

Young Oncology Academy: Rules & Regulations

1. Aim and purpose

The Young Oncology Academy fosters young talents in the field of clinical and translational cancer research. Up to seven talented young physicians focusing on cancer medicine, hematology or radio-oncology are invited to benefit from the expertise of a faculty member. Under his or her guidance, they will have the opportunity to attend congresses and courses to further their professional expertise, presentation, editing and networking skills, and to gain valuable insights into the successful management, execution and publication of studies. The specific stages of the program are detailed in the “Curriculum” document.

The academy is designed to have a sustainable impact on the future career of the invited applicants. The goal for graduates of this program is to become PI of an SAKK trial over the course of the following 5 years.

The Young Oncology Academy is an SAKK initiative, sponsored by Bayer (Schweiz) AG, Merck (Schweiz) AG, and Takeda Pharma AG by an unrestricted grant.

2. Personal requirements

Applications will be considered from physicians who have been engaged in clinical cancer research at a Swiss hospital or similar Swiss institution for at least two years at the time of the application. Applicants must have completed a thesis (MD) and be engaged in scientific and clinical work.

Applicants must demonstrate their interest and determination to participate in the complete program. They will be supported by the Young Oncology Academy during all stages the program, incl. travel to congresses, and may not accept additional sponsoring.

3. Formal requirements

The application must contain all information and documents designated essential, in particular the requisite letter of recommendation. The application may be submitted in German or English. Applicants must sign an SAKK contract detailing the collaboration within the framework of the Young Oncology Academy program.

4. Terms of submission

Complete applications must be submitted electronically to the coordinating person of the SAKK Coordinating Center by January 31. Only complete applications can be considered. The application and all necessary documents must be available in a form that that can be copied.

The application is only considered for evaluation by the faculty and the jury after submission of the following:

- Letter of motivation, maximum of two A4 pages
- Curriculum vitae of the applicant, including list of publications
- Letter of recommendation & commitment by the head of the department, guaranteeing the support of the institution as outlined below

5. Commitment of the employer

The employer commits in writing, and as part of the application process, that they will support the participants' career development in the following areas:

- They will actively mentor the participants and help them develop the above-mentioned skills within their institution.
- They will support the scientific activity of the participants and give them the opportunity to act as local PIs of clinical trials.
- They will provide enough protected time to the candidates to successfully complete the program and, more importantly, to take responsibility for an SAKK trial as outlined.

6. The faculty

The role of the faculty is to select the applicants and to mentor the invited applicants by helping them prepare and rehearse the presentations and provide them with detailed feedback after the presentations.

The faculty is comprised of seven independent experts. All members of the faculty will be confirmed by the SAKK Board. Faculty members have a three-year term and may be reelected once. In case one of the faculty members resigns from the faculty, the chairman of the faculty appoints a successor to complete the faculty.

A member of the SAKK board chairs the faculty as chairman. The chairman of the faculty is responsible for the selection process of the applicants, the selection of topics for the presentations, as well as for any duties related to the mentoring of the invited applicants. In case consensus cannot be reached in any of the selection processes, the chairman of the faculty has the final decision.

The chairman of the faculty may delegate certain tasks to other members of the faculty. The chairman of the faculty is the exclusive contact person for the coordinating person at the SAKK Coordinating Center.

7. Criteria of assessment

A fair distribution of candidates according to their provenance will be guaranteed. The faculty of the Young Oncology Academy reviews the applications and selects a maximum of seven candidates. The faculty will decide whom to invite based on the following criteria:

- Quality of the application (letter of motivation, curriculum vitae, list of publications and letter of recommendation)
- Previous scientific activities of the applicant, especially in the form of independent research work or scientific publications
- The likelihood of a successful completion of the program
- The prospects of successful application of the courses contents

The faculty is free and independent in its decisions. Its decisions are final and not subject to appeal.