



## **Breaking Barriers in Cancer Research Award: Translational 2026 Request for Applications**

### **PURPOSE OF AWARD:**

This award is designed to recognize scientists whose personal journeys, shaped by unique experiences and perspectives, bring valuable and often overlooked insights into adult cancer research. The V Foundation's Breaking Barriers in Cancer Research Award highlights how those lived experiences have influenced career paths and research focus, while supporting some of the most innovative and impactful proposals in the field. To make real progress toward Victory Over Cancer®, we need to elevate the voices and ideas that don't always get the spotlight and ensure those insights are part of the conversation.

Translational grant applicants can propose cancer research that moves a novel strategy from the laboratory into a human clinical trial or uses specimens from a clinical trial to develop biomarkers or mechanisms. The research should apply in some direct way to human beings within the time frame of less than 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 within 3 years of the end of the project.

**Please note: A biostatistics plan is required as part of the full application. Proposals submitted without one will not be reviewed. Full applications will be evaluated and scored by biostatisticians, and these scores will heavily influence funding decisions.**

### **GRANT SPECIFICS:**

A four-year, \$800,000 grant, paid in annual installments.

### **WHO MAY APPLY?**

Each invited institution may submit **one nominee** to apply for this Breaking Barriers in Cancer Research Award. The **SOLE** nominee may apply in either the V Scholar or Translational grant type. Both Breaking Barriers in Cancer Research Award RFAs are provided so you may decide which program best fits your nominee.

### **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. 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 the following criteria **by the nomination due date:**

- 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.

- 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.

### NEXT STEPS:

**Recommendation Letter (LOR):** Nominees will be asked to provide a LOR from the cancer center director. If the institution has no cancer center director, then a senior official at a similar level can provide this letter. The LOR will be provided with the Nomination Form and is also uploaded by the applicant in the applicant's online application. **This letter is expected to include the following elements which will be evaluated by the review committee:**

- A description of the process used to identify your nominee.
- Why did you choose this nominee.
- The institutional resources that will be available to the nominee (examples might include research and office space, teaching release, mental health support, etc.)
- Communication of complex ideas is an important skill for all researchers to learn. If this nature of the research is basic and/or translational science, how will science communication with diverse audiences be incorporated into their training? If the nature of the research is translational and/or clinical (bench to bedside with patient contact), describe how patient advocacy/communication will be incorporated into their training.
- The name, title, and contact information of the person writing the LOR.

### Nomination Form:

- The single nominee may apply in **either** the V Scholar **or** Translational program type.
- Select and complete the appropriate Nomination Form for your sole nominee, based on the program type (V Scholar or Translational) for which your nominee will be applying.
- The nomination form must include the signature of the primary researcher and the Cancer Center Director (or similar high ranking research official) who is responsible for the nomination.
- Email the completed Nomination Form and LOR in **one** email to [nominations@v.org](mailto:nominations@v.org).
- The nominee will then be invited via email to complete the online application. Please allow at least 5 business days from the time of receipt for our team to process your nomination, verify preliminary eligibility and invite the nominee.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

**Nomination Due: Early February 2026**

**Application Due Date: Early March 2026**

If you have questions about the nomination process, please contact the Research and 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,



Kara Coleman, PhD  
Vice President, Research and Grants Administration  
the V Foundation for Cancer Research

**VICTORY OVER CANCER®**

