HANDLE PBC 2026 Request for Proposals (RFP):

cHaracterizing and Addressing uNmet meDicaL nEeds in PBC

Through the Medical Affairs Investigator-Initiated Research (IIR) and Collaborative Research Programs, Gilead supports the research studies of academic institutions, clinical investigators, community-based organizations, and research networks. Gilead supports these studies based on the need addressed by the proposed scientific questions, validity of study methodology, timing of when results will fill an evidence need of interest, and lack of redundancy with previous studies/data conclusions already available. Letters of Interest (LOIs) will be used to determine who will be invited to submit a full proposal application.

Primary biliary cholangitis (PBC) is a chronic, autoimmune cholestatic liver disease characterized by progressive destruction of bile ducts which may ultimately lead to cirrhosis, liver failure, and increased mortality.[1,2] In addition to long-term disease progression, many patients experience persistent and debilitating symptoms, including pruritus and fatigue, resulting in substantial impairment in quality of life.[1,2] Ursodeoxycholic acid (UDCA) remains the standard first-line therapy; however, up to 40% of patients do not achieve an adequate biochemical response.[1] Despite the availability of multiple second-line (2L) treatment options, real-world evidence suggests that a substantial proportion (75% to 50%) of patients who meet criteria for treatment escalation do not receive timely 2L therapy.[3,4,5] These gaps highlight the need for a deeper understanding of how 2L treatment escalation decisions are made in routine practice, the barriers that impede optimal care, and strategies to improve alignment with guideline-based management.

To address outstanding PBC questions, Gilead is relaunching the HANDLE PBC RFP. LOIs submitted to the RFP should focus on data generation that is relevant to the PBC community (including healthcare facilities, providers, patients, and caregivers) and plans for the data to be submitted to relevant congresses and journals. Proposed studies should be completed within 18 months of initiation. Studies requiring a longer duration should include a clear and well-justified rationale.

RFP Research Topics

With the HANDLE PBC 2026 RFP Program, Gilead will evaluate research proposals that address at least one of the following open research topics/questions in PBC:

1. Characterize the criteria (biochemical, clinical, symptomatic, or other) and timing for initiation of 2L treatment in routine clinical practice. Explore variation across regionally appropriate provider types and care settings.
2. Describe the barriers that prevent or delay eligible patients from receiving 2L treatment, including patient, provider and/or health system barriers. Explore variation in barriers across provider types, practices settings, and patient background.
3. Assess interventions intended to reduce barriers and delays in initiation of appropriate 2L treatment or facilitate re-engagement in 2L treatment (e.g. clinical tools, resources, strategies, recall programs). Intervention assessment may include clinical (e.g. frequency and rate of 2L uptake, alignment with guidelines) and/or implementation outcomes (e.g. reach, feasibility, acceptability, persistence).

Additional research objectives may be considered from select geographic locations, including proposals addressing the role of biochemical normalization, missed opportunities in PBC care, and other aspects of the PBC clinical care cascade. Please contact your local medical science liaison with questions about whether a study proposal is within scope.

RFP Application Criteria

Both investigator-initiated research (IIR) proposals and collaborative research proposals (developed in conjunction with Gilead) will be considered (link to additional information on IIR vs collaborative studies). Studies should be inclusive of all locally-approved and available 2L treatment options. Studies that propose direct comparisons across 2L treatment products will not be considered, as this is not the focus of this RFP. The program is open to applications only from regions where Seladelpar has received regulatory approval and is commercially available at the time of study initiation.

Proposals should include descriptions of:

- Clear scientific objectives and endpoints, based on sound scientific hypotheses.
- Generalizability to other settings.
- The potential for scalability and sustainability of the program after funding completion (for proposed interventions and where applicable).
- Appropriate, defined, and specific data collection/evaluation methods including the number of participants engaged in the research.
- Feasibility of completion of the project within 18 months, followed by rapid dissemination and presentation of results.
- Plans to present and publish results in scientific forums and peer-reviewed journals.

The proposed budget should be appropriately proportional with the study's scope. Proposed overhead costs should not exceed 30% of the total budget.

Researchers should disclose any sources of funding that may be supporting their research proposals. Funding overlap should be avoided. Otherwise, Gilead reserves the right to request recovery of any misused funds.

There must be no more than one sponsor for contract negotiations. The study Sponsor is typically the Institution that employs the Principal Investigator and takes responsibility for compliance with all laws and regulations applicable to research sponsors, including satisfying local requirements and obtaining necessary regulatory and ethical approvals before beginning the study.

Application Process

Stage 1: Letter of Interest

To apply for consideration for funding under the HANDLE PBC 2026 RFP Program, you will need to submit a Letter of Interest (LOI)** that contains a concise overview of the proposed research and the total estimated budget. Applicants must submit their LOI through the Gilead OPTICS portal.

How to Submit an LOI in Gilead OPTICS for the HANDLE PBC 2026 RFP

- Create an account or log into your account in Gilead OPTICS
- Select "Letter of Interest (LOI)"
- Select "Request for Proposal (RFP) Program"
- Select "HANDLE PBC 2026" from the list of active RFPs
- Read through the requirements page and save a copy for reference
- Complete the required fields
- Submit the LOI
- For additional guidance, please refer to the "Help Documents" on the Gilead OPTICS portal

Gilead will evaluate and rank all LOIs received.

- LOI submission window opens on **March 9, 2026 at 00:00 PST**
- LOI Submission window closes on **April 20, 2026 at 23:59 PST**

Questions about the RFP or the application process can be discussed with your local Gilead Medical Science Liaison.

All LOIs received by the submission deadline will undergo rigorous review by Gilead's internal committee. Eligible LOIs will be assigned to multiple reviewers and assessed for alignment with the RFP, potential impact, scientific and methodological rigor, sustainability and scalability, and the site and study team's capacity to recruit the proposed population and successfully conduct the study. LOIs will be competitively ranked, and investigators with the strongest submissions will be invited to submit a full proposal.

Stage 2: Full Proposal

Investigators whose LOIs ranked most highly will be offered the opportunity to submit a full proposal application which will require a detailed budget that is commensurate with the study scope.

Below are the timelines for full proposal applications if invited to submit in Gilead OPTICS:

- By **May 20, 2026**: Notice of LOI outcome, with invitations for full proposal application submission
- By **July 3, 2026 (23:59 PST)**: Deadline for receipt of full proposal application
- By **August 2026**: Notice of full proposal outcome

Timeline Summary

Gilead's approval of awards will depend on the availability of funds and receipt of meritorious and complete proposals. Awards shall be granted solely on the merit of the research and alignment with the criteria of this program.

No Guarantee of Funding
Gilead reserves the right to approve or decline any proposal at its sole discretion. Submission of an LOI or a full proposal does not guarantee funding.

Awards shall be for research purposes only; routine medical care or other costs associated with routine medical care will not be considered for funding.

No Inducement or Reward
Gilead approval of awards does not take into account the past, present, or future volume or value of any business or referrals between the parties. Awards are not being given, directly or indirectly, as an inducement or reward with respect to the past or potential future purchase, utilization, recommendation or formulary placement of any Gilead product. Furthermore, the awardee is not required to purchase, order, recommend or prescribe to any patients any products manufactured by or available through Gilead.

About Gilead Sciences
Gilead Sciences, Inc. is a biopharmaceutical company that has pursued and achieved breakthroughs in medicine for more than three decades, with the goal of creating a healthier world for all people. The company is committed to advancing innovative medicines to prevent and treat life-threatening diseases, including HIV, viral hepatitis, COVID-19, cancer and inflammation. Gilead operates in more than 35 countries worldwide, with headquarters in Foster City, Calif.

References

1. Lindor KD, et al. *Hepatology*. 2019;69(1):394-419 (Primary Biliary Cholangitis: 2018 Practice Guidance from the American Association for the Study of the Liver [AASLD])
2. American Liver Foundation. Primary biliary Cholangitis (PBC). Updated June 12, 2025. Accessed February 18, 2026. https://liverfoundation.org/liver-diseases/autoimmune-liver-diseases/primary- biliary-cholangitis-pbc/
3. Melonia ST, et al. THU-135 Real-world study of reasons for non-utilization of second-line treatment in patients with primary biliary cholangitis. *J Hepatol.* 2024; 80(S1): S78–S836
4. Wiegand J, et al. *Z Gastroenterol*. 2024 Nov;62(11):1931-1942.
5. Nadir A, et al. *JHEP Rep*. 2023 Oct 16;6(1):100931

Footnotes:
***LOIs are not binding documents for either party. The purpose of the LOI is a brief summary of the proposed study to enable Gilead to determine on a preliminary basis whether the proposed study and related budget are aligned with the criteria, timeline, and scope of this RFP.*