



All-Star 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 \$458 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.

Please Note: The final Request for Applications (RFA) for the 2027 All-Star Translational Adult Cancer Research Grant has not yet been released. The information below is based on historical V Foundation guidelines, as well as changes identified in the most recent RFA for the 2026 funding cycle and is subject to change upon release of the official RFA.

Purpose of Award:

This Request for Applications (RFA) includes two grant mechanisms, Translational and All-Star Translational. Each invited institution may submit up to two nominations: one Translational nominee (see separate 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:

Translational research is a key component of the research continuum, advancing basic laboratory discoveries toward clinical use, ultimately improving human health. The All-Star Translational grant is a reinvestment in the most exceptional prior V Foundation grantees and their most innovative ideas. This grant supports 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 does the previously funded grant and the newly proposed project need to be linked.

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. 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.

Biostatistics:

A detailed biostatistical or bioinformatics plan is **mandatory** for all proposals and is required for funding consideration.

Grant Specifics:

- The total grant award is \$1,000,000 over a five-year period, 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 be the lead Principal Investigator (PI) on the research team and meet **all** of the following criteria **by the nomination due date**:

- Be nominated by their Cancer Center Director or similar high ranking research official.
- Be employed at a non-profit research institution (e.g., 501(c)(3), Section 170).
- Be 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 meet at least **ONE** of the following conditions 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):

Each nomination must include an LOR from the Cancer Center Director or a senior research official. The nominee must also upload the LOR as part of their application. **The review committee will evaluate the LOR, which should include:**

- A description of the selection process used to identify the nominee and the rationale for their nomination.
- An overview of the institutional resources and support available to the nominee (examples might include research and office space, teaching release, mental health support, etc.).
- A discussion of the nominee's previous V Foundation funding and its impact.
- Communication of complex ideas is an important skill for all researchers to learn.
 - If the research is basic and/or translational, explain how science communication with broad audiences will be incorporated into their training.
 - If the research is translational and/or clinical (bench to bedside with patient contact), describe how patient advocacy and communication will be incorporated into their training.
- The full name, title, and contact information of the person writing the LOR.

Nomination Form:

- Complete the attached All-Star Translational Nomination Form.
- Must be signed by both the nominee and the Cancer Center Director (or similar high ranking research official).
- *Reminder: Invited institutions 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 the completed All-Star Translational Nomination Form and LOR together in **one** email to nominations@v.org. If also submitting a Translational nomination, include both in the same email.
- Allow 5 business days for V Foundation staff to review and process the nomination(s). Once verified, the nominee(s) will receive an email invitation to submit their online application.

Important Dates:

Nomination Due Date: December 4, 2026, by 5:00 PM Eastern Time

Application Due Date: January 8, 2027, by 4:00* PM Eastern Time

Earliest Award Start Date: April 14, 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.



V Foundation

Internal LOI Submission Instructions

The CU Cancer Center is inviting internal Letters of Intent for the V Foundation's Adult Translational Cancer Research Award. As this is a limited submission opportunity, the Cancer Center will conduct an internal review to select the proposal(s) that will be submitted as the institution's nominees.

1. Project Information

- Project title
- Principal Investigator: name, title, and email
- Co-PI and other collaborators (if applicable): name, title, and email
- Project Summary: Provide a brief lay summary of your project

2. Research Summary (2 pages max)

A. Project Overview

- What problem does the proposed work address?
- What solution or approach is proposed?
- Why is this project important for adult cancer research?

B. Background and Rationale

- Brief scientific premise and significance
- Existing data or rationale supporting the proposed approach

C. Proposed Research Plan

- Key aims/objectives
- Overview of methods and approach

D. Translational Potential and Impact

- Describe the project's translational potential and path to human application within three years of grant completion.

E. Biostatistical or Bioinformatics Plan

- Provide a brief overview of the proposed biostatistical or bioinformatics approach.

F. Funding

- Include the estimated funding amount requested and a brief description of how the funds will be used.

3. Biosketches

- NIH-formatted biosketch for the PI and co-PI (if applicable)
- Limit: 5 pages per biosketch

****FOR ALL-STAR APPLICANTS ONLY** Please include where you see fit:**

Include a brief summary of the outcomes and impact of the previously funded V Foundation award.

Submission Requirement

Please combine all LOI materials into one single PDF before submission. LOIs that are not submitted as one complete PDF will not be accepted.

Submission Link

Please submit your single page PDF [here](#).

Review Criteria

LOIs will be reviewed by a panel with relevant expertise based on scientific merit and innovation, relevance to cancers affecting women, translational potential, and feasibility and impact.

Important Dates

Internal LOI deadline	Friday, October 16 at 5:00 pm MT
Internal Nomination Notification	Week of November 30
Anticipated Sponsor Application Deadline	January 8, 2027
Anticipated Award Start Date	April 14, 2027

These instructions are also provided in the Smartsheet submission link listed above

If you have any questions, please reach out to Ashley Patterson at CC_FundingOps@cuanschutz.edu.