



Yosemite-American Cancer Society Award 2025 Request for Applications

The **2025 Yosemite-American Cancer Society Award** supports innovative research to develop methodologies, establish feasibility, or pilot high risk/high reward projects to advance the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of cancer as outlined below in either Topic #1 or #2. Preliminary data are not required. Priority will be given to projects that are highly innovative, feasible within a two-year maximum timeframe, and are poised to make an impact on cancer prevention, treatment, and healthcare delivery by demonstrating a plan of *translation to the clinic*.

TOPIC #1

Treatment approaches involving targeted toxins such as Antibody Drug Conjugates (ADCs) and radiopharmaceuticals have become vital therapeutic modalities for cancer treatment in recent years, leading to a wave of FDA approvals across multiple tumor types. Despite cancer cell-specific toxins showing great potential, key challenges to be addressed include toxicity, thoughtful approaches to payload/linker/antigen/indication selections, and treatment resistance. Targeted toxins have great potential to achieve better clinical efficacies and further innovation about specific challenges will unlock insights to overcome some of the current clinical hurdles.

Project proposals should broadly fit into these categories:

- Novel payloads, including molecules with new pathways or modalities
- Approaches to address resistance and/or tumor selectively and/or penetration
- Novel targets
- Tactics to broaden the therapeutic window for targeted approaches

TOPIC #2

Significant advancement has been observed in the field of cancer vaccines, especially for solid tumors. Further innovation in *non-cell*-based cancer vaccines for solid tumors, encompassing both therapeutic and prophylactic treatment strategies, would greatly aide in pushing the field forward. Approaches to make vaccines more efficacious and/or more accessible to patients at scale will be considered:

- Combination therapies
- Immune adjuvants
- Innovative delivery systems
- Novel targets
- Optimizing neoantigen recognition/engagement

ELIGIBILITY

Investigators at any career stage with a full-time faculty (or equivalent) appointment at one of the Invited Institutions (see below) are eligible to apply.

2025 GRANT TIMELINE

Mar 1: Application Window Opens
Jun 1: Application Deadline
Aug: Peer Review
Sept 15: Selections Confirmed
Nov 1: Grant Start Date

TERM AND BUDGET

Yosemite-American Cancer Society Award grantees are funded at up to \$300,000 direct costs for one- or two-year projects. Indirect costs of 10% are eligible with a maximum allowable budget of \$330,000 total costs. These grants are not renewable or transferable to a different institution. Applications should not exceed six pages (including one page for Specific Aims); this page limit does not include biosketches or references. Budgets submitted must be realistic estimates of the funds required for the proposed research.

APPLY NOW

Applications must be submitted via <https://proposalcentral.com/>. To request application link and instructions, please contact Yosemite@cancer.org.

INVITED INSTITUTIONS

California Institute of Technology
Columbia University
Cornell University
Dartmouth College
Duke University
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Harvard University
Institute of Protein Design of the University of Washington
Johns Hopkins University
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Mayo Clinic
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

The Rockefeller University
University of Cambridge
University of Oxford
University of California at Berkeley
University of California at San Francisco
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Pennsylvania
Stanford University
Technion-Israel Institute of Technology
Tel Aviv University
Washington University in St. Louis
Weizmann Institute of Science
Yale University