



Adult Translational Cancer Research

Focus Area: Early Detection of Cancer

2022 Request for Applications

PURPOSE OF AWARD: The V Foundation seeks to support translational research projects within the scope of **adult cancer research, specifically in the focus area of early detection of cancer**. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many routine cancer screenings were missed, especially routine screenings for breast, cervical, colorectal, prostate and lung cancer. These failed screenings resulted in much later detection of these and other cancers, increasing the death rate. Researchers estimate that 25% fewer cancers were detected due to these missed screenings. Better early detection methods are needed for all cancer types. Some examples of early detection research areas include better liquid biopsy detection methods, better imaging techniques, better at-home assays and identification of better early warning cancer signals. **We welcome new areas of research and innovative ideas in the early detection area outside of those listed here.** Even after the pandemic recedes, there are likely to be persistent health disparities related to screening failures associated with socioeconomic factors. Some cancers, like colon cancer, have worse outcomes in minorities due in part to late diagnosis. We encourage cross disciplinary research, including expertise from other disciplines (for example: bioinformatics, computational scientists, or engineers) as applicable to the research. Translational projects should move a novel strategy from the bench to clinical application. The research should apply in some direct way to human beings within the time frame of less than 3 years. 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.

SPECIAL FOCUS AREA: This request for applications is specifically for **adult** cancer research in the focus area of **early detection**. While not required, we also encourage research on the biological basis of cancer disparities experienced by patients from minority ethnic or racial populations in areas related to causes, aggressiveness, detection, treatment or relapse. **Research within the biological basis of cancer disparities will be eligible for funding through the Stuart Scott Memorial Cancer Research Fund.** Cancers in which ethnic and racial disparities have previously been demonstrated include: lung and bronchus, colon and rectum, breast, prostate, uterine, cervix, stomach, and liver. Applicants submitting research proposals on the biological basis of disparities will need to describe how their research is applicable to the scope of the RFA, even if in one of the above cancers.

GRANT SPECIFICS: The total amount of this grant is \$600,000, paid in three annual installments of \$200,000. Indirect costs up to 10% are permitted (i.e., over the grant term, a maximum of \$60,000 can be utilized for indirect costs leaving \$540,000 for direct costs).

WHO MAY APPLY?

Each invited institution may submit **one nominee** to apply.

INSTITUTION ELIGIBILITY:

Only research institutions that received this invitation may submit a nominee for consideration. Other affiliates of the institution that did not receive the email are not eligible to nominate an applicant. Please do not distribute outside of your institution.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY: Your nominee must be the lead Principal Investigator (PI) on the Translational research team and must meet all of the following criteria:

- Nominated by their Cancer Center Director or similar high ranking research official.
- Employed at a non-profit research institution (e.g., 501c3, Section 170).
- Hold a tenure-track or tenured faculty position at their cancer research institution. Non-promotable adjunct, affiliated, temporary, part-time or acting faculty positions are not eligible for Principal Investigator nomination to lead the Translational Research Team.

NEXT STEPS:

Nomination Form:

- Complete the attached Nomination Form for your sole nominee. Nomination Form must include the Cancer Center Director's or similar high ranking research official's signature.
- 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: Nominees will be asked to upload a letter of recommendation with their online application due at a later time. This letter of recommendation 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
- If the nature of the research is bench to bedside with patient contact, describe how patient advocacy/communication will be incorporated into their training.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Nomination Due Date: by 5:00 PM Eastern Time on **February 28, 2022.**

Application Due Date: by 5:00 PM Eastern Time on **March 24, 2022.**

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

VICTORY OVER CANCER