

VUMC Limited Submission Opportunity

FY25 Susan G Komen Career Transition Award

Applications due July 11, 2024

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

VUMC may submit up to **2 nominees** for the [Susan G. Komen Career Transition Award](#) opportunity. This grant mechanism aims to help outstanding senior postdoctoral fellows and clinical fellows, working under the guidance of a mentor, launch their competitive, independent breast cancer research careers. Career Transition Awards provide up to five years of funding in two phases: Phase 1 supports the final years of mentored, postdoctoral training; and Phase 2 supports the independent research of the early career, tenure-track investigators.

Applicants may request up to 5 years of funding totaling **up to \$650,000 over the two phases** of the award. Up to \$100,000.00 per year (direct costs only) for up to two years may be requested for the first phase of the Career Transition Award to support the postdoctoral work. For the second phase of the Career Transition Award, the Applicant/PI may request up to \$150,000.00 per year (direct and indirect costs) for up to three years to support independent research.

The foundation specifically encourages applications from PIs who identify as someone from groups shown to be historically minoritized and marginalized in biomedical research from National Science Foundation data, including Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, and individuals with disabilities, as well as individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds according to the criteria used by the NIH (<https://extramural-diversity.nih.gov/diversity-matters/get-the-facts>).

Research projects must be **hypothesis-driven, breast cancer-focused studies**. They may be considered basic, translational, clinical and/or population science in nature and should align with Komen's research priorities and/or mission to save lives from breast cancer. Komen's research priorities are conquering metastatic and aggressive breast cancers, advancing personalized breast cancer care throughout the continuum of care and eliminating breast cancer disparities and inequities.

Strongest applicants will provide a vision statement encompassing the 5-year grant term, including a well-conceived research project plan for 1–2 years of substantive mentored research, the plan to build upon this research in Phase 2, and career development activities that will help them become competitive candidates for tenure-track faculty positions (preferably at another institution from their mentored phase training) and prepare them to launch robust, independent breast cancer research labs.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Individuals pursuing independent breast cancer research careers who are in the final years of mentored postdoctoral research training positions with no more than five years of total postdoctoral research experience at the time of Letter of Intent submission (**August 7, 2024**). For this application clinical fellows are considered eligible and equal to the postdoctoral rank.
- Must have a doctoral degree, including M.D., Ph.D., Dr.P.H., D.O., or equivalent.

- May not hold any appointment designated as faculty (e.g., assistant professor, clinical assistant professor, faculty-level instructor, or equivalent). Clinical fellows with the title instructor are allowed as long as they are no more than 5 years into their training similar to above bullet concerning postdoctoral training.
- Must be able to devote at least 75% of full-time effort to breast cancer research and activities, i.e., protected research time.
- Must conduct proposed breast cancer research and training at the Lead Mentor's U.S.-based institution and must be designated as a member/employee of the Lead Mentor's laboratory by date of Letter of Intent submission.
- Applicant/PI may not hold another career transition award, training award (K-type awards) or R-type award at time of notification of intent to fund (on or around April 15, 2025). If Applicant previously held an R-type award at any point, they are not eligible to apply for this award.
- If the applicant is a current Komen grantee, they must ensure that all past and current Komen-funded Grants are up to date and in compliance with all Komen requirements, e.g., progress report submissions, IRB approvals, etc. by the Letter of Intent due date (**August 7, 2024**).
- Applicant is not required to be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

See the [program announcement](#) and [funding opportunities website](#) for more information.

Internal Application Instructions

Anyone interested in being considered as one of VUMC's nominees must submit the following (in a single PDF) to LSO@vanderbilt.edu by 5 p.m. on **July 11, 2024**.

1. Brief (2 page maximum) research plan including summary budget
 - a. Research plan should include project title and hypothesis, research aim(s) and methods, and brief discussion of the project's potential impact and how the applicant is well positioned to pursue a career in breast cancer research.
2. Letter of support from department chair/center director
 - a. Letters must acknowledge that phase 1 of this grant does not allow for indirect costs. This statement can be used/modified within the letter: "The Department recognizes that phase 1 of this grant does not allow indirect costs and will commit to covering any associated indirect costs per applicable institutional/school policy." Consult LSO@vanderbilt.edu for further guidance.
3. Biosketch in current NIH format

Please indicate in your email if you identify as someone from groups shown to be historically minoritized and marginalized in biomedical research from National Science Foundation data, including Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, and individuals with disabilities, as well as individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds according to the criteria used by the NIH (<https://extramural-diversity.nih.gov/diversity-matters/get-the-facts>).

Please reference the program name in the subject line of the email. The selected nominees will submit an LOI including an institutional letter of support by August 7, 2024.

Any questions about this opportunity may be directed to LSO@vanderbilt.edu.