



## **V Clinical Scholar Program**

### **2021 Request for Applications**

**PURPOSE OF AWARD:** To accelerate cancer treatment and cures, the V Foundation proposes to develop the careers of clinicians who will become leaders in developing *programs* of clinical trials that are sequential and based on hypothesis-driven research. The competitive candidate will have a thorough knowledge of clinical trials and cancer biology as well as the ability to utilize new research discoveries for clinical intervention, the ability to develop a long-term plan to cure different forms of cancer, communicate with government agencies, and collaborate with the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry to facilitate progress in clinical care. V Clinical Scholars will be expected to lead a program of hypothesis-driven clinical trials, initiating and completing multiple projects overseen by clinical and laboratory mentors who have a track record for conducting hypothesis-driven research with a strong translational component, often in collaboration with investigators from other disciplines. Each awardee will be expected to conduct the initial clinical trials in their designed program during the two years of the award. Trials will be based on novel pre-clinical data. Each hypothesis-driven clinical trial will include laboratory correlates that will inform the design of subsequent trials. Candidates will become familiar with the methodology, potential and limitations of laboratory correlates. *Note: This program is distinct from the existing V Scholar program which is for early investigators of all types (PhD, DVM and/or MD), many of which are not engaged in clinical research.*

**GRANT SPECIFICS:** The total grant amount is \$200,000, paid in two annual installments of \$100,000. Only direct costs of the research are supported by this award. We allow flexibility in how the PI can use these funds (e.g., salary, protected time, program costs and some correlates) but it is insufficient to fund the major costs of a clinical trial.

**WHO MAY APPLY?** Each invited institution may submit **one nominee** to apply for this call.

#### **INSTITUTION ELIGIBILITY:**

- Only NCI-Designated *Comprehensive* Cancer Centers receiving this RFA are eligible to nominate an applicant. Please do not distribute outside of your institution.
- Centers must be able to demonstrate that they have the capacity to develop a training program/mentorship for these clinical scholars.

#### **APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY:**

- Applicants must be clinicians (at minimum, Assistant Professor for at least 3 years) and have experience leading clinical trials, but not yet achieved the level of Full Professor.
- Applicants must be board-certified (if applicable to their discipline; certification received within 7 years) or board-eligible in (for example, but not limited to) surgical oncology, gynecologic oncology, medical oncology, radiation oncology, pediatric oncology, or internal medicine. Other oncology disciplines that are not listed may be included and in some cases may not require board certification, depending on the discipline.

- The Department Chair and Division Head must support the applicant's plans for career development and commit to long-term support of the applicant.

### **NEXT STEPS:**

#### **Nomination Form:**

- Complete the attached Nomination Form for your eligible nominee. Nomination Forms must include the Cancer Center Director's (or similar high ranking research administrator) and the Department Chair's signatures.
- Email the completed Nomination Form to [nominations@v.org](mailto:nominations@v.org).
- After we receive your completed Nomination Form, the nominee will be invited to complete the online application.

**Recommendation Letter:** Applicants will need to include a letter of recommendation with their online application. This letter should come from senior leadership who nominated, support, and mentor them (such as their Division Chair, Department Head, or Cancer Center Director) and must include:

- 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
- The mentoring environment that will be available to the nominee
- Very Important: a description of your institutional training program that will be used in developing and supporting your clinical scholar as they lead and create novel, high quality clinical trials
- Describe how patient advocacy/communication will be incorporated into their training

### **REVIEWER EVALUATION CRITERIA:**

- Has the applicant designed a **program of clinical trials** as opposed to a single trial? Are a number of concurrent or sequential series of trials described in the program?
- Does the applicant have letters from co-mentors in both the laboratory and clinical areas?
- Does the applicant have previous clinical trial experience? Multiple publications? Funding from outside sources, including Pharma?
- Does the applicant have access to sufficient patients for accrual (either at their own institution or via access to a consortium or collaborative network)?
- Does the applicant have the potential to be a driver of a clinical trial program?
- Can the applicant provide a list of funding sources that cover the cost of the initial clinical trial?

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

**Nomination Due Date:** by 5:00 PM Eastern Time on **April 15, 2021**

**Application Due Date:** by 5:00 PM Eastern Time on **May 4, 2021**

If you have questions about the nomination process, please contact the Grants Team at [Grants@v.org](mailto:Grants@v.org). We are delighted to extend this invitation and look forward to receiving your nomination.

Best Wishes,



Carole C. Wegner, PhD, HCLD  
Senior Vice President, Research and Grants Administration  
the V Foundation for Cancer Research

**VICTORY OVER CANCER**