

VUMC Limited Submission Opportunity

2026 Warren Alpert Distinguished Scholar Fellowship – Gene Therapy/Gene Editing

Applications due August 20, 2025

VUMC: These instructions are for VUMC investigators. VU investigators should apply through [InfoReady](#) and address any questions to VU-LSO@vanderbilt.edu.

VUMC may nominate **one candidate** for the [2026 Warren Alpert Distinguished Scholars Fellowship Award](#). This program supports individual postdoctoral scientists of exceptional creativity who have an MD or PhD degree and who have completed by July 1, 2026 a **minimum of three years** of a post-doctoral fellowship in the field of **gene therapy and/or gene editing** at a medical school, research institute, or academic institution. Scholars will be chosen based on the success in their prior post-doctoral work and the importance and creativity of their proposed future research.

These awards are to enable a postdoctoral researcher to advance to become a full-time faculty member at the Assistant Professor level or higher and to promote the development of a laboratory program that will lead to independent funding. The institution nominating each scholar will be awarded **\$200,000 annually for two years** to cover their salary, lab costs, and related expenses. Under certain circumstances, the awardee may transfer funding to support their beginning faculty position. Indirect cost of up to 15% of direct costs, may be included in the \$200,000. All applicants are required to provide 75% effort.

Eligibility:

1. Research focused in any discipline involving gene therapy or gene editing
2. Postdocs **must have completed a minimum of 3 years and no more than 6 years of a post-doctoral fellowship by July 1, 2026**
3. Postdocs must have an MD and/or PhD
4. Commitment of a minimum of 75% effort

Internal Application Process:

Anyone interested in being considered as VUMC's nominee must submit the following (in PDF format) to LSO@vanderbilt.edu by **5 p.m. on August 20, 2025:**

1. Brief research plan including summary budget; 2 pages max, references may be included on a separate page
 - a. Plan should describe importance of the project, methods, and likely presentation results.
2. 1/2 page description of your applicant background and the special characteristics that you have for implementing the proposed project and career plan.
3. Statement of support from department chair/center director;
4. NIH Biosketch or abbreviated CV (5 page max)

Submissions should reference "**Warren Alpert Distinguished Scholars-Gene Editing**" in the subject line of the email. Any questions about this opportunity or the LSO process may be directed to LSO@vanderbilt.edu.