V FOUNDATION®
Victory Over Cancer

Translational (Adult) Cancer Research Grant

2027 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 over $500 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:

This Request for Applications (RFA) is specifically for the adult Translational grant mechanism. Each invited institution may submit one nomination.

Translational Grant Objectives:

Translational research is a critical part of the research continuum, advancing basic laboratory discoveries toward clinical application to improve human health.

This 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 is eligible. Applicants may propose cancer research projects that:

- Move a novel strategy from the laboratory into a human clinical trial, or
- Use specimens from a clinical trial to test hypotheses, develop biomarkers, or establish mechanisms.

The research **must** apply in a direct way to human beings within 3 years of the grant's completion. If biomarker research is undertaken, a validation set or independent clinical trial is essential. Proposals must include a plan for biomarker validation, if applicable. 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.

Biostatistics:

A detailed biostatistical or bioinformatics plan is **mandatory** for all proposals and is required for funding consideration. Please ensure your nominee has the resources and collaborators needed to submit this required plan.

Grant Specifics:

- The total grant award is $800,000 over four years, with annual payments of $200,000. This amount includes both direct and indirect costs. Indirect costs are allowed up to 10% of total grant amount.
- The V Foundation follows NIH salary cap guidelines. Institutions may supplement a grant recipient's salary with institutional funds, if desired.

Institution Eligibility:

This is a closed RFA. Only research institutions that received this invitation may submit a nominee for consideration. Other affiliates or institutions that did not receive the email are not eligible. **Do not distribute outside of your institution.**

Applicant Eligibility:

The nominee must serve as the lead Principal Investigator (PI) on the research team and meet **all** the following criteria **by the nomination due date:**

- Be nominated by their Cancer Center Director or another senior research official.
- Be employed at a non-profit research institution (e.g., 501(c)(3), Section 170).
- Be a U.S. 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 PI nomination.

Next Steps:

Nomination Form:

- Complete the attached Translational Nomination Form.
- The Nomination Form must be signed by both the nominee and the Cancer Center Director (or similar senior research official).
- Email the completed Nomination Form to nominations@v.org.
- Allow 5 business days for V Foundation staff to review and process the nomination. Once verified, the nominee will receive an email invitation to submit their online application.

Letter of Recommendation (LOR):

Each **application** must include an LOR from the Cancer Center Director or a senior research official.
The review committee will evaluate the LOR for:

- A description of the selection process and why the nominee was chosen.
- An overview of the institutional resources and support available to the nominee (e.g., research and office space, teaching release, mental health support, etc.).
- A summary of how the nominee will be trained to communicate complex ideas:
    - For basic and/or translational, explain how science communication with broad audiences will be incorporated.
    - For translational and/or clinical research (bench to bedside with patient contact), describe how patient advocacy and communication will be incorporated.
- The letter writer's full name, title, and contact information.

Important Dates:

Nomination Due Date: **December 2, 2026**, by 5:00 PM Eastern Time
Application Due Date: **January 6, 2027**, by 4:00* PM Eastern Time
Earliest Award Start Date: **April 15, 2027**

**** Applications received after 4:00 PM ET will not be considered for funding.***

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.