

SUHF Investigator Program: Early Stage Investigator Research Grant

2026 Program Announcement

Suh Kyungbae Foundation supports basic research in life sciences with the belief seeing the sky beyond the sky (天外有天).

The SUHF is restructuring the program to identify larger and more ambitious research projects. Selected researchers will be given the opportunity to validate their ideas with a research grant of 300 million KRW over three years. Following a rigorous evaluation, researchers who require further in-depth study will receive an additional 400 million KRW over four years, for a total research grant of 2.5 billion KRW over seven years. The SUHF ensures full research autonomy and an environment that enables complete focus on scientific inquiry throughout the support period. Even after the support period ends, if the importance and impact of the research are recognized, the SUHF will provide an additional 500 million KRW over five years to further advance the work.

We are looking forward to numerous applicants who would explore *terra incognita* of life sciences challenging adventurous questions.

1. Supporting Area

- Basic and interdisciplinary studies of life science expected to be a breakthrough.
 - To pioneer new fields or shift paradigms.
 - To introduce new concepts and original research methods.
 - To investigate unsolved phenomena and principles.
 - That someone should do, even if there is little chance to succeed in a short period.
 - Development of new technologies for the aforementioned research areas

2. Conditions

- Three awardees per year.
- Grants between 300 million (KRW) per year (Maximum 900 million won for 3 years).
 - Potential gift taxes incurred when transferring money abroad are included.
 - Indirect costs are not applied, but can be negotiated later if incurred.

3. Eligibility

- Individuals with Korean citizenship who are affiliated with institutions in Korea or abroad.
 - The principal investigators (PI) who research life science at universities, university-affiliated research institutes, and government-funded research institutes.
 - No more than seven years of experience as an independent researcher by the day of the program announcement (January 2, 2026): newly appointed as PI from January 2019 to March 2026.
(Eligibility will be limited to within five years of appointment from 2027)
 - Re-application is available (distinction from the previous proposal should be ensured).
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4. Application Process

- January 2, 2026, ~ March 31, 2026 by 23:59 KST (UTC+9)
- The application must be submitted online through our website (<https://www.suhf.org/>).
- The application includes the following components
 - Research proposal: 10±2 pages in English with a template from SUHF website.
 - Korean/English abstracts, 3 representative publications (published journal links included), and the current funding status.

5. Selection Process

- The review will be performed by prominent scholars whom SUHF commissioned.
- Semi-finalists will be selected by July 2026 and will be invited to make a presentation in August 2026.
- New SUHF Fellows will be announced on August 25 and they must attend the SUHF celebration on August 28, 2026.
- The research grant agreement is expected to be completed in October 2026, and research funding will be paid in early December 2026.

6. Others

- For additional information, visit our website (<https://www.suhf.org/>) or call at +82-2-319-2990.
- Screening procedures and results will be held strictly private and no appeal allowed.