two years of clinical cancer research experience at a Swiss institution.
- Be actively involved in both clinical and scientific work.
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to completing the full program.
- Refrain from accepting additional sponsorships outside the YOA framework, in line with the **Pharmakodex's transparency and integrity principles.**

### 3. Application Requirements

Applications must be submitted in English and include:

- A letter of motivation (max. 2 A4 pages)
- A detailed CV with a list of publications
- A signed letter of recommendation and institutional commitment from the department head of the employer

Applicants must also sign a Swiss Cancer Institute collaboration agreement outlining their responsibilities and the program's scope.

### 4. Submission Deadline

All documents must be submitted by **March 3, 2026**. Only complete applications will be reviewed.

### 5. Commitment of the employer of the employee

The employer (department head of the institution) of the participant must:

- Provide protected time for participants to engage in the program.
- Support participants' development in research, leadership, and scientific communication.
- Enable participants to act as local PIs and to integrate them into ongoing or planned Swiss Cancer Institute studies upon completion of the program.

## 6. Faculty and Mentorship

The faculty is chaired by an oncologist elected by the Swiss Cancer Institute board. It comprises 8 - 10 independent oncology experts who are selected by the chairperson and appointed as mentors for at least one full calendar year. In case neither the Swiss Cancer Institute nor the mentor terminates the contract at the end of a calendar year, the mentorship will automatically be renewed for a further year.

### Responsibilities of the chairperson:

- Selecting the mentors
- Appointing a successor in case a member resigns
- Defining the selection process of the applicants
- Defining the final agenda including the topics of the program
- Defining any duties related to the mentoring of the invited applicants

### Responsibilities of the mentors:

- Selecting the participants (mentees)
- Mentorship throughout the program
- Introducing the mentees into the Swiss Cancer Institute Network (Project Groups)

The chairperson holds final decision-making authority and may delegate tasks to other faculty members.

## 7. Selection Criteria

The faculty will assess applications based on:

- Quality and completeness of submitted documents
- Scientific track record and independent research experience
- Motivation and potential for program completion
- Institutional support and long-term research prospects

Geographic diversity will be considered.

## 8. Compliance with the Pharmakodex

In accordance with the **Swiss Pharmakodex (PK)**, the YOA ensures:

- **Transparent collaboration** with pharmaceutical sponsors, including public disclosure of any financial or in-kind contributions.
- **No undue influence** on educational content or participant selection.
- **Clear separation** between promotional activities and scientific training.
- **Ethical handling of sponsorships**, with all support managed centrally by Swiss Cancer Institute to avoid conflicts of interest.

Sponsors are invited to support the YOA through unrestricted educational grants, which will be acknowledged in accordance with Pharmakodex guidelines:

- **Purpose-bound use:** Grants must be used exclusively for professional education and scientific training.
- **Independence of content:** Sponsors must not influence the educational content, speaker selection, or participant choice. Scientific integrity must be preserved.
- **Transparency:** All financial or in-kind contributions must be publicly disclosed. This includes naming the recipient institution or organization.

- **Centralized handling:** Grants should be managed by a neutral institution (e.g., Swiss Cancer Institute) to avoid conflicts of interest and ensure compliance.
- **No direct payments to individuals:** Grants must be issued to institutions, not directly to healthcare professionals. The institution then coordinates participation.
- **Documentation and accountability:** Sponsors must document the grant's purpose and usage. Institutions must ensure the funds are used appropriately and in line with Pharmakodex rules.

## 9. Expense Guidelines for Mentees

Mentees are eligible for reimbursement of up to **CHF 1'200.00** for congress-related expenses. Reimbursements will be processed in accordance with the **Swiss Cancer Institute Expenses Guidelines**.