



ASGCT Career Development Awards

Overview and Benefits

ASGCT will award one \$100,000 Career Development Award for each of the broad topics listed below (up to six total awards). The purpose of these awards is to support independent transformative pilot studies in cell and gene therapy by ASGCT members, particularly those ideas that would be challenging to fund with normal funding mechanisms. ASGCT is interested in helping applicants generate their own independent preliminary data to use in larger proposals (NIH K awards, first-submission R-level funding, etc.) to gain independence. Please select one of the topics below that best fits your proposal.

- 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.
- 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.

Eligibility Requirements

- Any ASGCT member type who is in good standing, or persons who have a membership application pending, may apply for these awards.
- 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 five business days prior to the application deadline to allow sufficient time for processing.
- You will be required to provide a mentor letter of support. Your mentor is not required to be an ASGCT member.

- U.S. citizenship is not required but both the applicant and mentor must be located in the United States during the duration of the research. Any visa and/or citizenship restrictions applicable to receiving the award are the responsibility of the applicant.

Application Process

The ASGCT Career Development Award application documents outlined below must be submitted in one combined pdf to awards@asgct.org with the subject line **Last Name, First Name – 2025 CDA Application**. Submissions after the deadline of August 1, 2025 at 11:59 pm CST will not be considered. The applicant will receive an email confirmation within 24 business hours to verify receipt of application.

All applications must include the following:

1. Cover Page (limit one page and use the [ASGCT required cover page template](#))
2. Applicant Career Development Plan (limit one page)
3. Project Narrative (limit two pages)
4. Budget (limit one page)
5. Mentor Letter of Support (limit two pages)
6. Applicant NIH Biographical Sketch (use [NIH Biosketch format](#), CV/resume, or equivalent (limit five pages)
7. Mentor NIH Biographical Sketch (use [NIH Biosketch format](#)), CV/resume, or equivalent (limit five pages)

Key Dates & Deadlines

Application Deadline	<i>August 1, 2025 by 11:59pm CDT</i>
Award Notification	<i>November 1, 2025</i>
Award Activation	<i>November 30, 2025</i>
Final Report Due	<i>December 18, 2026</i>
Presentation at the ASGCT 30 th Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA	<i>May 4-7, 2027</i>

Evaluation and Selection

Applications will be reviewed by an anonymous ASGCT Member Reviewer and will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Significance, innovation, and originality of the proposed project.
- Appropriateness, feasibility, and adequacy of proposed project within the award timeline.
- Focus on basic, translational, or clinical health science of gene and cell therapy.
- Applicant's qualifications and experience, including potential for future independent career and a commitment to a career in gene and cell therapy.
- Applicant's project proposal is innovative and transformative.
- Justification as to what the project results will bring to the field.

Terms and Conditions

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

- All funds must be used for direct expenses associated with conducting the proposed project, and are non-transferable. Please refer to our [Grant Policy Statement](#) for a list of accepted costs.
- U.S. citizenship is not required but both the applicant and mentor must be located in the United States during the duration of the research.
- The recipient must submit a final report and budget by the deadline.
- The recipient may be asked to 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.
- Any 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 Development Award from the American Society of Gene & Cell Therapy. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the American Society of Gene & Cell Therapy."

Questions: please email awards@asgct.org