



ASGCT Career Travel Award

Overview and Benefits

ASGCT will award seven \$10,000 Career Travel Awards for each of the broad topics listed below. The purpose of these 4-8 week travel awards is to support ASGCT members traveling to gain technical expertise and to promote collaboration between groups. These awards are intended to be broad in scope and can be used for collaborative projects between academic labs, academic labs and industry/non-profits, gene and cell therapy policy development opportunities with congressional leaders, NIH/NSF, FDA, patient advocacy groups, etc. Groundbreaking research often happens when different fields, technologies, and knowledge come together. The travel must occur between January 1 and December 31, 2019.

A. Viral Vector Development.

Includes any viral vector (RNA or DNA virus), and includes regulation of gene expression.

B. Gene Targeting and Gene Correction.

Basic development of novel technologies for genome editing, with or without nucleases. Gene targeting projects focused solely on specific disease applications should submit applications to the Clinical Translation of Gene and Cell Therapies category.

C. Oligonucleotide Therapeutics.

Includes siRNAs, aptamers, antagomirs, miRNAs, shRNA, antisense, splice switching oligos, and plasmids.

D. Synthetic/Molecular Conjugates and Physical Methods for Delivery of Gene Therapeutics.

Includes any non-viral gene therapeutics delivery method, such as polymers, liposomes, exosomes, electroporation and other non-viral delivery methodologies.

E. Immunological Aspects of Gene Therapy and Vaccines.

Includes host responses and therapy/prevention of infectious diseases. Excludes cancer immunotherapy and cancer vaccines.

F. Cell Therapies.

Includes development of somatic, embryonic and induced pluripotent stem cells or other therapeutic cell populations, and issues related to cell expansion or processing. Includes cell-based strategies for cancer immunotherapy or similar.

G. Clinical Translation of Gene and Cell Therapies.

Includes vector/cell engineering, production/manufacturing, pharmacology/toxicology studies, and assay development.

Eligibility Requirements

At the time of application, the applicant must:

Be an ASGCT member in good standing or have a membership application pending. To verify your membership status, please [log in to your ASGCT account](#). **Not an ASGCT member yet? [Take the first step](#)**. Submit your membership application at least 5 business days prior to the application deadline to allow sufficient time for processing. The mentors/collaborators are not required to be ASGCT members. Both the applicant and mentor/collaborator must be located in the United States.

Application Process

The ASGCT Career Travel Award application documents outlined below must be submitted in **PDF format** to awards@asgct.org with the subject line **Career Travel Award Application – Your Name**. Submissions after the deadline will not be considered. The applicant will receive an email confirmation once the application is received.

All applications must include the following:

1. Cover Page (limit 1 page)
2. Applicant Career Development Plan (limit 1 pages, can include non-traditional careers)

3. Proposed Project Narrative (limit 2 pages, include justification for why travel is needed)
4. Budget (limit 1 page)
5. Current Mentor Letter of Support (limit 2 pages)
6. Proposed Collaborator Letter of Support (limit 2 pages)
7. Applicant NIH Biographical Sketch, CV/resume, or equivalent (limit 4 pages)
8. Current Mentor NIH Biographical Sketch, CV/resume, or equivalent (limit 4 pages)
9. Proposed Collaborator NIH Biographical Sketch, CV/resume, or equivalent (limit 4 pages)

For more details about the required materials, please see the **Required Documents Checklist**.

Key Dates & Deadlines

Application Deadline	August 1, 2018
Award Notification	November 1, 2018
Award Activation	December 1, 2018
Final Report Due	December 20, 2019
Presentation at the ASGCT 23rd Annual Meeting in Boston	May 12 – 15, 2020

Evaluation and Selection

Applications will be reviewed by an ASGCT member committee and will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Significance, innovation, and originality of the proposal, with the reason for travel strongly justified.
- Appropriateness, feasibility, and adequacy of the proposal within the short award timeline.
- Focus on basic, translational, clinical health science or policy of gene and cell therapy.
- Applicant's qualifications and experience, including potential for future impact and a commitment to a career in gene and cell therapy (including non-traditional roles).
- Applicant's project proposal is innovative and transformative.
- Justification as to what the exchange of information will bring to the field.

Terms and Conditions

As a condition of acceptance of the Career Travel Award, it is required that:

- All funds must be used for direct expenses associated with conducting the proposed project, and are non-transferable.
- Any visa and/or citizenship restrictions applicable to receiving the award are the responsibility of the applicant.
- The recipient must submit a final report and budget by the deadline.
- The recipient must attend and present at the ASGCT Annual Meeting in the year following the award activation. Travel may be reimbursed for this invited talk according to the ASGCT reimbursement policy.
- The recipient may be asked to provide updated career and employment information so that ASGCT can track the recipient's progress following his/her award period, to maintain the ASGCT webpage regarding past winners.
- Unused funds must be returned to ASGCT.
- The recipient must cite support from ASGCT in any publication (pre-prints, peer-reviewed manuscripts, public talks/posters, etc.) describing research conducted during the award period. When publishing, the following phrase must be included in the acknowledgements:

"The project described was supported by a Career Travel Award from the American Society for Gene and Cell Therapy. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the American Society for Gene & Cell Therapy."

Questions: please email awards@asgct.org