

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM 2025-2026

Objectives

European Cholangiocarcinoma Network (ENS-CCA), under the Precision-BTC Network COST Action CA22125, and the International Cholangiocarcinoma Research Network (ICRN) are pleased to announce a collaborative mentorship initiative.

The program aims to support and guide junior researchers in their career paths and scientific development by pairing them with experienced mentors from the ICRN and Precision-BTC networks.

While many institutions already have established mentorship practices, this joint program offers a unique opportunity for junior researchers to receive guidance from international, independent, and highly experienced physician-scientists, mentors who share a passion for biliary tract cancer research.

We are pleased to launch the following virtual mentoring program for 2025-2026 with the following characteristics:

- > Duration: 6-month virtual mentoring activity
- > Focus: Career development and professional choices; biliary tract cancer research
- > Commitment: Mentors and mentees are expected to participate in a 1-hour virtual meeting every 30-45 days
- > Progress Reporting: A mid-term report must be submitted to the Program Administrator
- > Opportunities: Mentees may apply for the [COST Short-Term Scientific Mission](#) to visit their mentor's institution, provided they meet the eligibility criteria
- > Conference Participation: Mentees can submit an abstract to present their scientific work, if applicable, at the [Precision-BTC Network Annual Conference](#) and the Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation Annual Conference poster session.

Eligibility Criteria for Mentees

- > Educational Background: Applicants must be early-stage researchers with either a Medical Degree (MD) or a Ph.D. obtained within the last 10 years (i.e., after January 1, 2015). For those holding both degrees, only the date of the first degree will be considered.
- > Language: Fluent in written and spoken English.
- > Research Focus: Candidates should have demonstrated strong interest in cholangiocarcinoma, having *at least one published paper or abstract published on the topic*.

Application Process for Mentees

Junior investigators interested in applying for the Mentorship Programs are invited to [submit the application form](#) and ensure the following documents are included:

1. Curriculum Vitae
2. Motivation Letter: Clearly specify why you are interested in applying, objectives, and anticipated outcomes by the conclusion of the program.
3. Letter of Recommendation: A letter from institute/head of department endorsing the application.
4. Published Work: A paper or abstract published on cholangiocarcinoma

Selection Process and Matching

- > Application submissions open: October 1, 2025
- > Applications deadline: November 1, 2025
- > Selection and matching: Program Directors and the Board of Mentors will select up to 15 Mentees and match them with Mentors by November 30, 2025.
- > Notification of matches: By December 8, 2025

Start of the program and Follow-up

- > Matched Mentors and Mentees must arrange the first call by December 30, 2025.
- > By the end of the program, a final program evaluation form will be sent to Mentees and Mentors to evaluate the program's effectiveness and keep it up-to-date and useful.
- > Mentees and their Mentors must submit their evaluation within a maximum of 30-days from the end of the program.

Previous Mentors and Mentees

Click [here](#) to read about previous Mentors & Mentees' experience!