

Competition Details

Damon Runyon 2026 Clinical Investigator Award Program

Internal application submission: <https://emory.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1996310>

Dates

Internal Submission Deadline:	Wednesday, November 19, 2025
Funding Organization's Deadline:	Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Details

Administrator(s):	Limited Opportunities (Owner)
Category:	Limited Submission Opportunities
Cycle:	FY 2026
Number of Applications Allowed per Applicant:	1
Number of Possible Awardees:	3
Total Funding:	\$600,000
Funding Source(s):	\$600,000 - Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation
Will any funds be matched?:	No

Description

Damon Runyon 2026 Clinical Investigator Award Program

Emory University is pleased to announce a funding opportunity provided by the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation *2026 Clinical Investigator Award* program. The Award supports independent young physician-scientists conducting disease-oriented research that demonstrates a high level of innovation and creativity. The goal is to support the best young physician-scientists doing work aimed at improving the practice of cancer medicine. The awardee will receive financial support for three years, as well as assistance with certain research costs such as the purchase of equipment. The Foundation will also retire up to \$100,000 of any medical school debt still owed by the awardee. The Clinical Investigator Award program is specifically intended to provide outstanding young physicians with the resources essential to becoming successful investigators. The goal is to increase the number of physicians capable of moving seamlessly between the laboratory and the patient's bedside in search of breakthrough treatments. To be eligible, **applicants must apply within the first four (4) years of their Assistant Professor or equivalent full faculty appointment (Cut-off date: July 1, 2022).**

INTERNAL COMPETITION GUIDELINES

Internal research proposals are due by midnight on Wednesday, November 19, 2025 and should include the following (please submit the documents below as a single, combined PDF):

- Research proposal description (not to exceed 2 pages; single-spaced, 12 point type, and at least .5 inch margins) should include a proposed title of the research project, a brief 1-paragraph abstract, and project description (please include the name of your proposed mentor within the project description and date of your initial faculty appointment). References / citations are not confined to the 2-page limit.
- PI's NIH biosketch
- PDF of an email from Department Chair confirming willingness to support the applicant's research efforts and guarantee 80% protected time to fulfill the terms of the award

By the anticipated date of December 5, 2025, up to three (3) investigators will be notified and invited as Emory's nominees to submit full applications to the foundation by the January 20, 2026 deadline.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION The Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Award responds to three recognized realities:

- Though there has never been a more pressing need or more promising time for clinical cancer research, fewer young physicians enter this area of investigation every year.
- The number of institutions committed to training young physicians in the scientific discipline and methodologies of clinical investigation is critically low.
- The burden of medical school debt (averaging over \$100,000) discourages many physicians from pursuing clinical investigation.

The applicant must be involved in patient care and be conducting research that has the potential to be translated to impact patients. Preference will be given to research that adheres to the "Handshake Rule," meaning that the physician will conduct research studies that directly involve patients. (*This rule does not apply to pathologist candidates.*)

Funding

The \$600,000 award will be for a period of three years. Funding in the amount of \$200,000 will be allocated to the awardee's institution each year for the support of the Clinical Investigator. Funds are intended to be flexible and can be used for a variety of scientific needs including the Investigator's stipend and/or fringe benefits (*up to \$130,000 annually*), salaries for professional and technical personnel, special equipment, supplies, and other miscellaneous items required to conduct the proposed research. **No part of this grant can be used for indirect costs or institutional overhead.**

Other Funding

Investigators may receive funding from other sources to support their research. However, no other physician-scientist mentored career development award from a private source (*non-federal government*) may be held concurrently with the Clinical Investigator Award.

Physician-scientist career development awards from the federal government including the National Institutes of Health (*e.g., K08, K12, K23*), the Department of Defense, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs are allowed.

Scientific or budgetary overlap with other funded projects is **not** allowed. Therefore, it is critical that all current and pending grant support for your research be reported to the Foundation and the relationship of that support to the Damon Runyon-funded project be explained.

Examples of awards that cannot be held concurrently with the Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Award include (*but are not limited to*):

- **American Association for Cancer Research**- Career Development Award
- **Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation**- A Award Grant
- **Conquer Cancer Foundation (ASCO)**- Career Development Award
- **Burroughs Wellcome Fund**- Career Award for Medical Scientists
- **Leukemia and Lymphoma Society**- Career Development Program, Scholar Awards
- **St. Baldrick's Foundation**- St. Baldrick's Scholar
- **Lymphoma Research Foundation**- Clinical Investigator Career Development Award
- **Melanoma Research Alliance**- Young Investigator Awards

Eligibility

- The applicant must hold an independent Assistant Professor position or equivalent at a U.S. institution and is expected to demonstrate significant support from the home institution through a comprehensive start-up package, ample laboratory space, and protected research time, for example.
- Each applicant must be nominated by their institution. *Three (3) nominations per institution, including its affiliated schools, will be accepted.*
- The applicant must have received an MD, DO, or MD/PhD degree(s) from an accredited institution, completed their subspecialty training and be U.S. Board eligible.
- The applicant must hold a valid, active U.S. medical license at the time of application.
- **The applicant must apply within the first four (4) years of their Assistant Professor or equivalent full faculty appointment (Cut-off date: July 1, 2022).** *Instructor, Adjunct and/or acting positions are not eligible.*
- Candidates holding or awarded R01s (*or R01-equivalent grants such as the DP2 and DP5*) at the time of application are not eligible to apply.
- The applicant must commit to spending 80% of their time conducting research.
- The applicant is required to apply in conjunction with a Mentor who is established in the field of clinical translational cancer research, cancer prevention and/or epidemiology and can provide the critical guidance needed during the period of the award. No more than two Damon Runyon Clinical Investigators will be funded to work with the same Mentor at any given time (*including Co-Mentors*).
- Candidates may apply up to two times during this eligibility period.
- Only one application will be accepted from a Mentor per review session (*including Co-Mentors*).

Important Dates

Internal Deadline: Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Anticipated Nominee Notification: December 3, 2025

Application Deadline: January 20, 2026 (4 PM (EST))

Notification of Finalists: March 2026

Finalist Interviews: May 1, 2026

Funding Begins: July 1, 2026

Additional information may be found on the Damon Runyon website:

<https://www.damonrunyon.org/for-scientists/application-guidelines/clinical-investigator/forms>.

Please direct any questions you have regarding this funding opportunity to Duke Guthrie of Emory University's Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations (duke.guthrie@emory.edu).