



All-Star Translational (Adult) Cancer Research Grant

2025 Request for Applications

The V Foundation for Cancer Research was founded in 1993 by ESPN and renowned basketball coach, Jim Valvano. Our mission is to fund all-star cancer researchers and game changing cancer research that accelerates Victory Over Cancer®. We've allocated nearly \$400 million in grants for cancer research across the nation and in Canada, solidifying our position as a leading advocate for cutting-edge cancer research. We fund **innovative, high-risk, high-reward research** through a variety of grant mechanisms and calls for applications.

Purpose of Award:

Translational research is a key component of the research continuum that advances basic laboratory discoveries towards clinical use, ultimately improving human health. This request for applications has two grant mechanisms, Translational and All-Star Translational. Your institution may submit up to two nominations: one Translational nominee (see Translational RFA) and one All-Star Translational nominee, if eligible. This RFA is specifically for the adult All-Star Translational grant mechanism.

All-Star Translational Grant Objectives:

This All-Star Translational grant is a reinvestment in the most exceptional prior V Foundation grantees and their most innovative ideas. This grant provides funding for high-risk, high-reward, transformative projects that will have a significant impact on our understanding and/or treatment of cancer. Please note it is not required that the previously funded grant was focused on adult translational research nor do the previously funded grant and the newly proposed project need to be linked.

This All-Star Translational grant is restricted to **adult** cancer research in the preclinical or translational space with a focus on bench-to-bedside strategies. Research on ANY adult cancer type can be funded. Applicants may propose cancer research that moves a novel strategy from the laboratory into a human clinical trial or uses specimens from a clinical trial to test hypotheses, develop biomarkers, or mechanisms. The research **must** apply in a direct way to human beings within 3 years from the end of the grant. If biomarker research is undertaken, a validation set or independent clinical trial is essential. A plan for biomarker validation, if applicable, must be included in any proposal. The endpoint of the project should be the planning or initiation of a new clinical trial or conducting an investigator-initiated trial with laboratory correlates that test hypotheses. Research areas **not** included in this scope are epidemiology, behavioral science, and health services research.

The V Foundation continues to support research on the biological basis of cancer disparities from minority ethnic or racial populations. Research on cancer disparities may be eligible for funding through the Stuart Scott Memorial Cancer Research Fund. **Please put forth your best candidate regardless of adult cancer type or cancer disparity focus.**

Biostatistics:

A biostatistical or bioinformatics plan is required for all proposals. Proposals without this element will not be considered for funding.

Grant Specifics:

- A five-year, \$1,000,000 grant, paid in \$200,000 annual installments. Indirect costs up to 10% of direct costs allowed.

- The V Foundation follows NIH Guidelines regarding salary caps. Institutions are welcome to supplement a grant recipient's salary with institutional funds if desired.

Who May Apply?

You may submit one Translational nominee and one All-Star Translational nominee (if eligible). This RFA is specifically for the adult All-Star Translational grant mechanism. See the Translational RFA for details.

Institution Eligibility:

The V Foundation has a closed RFA process and only research institutions that received this invitation may submit a nominee for consideration. Other affiliates of the institution that did not receive the email are not eligible to nominate an applicant. **Do not distribute outside of your institution.**

Applicant Eligibility: Your nominee must be the lead Principal Investigator (PI) on the research team and **must meet all of the following criteria by the nomination due date:**

- Nominated by their Cancer Center Director or similar high ranking research official.
- Employed at a non-profit research institution (e.g., 501c3, Section 170).
- Must be either a US Citizen or have a legal permit (temporary or permanent) to work in the US. This requirement does not apply to invited Canadian institutions.
- Hold a full-time faculty appointment at the Assistant Professor or Assistant Professor-equivalent level or above. Non-promotable, adjunct, affiliated, temporary, part-time or acting faculty positions are not eligible for Principal Investigator nomination.
- Must have previously been awarded a V Foundation **research** grant as the lead PI and must meet at least **ONE** of the following criteria by the nomination deadline:
 1. Have a completed V Foundation research grant or
 2. Be in the final year of an active V Foundation grant (received final payment and on track to finish by grant end date).
- Must have been the lead PI on the V Foundation research grant from start to finish.
- Must have all financial and progress reports up to date.
- Must not have a current V Foundation All-Star grant.
- Must not have only received V Foundation non-research/Mission grant(s).

Next Steps:

Letter of Recommendation (LOR): Nominees will be asked to provide a LOR from the cancer center director. If the institution has no Cancer Center Director, then a senior official at a similar level can provide this letter. The LOR will be provided with each Nomination Form and is also uploaded by the applicant in the applicant's online application. **This letter is expected to include the following elements which will be evaluated by the review committee:**

- A description of the process used to identify your nominee and why the nominee was chosen.
- The institutional resources that will be available to the nominee (examples might include research and office space, teaching release, mental health support, etc.).
- Discussion of previous V Foundation funding and impact.
- Communication of complex ideas is an important skill for all researchers to learn. If the nature of the research is basic and/or translational science, how will science communication with diverse audiences be incorporated into their training? If the nature of the research is translational and/or clinical (bench to bedside with patient contact), describe how patient advocacy/communication will be incorporated into their training.
- The name, title and contact information of the person writing the LOR.

Nomination Form:

- Complete the attached All-Star Translational Nomination Form for your nominee.

- Nomination Form must include the signature of the primary researcher and the Cancer Center Director or similar high ranking research official.
- *Reminder: Your institution may submit up to two nominations: one Translational nominee (see Translational RFA for specifics) and one All-Star Translational nominee, if eligible. A separate nomination form and LOR are required for each nominee.*
- Email your organization's completed Translational and/or All-Star Nomination Form(s) and corresponding LOR(s) in **one** email to nominations@v.org.
- Allow 5 business days from the time of receipt for our team to review, verify, and process your nomination(s). The nominee(s) will then be invited via email to complete the online application.

Important Dates:

Nomination Due Date: by 5:00 PM Eastern Time on March 18, 2025

Application Due Date: by 5:00 PM Eastern Time on April 16, 2025

Earliest Award Start Date: July 15, 2025

If you have questions, please contact us at grants@v.org. We are delighted to extend this invitation and look forward to receiving your nomination.