

CTOS CONNECT Fellowship

Global Sarcoma Visiting Fellowship Program 2027 call for applications

CTOS invites early-career professionals involved in sarcoma care or research to apply for a short visit to another institution. The program supports focused learning, mentorship and lasting international collaborations, with a clear purpose and a feasible output for each visit.

Awards and key dates

Awards	Three fellowships, one per track
Funding	Up to US\$5,000 per fellow, based on the justified budget approved by CTOS
Duration	Minimum 2 weeks; up to 4 weeks with justification and host support
Applications open	November 2026
Application deadline	31 January 2027
Review and selection	February 2027
Award notification	March 2027
Visit period	April–November 2027
Submission and enquiries	ctos@ctos.org

Who can apply

Applicants must meet all of the following conditions:

- Be an early-career professional involved in sarcoma care or research.
- Be an active CTOS member, or be willing to become a member before award activation.
- Be based at an institution different from the proposed host institution.
- Have support from both a home mentor and a host mentor, both of whom must be active CTOS members.

Eligible applicants include clinical fellows, residents with a clear sarcoma interest, early-career faculty, PhD students, postdoctoral fellows, pathologists, translational scientists, clinical trialists and outcomes researchers.

For this pilot, early career generally means being in training or within 7 years of completion of the relevant terminal degree, PhD, fellowship or specialist training. Flexibility applies for parental leave, illness, military service, career breaks and different international training pathways. Describe your career stage and any relevant circumstances in your application.

A structured visit with a clear educational, clinical, diagnostic, technical and/or research goal is required. The program is not intended to fund passive observerships alone.

The three fellowship tracks

Select the track that best matches your visit. One award is available in each track. A completed research project is not required. Outputs should be realistic for the duration and may include training, educational material, an implementation plan or development of a future collaboration. Credible plans for collaborative research will be viewed favorably across all tracks.

1 Clinical Practice / Clinical Research / Program Development

For early-career clinicians seeking focused clinical, educational, technical, multidisciplinary or research experience at another sarcoma institution.

Activities may include tumor boards, specialty clinics, disease-specific workflows, multidisciplinary treatment planning, surgery, radiotherapy, systemic therapy, interventional radiology, pediatric or AYA care, survivorship, supportive care, or development of a registry, trial concept or clinical research project.

Possible outputs: an implementation plan, training report, clinical pathway proposal, CTOS educational contribution or outline for a future collaborative study.

2 Translational / Preclinical / Laboratory Research

For early-career investigators seeking experience in sarcoma biology, preclinical models, translational platforms or laboratory methods.

Activities may include learning a specific technique, or working with a group with expertise in genomics, immunology, organoids, patient-derived xenograft models, spatial biology, single-cell analysis, drug testing, biomarkers or molecular profiling.

Possible outputs: a joint research proposal, tissue-based collaborative research plan, grant outline, or abstract or manuscript concept.

3 Pathology / Molecular Diagnostics

For early-career pathologists, molecular pathologists or clinicians with a diagnostic or tissue-based research interest.

Activities may include diagnostic sign-out, complex case review, molecular diagnostic workflows, digital pathology, molecular tumor boards, teaching or development of a tissue-based collaboration.

Possible outputs: a diagnostic training report, pathology teaching set, molecular diagnostics implementation plan, CTOS educational material or outline for a collaborative research project.

Choosing a host

Applicants should identify their own host institution and mentor before applying. The host should be a recognized sarcoma referral center, research laboratory, pathology unit, clinical trial group or multidisciplinary program with expertise relevant to the visit. The host mentor must be an active CTOS member.

Agree the objectives, activities, proposed dates and duration with the host. Identify local requirements for institutional access, clinical shadowing, pathology review, laboratory work or data access at the application stage.

How to apply

Email the complete application package to ctos@ctos.org by 31 January 2027 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET). Applications are submitted by email, not through a website upload form.

Suggested subject line: CTOS CONNECT 2027 application – [Surname] – [Track]

In the email, provide your full name, contact email, current role and home institution/country, chosen track, host institution/country, home and host mentor names and CTOS membership status, proposed visit dates and duration, and your CTOS membership status. If you are not currently a member, confirm your intention to join before award activation.

Required application package

1 Applicant CV

Include your current position, education and training history with dates, relevant sarcoma experience, and research or other professional activities. There is no prescribed page limit for the CV, but applicants are encouraged to keep it concise.

2 Fellowship proposal of no more than 2 pages

Include your name, chosen track, proposed host and mentor, dates and duration. Address each of the following within the two-page limit:

- Background, career stage and career goals, including any relevant career breaks or training-pathway circumstances.
- Motivation for applying and why this host institution is appropriate.
- Objectives of the visit and the expertise you aim to acquire.
- Planned activities and a realistic schedule for the proposed duration.
- Expected output and how it can be achieved within the visit.
- Value for your home institution, CTOS and the wider sarcoma community.
- Plans for continued collaboration, including collaborative research where appropriate.

Visits must last at least 2 weeks and no more than 4 weeks, with host support.

3 Home mentor letter of no more than 1 page

Provide a letter confirming the home mentor's support for your application and proposed visit. The letter should explain the career-development value of the visit and how the experience or outputs could benefit your home institution. The home mentor must be an active CTOS member and should confirm their membership in the letter.

4 Host mentor letter of no more than 1 page

The host mentor must be an active CTOS member. The letter should confirm willingness to host you, proposed dates and duration, planned activities, expected collaborative output, and relevant requirements for observership, institutional access, data access, pathology review, laboratory work or clinical shadowing. Ask the mentor to confirm their CTOS membership in the letter.

5. Proposed budget — maximum 1 page

Provide an itemized estimated budget and brief justification for the funding requested, up to a maximum of US\$5,000. Include travel, accommodation (number of nights and estimated nightly cost), meals, local transport, visa fees, insurance and any other eligible visit-related expenses. Explain the basis for each estimate and state both the total estimated cost and the amount requested from CTOS in US dollars.

The budget must be realistic and consistent with the destination, proposed duration of 2–4 weeks and planned activities. Explain how the requested costs support the objectives of the visit. If the total cost exceeds the amount requested from CTOS, indicate how you will cover the difference.

The award amount will be based on the justified budget approved by CTOS, up to a maximum of US\$5,000. If the approved budget is below US\$5,000, CTOS will award the lower amount. Applicants should request only the funding needed for eligible fellowship-related expenses; there is no expectation to request the maximum amount.

The award may be subject to taxes or withholding under applicable tax laws and regulations. Applicants should consider any anticipated tax liability when preparing their budget and, where applicable, show this separately with a brief explanation of the estimate. The maximum award of US\$5,000 is a gross amount, inclusive of any applicable taxes or withholding. CTOS will not provide additional funding to offset taxes.

Before sending, check that all five documents are attached, the proposal, mentor letters and budget meet their respective page limits, and the dates, activities and costs are consistent across the application. PDF attachments are recommended for readability.

Funding and practical arrangements

Each fellowship provides an award of up to US\$5,000. The amount will be determined by the justified budget approved by CTOS; if the approved budget is below US\$5,000, the award will be reduced accordingly. Funding is intended to support travel, accommodation, meals, local transport, visa costs, travel insurance and other eligible visit-related expenses. It does not provide salary support, institutional overhead, equipment or family travel.

CTOS will pay the approved award amount in advance of the visit, after formal award acceptance, a signed award agreement, confirmation of the host institution and mentor, and confirmation of planned visit dates. CTOS does not operate a receipt-by-receipt reimbursement process.

If the visit is cancelled and cannot be rescheduled within the award period, the fellow will be expected to return the award funds received in accordance with CTOS policy and the award agreement.

Fellow responsibilities

Fellows arrange and pay for their travel and accommodation, obtain required passports and visas, arrange insurance, meet local institutional requirements, comply with host rules, and complete the reporting requirements. CTOS does not arrange travel, book accommodation or manage institutional credentialing. An award does not guarantee patient contact or clinical privileges.

Host responsibilities

The host defines the visit structure, arranges local observership or institutional access as applicable, ensures compliance with privacy, data access, biosafety and clinical regulations, and confirms that the visit took place.

How applications will be assessed

The CTOS Education Committee coordinates the program. A Fellowship Review Panel appointed by the committee will assess applications, with relevant disciplinary expertise and management of conflicts of interest. Reviewers should not be from the applicant's home institution or proposed host institution, or have a direct conflict of interest with the applicant. Final recommendations will go to the CTOS Board or designated Executive Committee for approval.

Assessment criteria and indicative weights are shown below:

Criterion	Weight
Applicant potential and career-development value	25%
Quality, clarity and feasibility of the visit plan, including the appropriateness of the proposed budget.	25%
Mentorship quality and fit of the host institution	20%
Expected output, home-institution impact or educational value	15%
Potential for durable collaboration, including research where appropriate	10%
Contribution to CTOS's global mission	5%

Applications with a clear and credible plan for sustainable collaboration will be viewed favorably. A feasible learning or implementation outcome can be valuable even when a completed research project is not achievable during the visit.

After an award is offered

Before the visit and award payment, awardees must formally accept the award, sign the award agreement, confirm visit dates and obtain host mentor confirmation. Applicants who are not active CTOS members must become members before award activation. Fellowship visits take place between April and November 2027.

Final report

Within 30 days of completing the visit, submit a final report of no more than 2 pages to ctos@ctos.org. The report should include:

- Confirmation that the visit took place.
- A summary of the activities completed and the main lessons learned.
- The value of the visit for your career development and home institution.
- Planned next steps, such as implementation at home, educational dissemination, continued collaboration, research development, a CTOS abstract, webinar, podcast or manuscript, where applicable.
- A short summary suitable for the CTOS website, newsletter or social media.
- One photograph, if appropriate and permitted.

The report must be endorsed by the host mentor or accompanied by a brief host confirmation that the visit occurred. Only provide a photograph that can appropriately be shared and for which the necessary permissions have been obtained.

Application checklist

- I have selected the fellowship track that best matches my proposed visit.
- My proposed host is different from my home institution.
- I have support from a home mentor and an active CTOS member as host mentor.
- My proposal includes a clear goal, activities, feasible output and plan for future collaboration.
- My visit is planned for April–November 2027 and will last at least 2 weeks and no more than 4 weeks, with host support.
- My package contains a short CV, proposal of no more than 2 pages, home and host mentor letters of no more than 1 page each and a proposed budget and justification of no more than 1 page.
- I am an active CTOS member or will join before award activation.
- I will email the complete package to ctos@ctos.org by 31 January 2027.

Questions

For questions about eligibility, the application package or the fellowship, contact ctos@ctos.org.