



The James B. Bussel, MD, ITP Young Investigator Award

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The James B. Bussel, MD, ITP Young Investigator Award is competitively awarded to support excellence in academic ITP research by providing a selected student or medical trainee deemed to be of exceptional promise and a highly meritorious project with a \$10,000.00 USD scholarship award funded by the Platelet Disorder Support Association.

Colleague, friend, and fellow PDSA medical advisor Doug Cines, MD, said Dr. Bussel “was a pioneer, not only of research in ITP, but for a generation of trainees who could follow his experience. His career shows that is possible to succeed scientifically and academically as a clinically oriented investigator even in rare diseases like ITP if you are persistent and have a creative mind. There are many young investigators and countless patients with ITP who have not met Jim personally and have no idea how much they owe to his contributions to research and patient care.” To honor Dr. Bussel for all that he has done and continues to do to make a difference in the lives of ITP patients, their families, and his contributions to mentoring and advancing the scientific careers of promising clinical investigators, the PDSA Board of Directors established the “James B. Bussel, MD ITP Young Investigator Award” in 2017.

Eligibility

Any U.S. or Canadian undergraduate, graduate, medical student, or medical resident interested in the laboratory or clinical study of Immune Thrombocytopenia (ITP) is eligible to apply. The student must have already secured a training program (i.e., internship) with an ITP specialist and hold a minimum GPA of 3.0 at their academic institution.

Amount and Duration of Award

The scholarship award is \$10,000 USD. Internships must last at minimum eight (8) weeks in duration and can continue after the end of the formal period. A complete report (no more than 2000 words) must be submitted and judged sufficient by the PDSA Medical Advisors. An in press or published manuscript in a peer reviewed journal could substitute for such an end of project report. Projects must be completed within 1 year.

Application Requirements

1. **Up to 500-word abstract** describing the proposed research project including primary aim, background, overview of proposed methods, 1-4 sentences describing proposed statistical analysis of the projected results, relationship of projected results to primary aim, a maximum of ten supporting references. Please also outline how you plan to use the funding for the project.
2. **250-word essay** discussing the applicant’s interest in research and ITP.
3. Letter of support from applicant’s primary institutional mentor describing plan of mentoring, support of laboratory or clinic, and commitment and assessment of candidate.
4. One additional letter of recommendation submitted by a science professor **or** faculty member familiar with the applicant’s capabilities and interests.

5. Curriculum Vitae or Resumé

Submission Information

Completed proposals must be received by May 1, 2025, at midnight EST to PDSA's Director of Research and Canadian Advocacy, Jennifer DiRaimo, at jdiraimo@pdsa.org, and must be written for a general audience. Proposal must be submitted as PDF files using the provided abstract template found on the PDSA website at <https://www.pdsa.org/healthcare-professionals-researchers/research.html> .

Award Decision

Final approvals and denials for those who submit complete proposals will be communicated via email no later than August 29, 2025. Grants will be awarded based on selection by a review panel comprised of PDSA medical advisors. The essays and applications will be reviewed and judged by an impartial panel of PDSA Medical Advisors. Applications and letters of recommendation can be sent to PDSA's Director of Research and Canadian Advocacy, Jennifer DiRaimo, at jdiraimo@pdsa.org.

Additional Information:

Written approval by the Institutional Review Board (IRB or country equivalent) for research involving human subjects and written approval for research involving vertebrate animals must be submitted to the Board before funding can begin. A written Progress Report of no more than two pages must be received by PDSA's research team within 6 months of the date of funding. This report must be written in patient friendly language for a lay audience, as we may share your report on our website.

A Final Report on the work accomplished, including a summary report on ALL expenditures made, must be submitted by September 1, 2026. The applicant must agree to cite support from PDSA in all written and oral communications pertaining to the funded research, and to submit a research abstract to PDSA written in patient friendly lay language to include in their quarterly newsletter disseminated to its members. Direct any questions about this Request for Proposals to PDSA's Director of Research and Canadian Advocacy, Jennifer DiRaimo, jdiraimo@pdsa.org.