



V Scholar Cancer Research Grant

2024 Request for Applications

PURPOSE OF AWARD:

This Request for Applications (RFA) is specifically for **adult** cancer research through the V Scholar grant mechanism. This award supports tenure-track faculty early in their cancer research career by funding projects that are **either laboratory-based fundamental research or translational research**. Emphasis for this grant mechanism is on supporting exceptional early career investigators at the Assistant Professor stage to be better positioned to leverage large R01 or similar sustaining grants.

SPECIAL FOCUS AREA:

This RFA is specifically for **adult** cancer research. Research on ANY adult cancer type will be funded in this call. Please **put forth your best candidate regardless of adult cancer type**. The V Foundation has a fundraising focus on colorectal cancer in 2024 and welcomes proposals in this area, but this is **not** required. Research areas **not** included in this scope are epidemiology, behavioral science, and health services research.

GRANT SPECIFICS:

- A three-year, \$600,000 grant, paid in \$200,000 annual installments.
- No indirect 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?

Each invited institution may submit **up to two nominees** to apply for this call **if at least one** of the two nominees **identifies as** a member of **an underrepresented in science minority racial or ethnic group**. We continue to raise funds to support the Stuart Scott Memorial Cancer Research Fund which supports V Scholars from minority racial or ethnic groups that tend to be underrepresented in the scientific community. For the purposes of this application: Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino (non-European), American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander are minority groups eligible for this funding.

INSTITUTION ELIGIBILITY:

Only research institutions that received this invitation may submit nominee(s) for consideration. Other affiliates of the institution that did not receive the email are not eligible to nominate. Please do not distribute outside of your institution.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY:

Inclusion: Nominee(s) 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).
- Either a US Citizen or a permanent legal resident in the US. This requirement does not apply to invited Canadian institutions.
- Possess at least 2 years post-doctoral (MD or PhD) fellowship training. For MDs, a minimum of one year is acceptable if only one year is required for their specialty.
- Clinical scientists are eligible if the research institution demonstrates that it will fully support the research applicant (e.g., dedicated lab space, committed research time, start-up funds).
- Must be in a full-time tenure track or tenured faculty position (for e.g., must be eligible to apply for PI status on an R01 at your institution).
- V Scholar applicants must have been appointed to their first full-time tenure track Assistant Professor position no more than 5 years prior to the nomination due date, and not yet promoted to Associate Professor.
 - Extensions to the 5-year limit may be given on a case-by-case basis to nominees who took parental leave (or other types of leave) during this window. Please contact grants@v.org with the following to obtain approval BEFORE submitting the nomination form:
 - Appointment start date
 - Length of leave
 - Institutional tenure clock stoppages/extensions, if applicable

Exclusion: By the Nomination Due Date, nominee(s) must:

- NOT be a previous or current V Foundation V Scholar awardee.
- NOT have accepted or received notification of an R01 award by the nomination due date.
- NOT have accepted or received award notification of any peer-reviewed, non-mentored **single grant** that totals or exceeds \$750K in total direct funding at ANY point in their professional career. This calculation should exclude indirect costs and/or institutional funds.
- NOT have accepted or received award notification of any peer-reviewed, non-mentored funding that exceeds \$1M in **aggregated** (total) direct funding at ANY point in their professional career. This calculation should exclude indirect costs and/or institutional funds.
Note: The V Scholar award is intended to support research to leverage these larger awards; so, the nominee should not have already received such awards.

NEXT STEPS:

Letter of Recommendation (LOR): Nomination(s) must include a LOR per nominee 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 LOR 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.
- Why you chose this nominee.
- The institutional resources that will be available to the nominee (examples might include research and office space, teaching release, mental health support, etc.).
- An overview of the mentoring plan that will be available to the nominee.

- 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 Nomination Form for **each** of your eligible nominees. Nomination Forms must include the signature of the primary researcher and the Cancer Center Director (or similar high ranking research official) who is responsible for the nomination(s).
- Include **individual** Letter(s) of Recommendation for **each** of your eligible nominees (details above) and the completed Financial Worksheet with each Nomination Form **or the nominee(s) will be deemed ineligible.**
- Email the completed Nomination Form(s) with all required accompanying documents in **one** email to nominations@v.org.
- Please allow at least 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 **May 29, 2024**

Application Due Date: by 5:00 PM Eastern Time on **July 1, 2024**

Earliest Start Date: October 15, 2024

If you have questions about the nomination process, please contact the Research and Grants Team at grants@v.org. We are delighted to extend this invitation and look forward to receiving your nomination.

Best Wishes,



Kara Coleman, PhD
Vice President, Research and Grants Administration
the V Foundation for Cancer Research

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