

Vanderbilt-wide Limited Submission Opportunity

NCI Research Specialist (Clinician Scientist) Award (R50 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Applications due August 14, 2025

Vanderbilt (VU + VUMC): *This is a joint competition for VU and VUMC investigators. All investigators should follow these instructions.*

Overview:

Vanderbilt (VU and VUMC, collaboratively) may submit **up to four applications** for the [National Cancer Institute \(NCI\) Research Specialist \(Clinician Scientist\) Award \(PAR-24-274\)](#). The Research Specialist Award is designed to encourage the development of stable research career opportunities for exceptional clinician scientists who want to continue to participate in the NCI clinical trials networks through leadership in 1) the development of national clinical trials, 2) implementation of NCI clinical trials in their institutions, and 3) national service to the NCI clinical trials network through participation in the scientific review committees, monitoring committees and other activities, but not serve as principal investigators of research project grants.

The award is intended for clinician scientists with significant, relevant experience, who have shown clear evidence of productivity and research excellence in the implementation of NCI-funded clinical trials within their institution.

The award provides salary support and sufficient autonomy so that individuals are not solely dependent on NCI grants held by others or other sources of support for cancer research career continuity. Applicants may request up to 4.8 person-months of salary support (commensurate with effort on NCI-funded trials), \$2500 per year for travel costs to attend research meetings/conferences, and \$2000 per year for travel costs to attend an annual meeting for Research Specialist (Clinician Scientist) Award recipients. The total award project period may not exceed five years.

Eligibility:

- Candidates must be clinician scientists who have a clinical degree (M.D., D.O., D.D.S., D.M.D., O.D., D.C., PharmD., N.D., D.V.M.), possess active licensure, and are actively practicing in an oncology clinical setting. Candidates with a Ph.D. or other doctoral degree that have direct contact with patients or healthy subjects in clinical disciplines such as clinical psychology, nursing, clinical genetics, speech-language pathology, audiology, or rehabilitation are also eligible.
- At the time of application, candidates cannot be PI on a current R01, P01, or other significant NIH funding (past funding does not affect eligibility). Support from P50 Career Development awards, R03, R21, P30 funding, or national network funding will be

allowed, as long as the total NCI support does not exceed 6 person-months. Future substantial independent NIH funding will require the awardee to forfeit the R50.

- The applicant must have a record of involvement in NCI-funded cancer clinical trial-related activities and be engaged in the conduct of NCI-funded cancer clinical trials research at an academic medical center.
- At the time of application, the Research Specialist must have been at the institution for at least the previous two years, be in a full-time position and be more than six years from initial faculty appointment (including appointments held at other institutes).
- The Research Specialist must commit 2.4 to 4.8 person-months to NCI-funded clinical activities during the life of the award. The Research Specialist may engage in other duties as part of the remaining 9.6 to 7.2 person-month effort not covered by this award. The maximum funded effort allowed on all NCI grants, including the R50, will be capped at 6 person-months.
- The Research Specialist must have demonstrated professional accomplishments consonant with their career status and should have demonstrated cancer clinical research experience relevant to the NCI mission.

See the [solicitation](#) for full program details.

Internal Application Process:

Anyone interested in being considered to submit a proposal must submit the following materials to LSO@vanderbilt.edu by **5 p.m. on August 14th, 2025**. Please reference the program name in the subject line of the email.

1. 1-page LOI including brief project overview
2. NIH Biosketch or up to 5-page CV

The selected candidate will submit a full proposal by November 4, 2025.

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