

Bern, January 2025

## SAKK / 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 Group of Clinical Cancer Research (SAKK) 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, SAKK and Roche have established the SAKK / 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 SAKK.

**Please send your application until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.**

Full applications must be sent via e-mail to [events@sakk.ch](mailto:events@sakk.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 2015-2025 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 SAKK president, 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 SAKK / Roche “Young Investigator Award” 2025 will be awarded during the SAKK semi-annual meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025.

## Award Rules

Roche distributes the SAKK / Roche “Young Investigator Award” with the support of the SAKK and the support of an independent jury at the SAKK semi-annual meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025. 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 SAKK network,
- b. whose project is performed mainly in Switzerland,
- c. ≤40 years of age as of December 31st, 2025 (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 SAKK, events@sakk.ch

### **Evaluation of Applications**

1. An independent jury composed of 2-3 Swiss experts and a jury chair determined by the SAKK president. 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 SAKK president can request written evaluations from additional reviewers
8. The SAKK and Roche may waive the SAKK / 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 by the head of the jury about winning the SAKK / 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 SAKK semi-annual meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025.
3. After the winner announcement, the SAKK / 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 SAKK 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 SAKK 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 SAKK, 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 SAKK / Roche “Young Investigator Award”
2. Roche may inform about the SAKK / 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 SAKK “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 SAKK an employee of Roche will announce the winner together with the jury chair and hand over the award at the SAKK semi-annual meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025.