

MECOR Latin America - GOLD Training Grant

Overview

The Methods in Epidemiologic, Clinical, and Operations Research (MECOR) Program aims to strengthen research capacity in respiratory diseases, intensive care, and sleep medicine in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The MECOR Latin America program, supported by the American Thoracic Society (ATS) and the Latin American Thoracic Society (ALAT), offers a multi-level training course designed for clinicians, investigators, academicians, and public health professionals focused on pulmonary diseases.

About the Program

- **Levels:** The program includes three levels:
 - **Level 1:** Focuses on research methods, clinical epidemiology, and developing a research protocol.
 - **Level 2:** Emphasizes creating a manual of procedures, data management plans, and statistical analysis.
 - **Level 3:** Supports the finalization of statistical analyses and drafting a scientific manuscript.
- **Objective:** Equip participants with skills to design and conduct research tailored to their local context, culminating in a publishable scientific paper.

MECOR Latin America - GOLD Training Grant GOLD offers a three-year scholarship for eligible participants from underrepresented countries in Latin America, with the goal of fostering high-quality COPD-related research under MECOR faculty mentorship.

Eligibility Criteria

- No prior participation in MECOR Level 1 or above (basic course participation is allowed).
- Resident of a Latin American country. Note: While applicants may reside in any Latin American country, priority will be given to those from underrepresented regions in MECOR LA courses in recent years (e.g., Bolivia, Peru, Venezuela, Ecuador, Central America, and Caribbean countries).
- Submission of a research question addressing COPD.
- Institutional support for project development.
- Commitment to attend MECOR for three consecutive years, completing Levels 1 to 3.

Important Dates

- 02/20/25: Grant application opens.
- 04/10/25: Grant application deadline.
- 04/26 to 05/27/25: Grant application review and selection.
- 05/28/25: Grant results announcement.
- 10/20 to 10/25/25: MECOR Latin America course in Merida, Mexico.

Selected students will be automatically registered in the course. For those not selected but still interested in participating, the MECOR Latin America application period is 02/17 to 06/02, 2025.

Grant Details

- **Coverage:** All expenses related to the grant will be managed and covered by ATS, with no direct cash disbursement to participants. The grant includes tuition, housing, and travel support for MECOR Levels 1–3, as well as publication fees in the fourth year. The maximum allocation per participant is \$2,500 per year for the first three years, plus an additional \$3,000 in the fourth year, totaling \$10,500 over four years.
- **Requirements:** Awardees must meet annual milestones to secure continued funding:
 - Level 1: Complete the course, obtain ethics approval for the project, and submit an annual report of academic achievements and expenses.
 - Level 2: Develop a Manual of Procedures, continue project development, and submit an annual report of academic achievements and expenses.
 - Level 3: Finalize statistical analyses, draft a manuscript, and submit an annual report of academic achievements and expenses.
- **Evaluation:** Annual progress reports reviewed by MECOR mentors and level leaders.

Application Process

Applications will be evaluated by a committee including MECOR Latin America and GOLD representatives. Selection criteria include:

- Eligibility for the award
- Eligibility for MECOR level 1
- CV review.
- Quality and feasibility of the research project.
- Personal statement.

The committee will score applications based on the merit of the research question and/or project to be developed, country of residence (priority will be given to those from underrepresented regions in MECOR LA courses in recent years), in addition to prior experience in research and institutional support.

Acknowledgment and Commitment

Awardees must acknowledge GOLD, ATS, and ALAT support in all scholarly outputs related to the project. They are also required to submit detailed reports, including financial receipts, and meet project milestones to progress through the program.

Contact Information

For inquiries and application details contact Jadir Oliveira – ATS Senior Manager of Global Health at joliveira@thoracic.org.

The GOLD Scholarship aims to empower emerging researchers in Latin America to contribute to reducing the burden of COPD in LMICs through high-quality, context-specific research.