

2025 GTO Awards & GTO Fellowships

Call for Applications

2025 GTO Awards

The Center for Research in Translational Oncohaematology (CROTH) invites applications for the **Geneva Translational Oncology (GTO) Awards**, which aim to significantly reduce the gap between scientific discoveries and their translation into patient care. We are committed to funding translational projects that promise real patient benefit. This work will be co-led by pairs of clinicians and research scientists, involve the Clinical Pathology Service, focus on human research, and utilize biological material collected at HUG.

2025 GTO Fellowships

In addition, the CROTH invites applications for **GTO Fellowships**, which are designed to provide protected time for clinicians at HUG to conduct translational research.

2025 GTO Awards

Objective

To fund substantial, multidisciplinary translational oncology initiatives that capitalize on the resources of the HUG digital infrastructure. This endeavor is dedicated to deepening our comprehension, management, and treatment of cancer. Central to our mission is the acceleration of the journey from basic scientific discovery to tangible patient benefits.

Eligibility criteria

To qualify, each project must be jointly led by a clinician from the DONCO or the DDIAG Departments of the HUG, and a researcher, who will both act as co-PIs, with a mandatory requirement for at least one of them to be affiliated to the CRTOH.

The utilization of biological samples and data from HUG, coupled with the active participation of a pathologist from the HUG's Service de Pathologie Clinique, as a collaborator or as a co-PI, is a critical condition for eligibility. Additional HUG data modalities are welcome, including radiomics derived from nuclear medicine or radiology exams, although spatiomics must be at the heart of the project.

The inclusion of collaborators within and outside of Switzerland is possible.

By submitting a proposal, the PI and co-PI implicitly accept the reuse, in due time, of the data generated within the project. The PI and co-PI will be asked to liaise with the Head of the Digital Infrastructure to prepare a data analysis plan that maximizes data reuse and interoperability for their full proposal. Data reuse will be offered to all CRTOH members as part of the digital infrastructure operations once the primary analysis of the data has been published.

Funding availability

We offer financial support of up to CHF 300'000 annually, extendable for a period of up to three years.

Proposals requesting lower levels of funding are equally encouraged and will be given full consideration.

Importantly, budget proposals should include resources to fund tissue retrieval and sample processing, which will be performed in collaboration with the Pathology collaborator.

Application process

- Pre-application: Applicants are required to submit a letter of intent by May 15th, 2025 to ilse.jonker@unige.ch. This letter should identify the names of the co-PIs and intended collaborators, the project title, a concise abstract not exceeding 400 words, and a list of three relevant keywords.
- Full submission: The full submission must be submitted to ilse.jonker@unige.ch by June 30th, 2025, adhering to the requirements outlined below.

Information required for the full submission

1. Name of co-PIs
2. Title (max. 20 words)
3. Research question (max. 200 words)
4. Importance of question (max. 400 words)
5. Hypothesis and goals (max. 400 words)
6. Conceptual experimental work (max. 400 words)
7. Clinical cohort criteria and samples (max. 400 words)
8. In anticipation of data interoperability and reuse, what are the expected data types and standard formats generated within the project? (max. 400 words)
9. Milestones and timelines (max. 400 words)
10. Applicant suitability (max. 400 words)
11. Requested budget, including the resources to fund tissue retrieval and sample processing to be performed with the Pathology collaborator — if applicable (max. 400 words)
12. Short CVs (max. 2 pages) of the two PIs
13. Letter of support from the head(s) of the HUG co-PI service(s)

Evaluation process

The assessment of projects will be conducted by an independent Scientific Advisory Board, ensuring an unbiased and comprehensive review. Each project will be evaluated based on several key criteria:

- Potential to address significant unmet medical needs: The project's ability to contribute to areas with inadequate medical solutions will be a key consideration.
- Effective utilization of the HUG digital biobank: The strategic and efficient use and potential reuse of the digital biobank's assets in the project will be critically assessed.
- Promotion of collaborative excellence: The potential of the project to enhance synergy between clinical and research teams will be evaluated.
- Potential for high-impact translational outcomes: The likelihood of the project to achieve substantial translational impacts, effectively bridging research and clinical practice, will be an essential factor in the evaluation.
- The decisions of the scientific committee are final and cannot be challenged or contested by applicants

Deadlines

- Letter of intent: May 15th, 2025 (late submissions will be ineligible)
- Full application: June 30th, 2025 (late submissions will be ineligible)
- Notification of awards: by October 30th, 2025
- Funding commencement: by March 1st, 2026

2025 GTO Fellowships

Objective

Our goal is to fund clinicians who wish to be substantially engaged in translational research, ensuring they have the necessary resources and time for their research while active in the clinic.

Eligibility criteria

This opportunity is open to interns, chefs de cliniques, and médecins adjoints, provided they are under the age of 45. Their Head of Service has to be supportive of this project.

Funding availability

We offer flexible funding options tailored to the needs of each candidate. Our program is designed to accommodate varying durations of scholarships, such as one year or more, up to a maximum of three years. We provide for variable activity rates, ranging from 50% to 100%. Funding for activity rates below 50% will not be given priority unless duly justified.

Application process

- Pre-application: Applicants are required to submit a letter of intent by May 15th, 2025 to ilse.jonker@unige.ch. This letter should identify the name of the applicant and their department.
- Full submission: The full application must be submitted to ilse.jonker@unige.ch by June 30th, 2025, adhering to the detailed requirements outlined below.

Information required for the full submission

1. Name of the applicant
2. Position
3. Affiliation
4. Requested amount of funding
5. Justification for the use of these funds (max. 400 words)
6. Outline of the research project the applicant will contribute to (max. 400 words)
7. Short CV (max. 2 pages)
8. Letter of Support from Head of Service
9. Up to two letters of reference (one of them can be from the Head of Service)

Evaluation process

The evaluations of applications will be conducted by an independent Scientific Advisory Board, ensuring a rigorous assessment process. Funding will be selectively awarded to the candidates who present the most promising and impactful research proposals.

Deadlines

- Letter of intent: May 15th, 2025 (late submissions will be ineligible)
- Full application: June 30th, 2025 (late submissions will be ineligible)
- Notification of awards: by October 30th, 2025
- Funding commencement: by March 1st, 2026