

# Vanderbilt-wide Limited Submission Opportunity

## 2026 V Foundation Adult Translational Cancer Research Awards

**Applications due November 10, 2025**

*Note: Internal call is based on anticipated RFA and deadlines from the sponsor.*

**Vanderbilt (VU + VUMC):** This is a joint competition for VU and VUMC investigators. All investigators should follow these instructions.

Vanderbilt (VU + VUMC, collaboratively) may choose **up to two nominees** (one traditional translational nominee and 1 All-Star nominee) for the V Foundation 2026 Adult Translational Cancer Research Grants Program.

The V Foundation invites applications for adult cancer research that moves a novel strategy from the laboratory into a human clinical trial or uses specimens from a clinical trial to develop biomarkers or mechanisms. Research on ANY adult cancer type can be funded. **The research should apply in some direct way to human beings within the time frame of less than 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.

This RFA is specifically for **adult cancer** research that falls into preclinical/translational research as described above.

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

### Translational Grant

- Provides **\$800,000** in four annual installments of \$200,000. Indirect costs up to a maximum of 10% within the total award are permitted.
- Supports “bench to bedside” research, whose endpoint is often planning or initiation of a clinical trial
- Research should apply in some direct way to human beings within 3 years from the end of the grant

### All-Star Grant

- Provides **\$1,000,000** over 5 years (\$200,000 per year).
- Applicants must previously have received a V Foundation research grant (V scholar, Translational) to be eligible
  - V Foundation project must be completed or in the final year
  - Must be in good standing with the V Foundation
- The new project proposal does NOT need to be linked to the previously funded V Foundation project
- The prior grant type does NOT impact the type of RFA an All-Star applicant can apply for
- The prior V Foundation grant does NOT need to be at the same institution where the nominee is now

## **Applicant Eligibility**

- For both Translational Grant and All-Star Grant mechanisms, applicants must hold a full-time faculty appointment at the Assistant Professor or Assistant Professor-equivalent level or above, by nomination due date. Non-promotable adjunct, affiliated, temporary, part-time or acting faculty positions are not eligible for Principal Investigator nomination.

## **Internal Selection Process:**

Anyone interested in being considered as Vanderbilt's nominee for this opportunity must submit the following (as a single PDF) to [LSO@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:LSO@vanderbilt.edu) by **11:59 p.m. on November 10, 2025**. **Late applications will not be considered.**

1. Brief (2 page maximum) research plan including summary budget;
2. Statement of support from department chair/center director;
  - a. Please include an overview of resources available to you (research and office space, teaching release, mental health support, etc); If the nature of the research is basic and/or translational science, how will science communication with diverse audiences be incorporated into your 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 your training.
3. NIH Biosketch or 5-page CV

Submissions should reference "2026 V Adult Translational Cancer Research Award" in the subject line of the email.

A short nomination form for Vanderbilt's selected candidate will be submitted to the V Foundation in December. The candidate will then receive an invitation to submit a full application to the sponsor.

Email [LSO@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:LSO@vanderbilt.edu) with any questions about the program, foundation, or internal review process.