



V Clinical Scholar Program

2020 Call 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. Clinical Scholars will be expected to lead a program of hypothesis-driven clinical trials, initiating and completing multiple projects mentored by a 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 pre-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:

This is a \$200,000 grant paid over two years, and does not cover indirect costs. A progress report and financial expenditure report are due annually. This grant will allow flexibility in how the PI can use these funds (e.g., salary, protected time, program costs and some correlates) but is insufficient to fund the major costs of a clinical trial.

WHO MAY APPLY?

Only NCI-Designated *Comprehensive* Cancer Centers receiving this RFA are eligible to nominate an applicant. Centers must be able to demonstrate that they have the capacity to develop a training program/mentorship for these clinical scholars. Within an institution, applicants must be clinicians (at minimum, Assistant Professor for at least three years) and have had experience in leading clinical trials, but have not yet achieved the level of Full Professor. Applicants must be board-certified (if applicable to their discipline; certification received within previous 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 also be included and in some cases may not require board certification, depending on 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 designated applicant. Please note: The nomination form must include the signature of the Cancer Center Director or similar high ranking research official responsible for the nomination who can affirm that the candidate meets all eligibility requirements. It must also be signed by the applicant's department chair.
- Email the completed Nomination Form to nominations@v.org.
- After we receive your completed Nomination Form, the nominee will be invited to complete the online application.

Recommendation Letter: Nominee will be asked to upload a letter of recommendation with their online application from senior leadership who nominated them and who will support and mentor them (e.g., their Division Chair and/or Department Head, Cancer Center Director). This letter of recommendation from the nominator should 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 the institutional training program to develop these clinical scholars who will lead and create novel high quality clinical trials.
- Describe how patient advocacy/communication be incorporated into their training.

REVIEWER EVALUATION CRITERIA:

Reviewers will consider various criteria in their evaluation, including the following:

- 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 area?
- 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: by 5:00 PM Eastern Time on March 16, 2020

Application Due: by 5:00 PM Eastern Time on April 15, 2020

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

Best Wishes,
Carole

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the V Foundation for Cancer Research

VICTORY OVER CANCER