

## Women Scientists Innovation Award for Cancer Research V Scholar or Translational 2025 Request for Applications

### PURPOSE OF AWARD:

Sustaining the careers of women in research and preventing the loss of women from academic careers focused on cancer is paramount to accomplishing the V Foundation's mission. Women are underrepresented in many STEM fields and this disparity becomes more pronounced further along the career continuum. To make significant progress towards Victory Over Cancer, we need all voices at the table. The V Foundation's Women Scientists Innovation Award for Cancer Research helps promote inclusion for women in cancer research while supporting the most cutting-edge proposals.

### GRANT OBJECTIVES:

This request for applications is specifically to fund women cancer researchers and is restricted to **adult** cancer research. Research on ANY adult cancer type will be funded. Please note that research areas **not** included in this scope for any grant type are *epidemiology, behavioral science, and health services research*.

**V Scholar** – restricted to adult cancer research that is exploratory or translational in focus. This award supports tenure-track faculty early in their cancer research career by funding projects that are **either laboratory-based fundamental research or translational research**. Emphasis for this grant mechanism is on supporting exceptional early career investigators at the Assistant Professor stage to be better positioned to leverage large R01 or similar sustaining grants.

**Translational** – restricted to adult cancer research in the preclinical or translational space with a focus on bench-to-bedside strategies. Applicants may propose cancer research that moves a novel strategy from the laboratory into a human clinical trial or uses specimens from a clinical trial to test hypotheses, develop biomarkers, or mechanisms. The research **must** apply in a direct way to human beings within 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 or conducting an investigator-initiated trial with laboratory correlates that test hypotheses.

### BIostatISTICS:

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

### GRANT SPECIFICS:

**V Scholar:** A three-year, \$600,000 grant, paid in \$200,000 annual installments. No indirect costs allowed.

**Translational:** A four-year, \$800,000 grant, paid in \$200,000 annual installments. Indirect costs up to 10% of direct costs allowed.

The V Foundation follows NIH Guidelines regarding salary caps. Institutions are welcome to supplement a grant recipient's salary with institutional funds if desired.

## WHO MAY APPLY?

- Each invited institution may submit **one nominee** to apply for this Women Scientists Innovation Award.
- The **SOLE** nominee may apply in **either** the V Scholar **or** Translational grant type.

## INSTITUTION ELIGIBILITY:

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

### **Applicants may apply to EITHER V Scholar OR Translational**

## APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY:

### **V Scholar**

**Inclusion:** Nominee must meet **all** the following criteria by the nomination due date.

- Self-identify as a woman.
- Nominated by their Cancer Center Director or similar high ranking research official.
- Employed at a non-profit research institution (e.g., 501c3, Section 170).
- Either a US Citizen or a permanent legal resident in the US. This requirement does not apply to invited Canadian institutions.
- Possess at least 2 years post-doctoral (MD or PhD) fellowship training. For MDs, a minimum of one year is acceptable if only one year is required for their specialty.
- Clinical scientists are eligible if the research institution demonstrates that it will fully support the research applicant (e.g., dedicated lab space, committed research time, start-up funds).
- Must be in a full-time tenure track or tenured faculty position (for e.g., must be eligible to apply for PI status on an R01 at your institution). Non-promotable adjunct, affiliated, temporary, part-time, or acting faculty positions are not eligible for Principal Investigator nomination.
- Must have been appointed to their first full-time tenure track Assistant Professor position **no more than 5 years prior to the nomination due date**, and not yet promoted to Associate Professor.
  - Extensions to the 5-year limit may be given on a case-by-case basis to nominees who took parental leave (or other types of leave) during this window. Please contact [grants@v.org](mailto:grants@v.org) with the following for approval BEFORE submitting the nomination form:
    - Appointment start date
    - Length of leave
    - Institutional tenure clock stoppages/extensions, if applicable

**Exclusion:** By the nomination due date, nominee must:

- NOT be a previous or current V Foundation V Scholar awardee.
- NOT have accepted or received notification of an R01 award or R01 equivalent by the nomination due date.
- NOT have accepted or received award notification of any peer-reviewed, non-mentored **single grant** that totals or exceeds \$750K in total direct funding at ANY point in their professional career. This calculation should **exclude** indirect costs and/ or institutional funds.
- NOT have accepted or received award notification of any peer-reviewed, non-mentored funding that exceeds \$1M in **aggregated** (total) direct funding at ANY point in their professional career. This calculation should **exclude** indirect costs and/ or institutional funds.

*Note: The V Scholar award is intended to support research to leverage these larger awards; so, the nominee should not have already received such awards.*

**Translational** - Nominee must be the lead Principal Investigator (PI) on the Translational research team and must meet **all** the following criteria by the nomination due date:

- Self-identify as a woman.
- Nominated by their Cancer Center Director or similar high ranking research official.
- Employed at a non-profit research institution (e.g., 501c3, Section 170).

- Must be either 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.

#### **INTERNAL COMPETITION GUIDELINES:**

Letters of Intent (not to exceed 2 pages) with cover page (see below) are due **Tuesday, January 21, 2025** and must be emailed as a single PDF document to [winshipgrants@emory.edu](mailto:winshipgrants@emory.edu). Letters of Intent should also include the PI's NIH Biosketch, a proposed title for the research project, and a brief 1-2 page abstract of the proposed research project. The selected investigator will be notified and invited to submit a full application by Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University. Please direct any questions you have regarding this funding opportunity to [winshipgrants@emory.edu](mailto:winshipgrants@emory.edu).

#### **2025 Women Scientists Innovation Award for Cancer Research - V Scholar or Translational**

##### **CYCLE COMPONENT**

Date of RFA Announcement:

Winship Letter of Intent Due Date:

Winship Announcement of Nominee Selection:

Nomination with Letter of Recommendation Due Date (to V Foundation):

V Foundation Application Due Date:

##### **DATE**

Friday, January 3, 2025

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Thursday, January 30, 2025 by 5:00 pm ET

Friday, February 28, 2025 by 5:00 pm ET

## Letter of Intent Cover Page (V Scholar)

### APPLICANT Contact Information:

Complete below ↓

First and last name (including degrees):	
Name of Cancer Institute:	
Professional Title (i.e. Assistant Professor):	
E-mail address:	
Phone number:	

**Please confirm ALL the following eligibility items are true by the nomination due date.**

*(Please check the boxes below):*

- ☐ Self-identifies as a woman.
- ☐ Is a US citizen or a permanent US legal resident. Does not apply to invited Canadian institutions.
- ☐ Has at least 2 years post-doctoral (MD or PhD) fellowship training. For MDs, a minimum of one year is acceptable if only one year is required for their specialty.
- ☐ Holds a tenure-track or tenured faculty position at their cancer research institution (for e.g., must be eligible to apply for PI status on an R01 at your institution). Non-promotable adjunct, affiliated, temporary, part-time, or acting faculty positions are not eligible for Principal Investigator nomination.
- ☐ Appointed to their first full-time tenure track Assistant Professor position no more than 5 years prior to the nomination due date and has not yet been promoted to Associate Professor.

**Please provide appointment start date here:** \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ If an extension was approved by V Foundation staff, please check here.
- ☐ Is NOT a previous or current V Foundation V Scholar awardee.
- ☐ Has NOT accepted or has received notification of an R01 award or R01 equivalent by the nomination due date.
- ☐ Has not accepted or received an award notification of any peer-reviewed, non-mentored **single grant** that totals or exceeds \$750K in total direct funding at ANY point in their professional career. This calculation should exclude indirect costs.
- ☐ Must NOT have accepted or received award notification of any peer-reviewed, non-mentored funding that exceeds \$1M in aggregated (total) direct funding at ANY point in their professional career. This calculation should exclude indirect costs and/ or institutional funds.

**Project Title and Key words (Include important key words related to the specific type of scientific expertise needed to select reviewers for your application):**

<b>Project Title:</b>
<b>Key words (minimum of six key words such as breast cancer, immunology, imaging techniques, epigenetics, microbiome, etc.):</b>

## Letter of Intent Cover Page (Translational)

### APPLICANT Contact Information:

Complete below ↓

First and last name (including degrees):	
Name of Cancer Institute:	
Professional Title (i.e. Associate Professor):	
E-mail address:	
Phone number:	

**Please confirm ALL the following eligibility items are true by the nomination due date.**

*(Please check the boxes below):*

- ☐ Must be the lead Principal Investigator (PI) on the Translational research team.
- ☐ Self-identifies as a woman.
- ☐ Is either a US Citizen or has a legal permit (temporary or permanent) to work in the US. Does not apply to invited Canadian institutions.
- ☐ Holds 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.

**Project Title and Key words (Include important key words related to the specific type of scientific expertise needed to select reviewers for your application):**

<b>Project Title:</b>
<b>Key words (<u>minimum of six</u> key words such as breast cancer, immunology, imaging techniques, epigenetics, microbiome, etc.):</b>