



ASGCT Underrepresented Population Fellowship in Gene and Cell Therapy

Background and Overview

Various groups are underrepresented in the scientific workforce, including racial and ethnic minority groups, people with disabilities, and those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

ASGCT is committed to addressing these disparities and providing opportunities for professional development in biomedical research for underrepresented groups. Therefore, the Society is initiating this \$100,000 award to support one ASGCT member in a postdoctoral or early-stage investigator fellowship in any gene or cell therapy-related research for one year, from November 2023 to December 2024.

Eligibility Requirements

Qualified applicants will self-identify as being from a group underrepresented in the scientific workforce, as defined by the NIH (see below). Candidates must be members of ASGCT, or have a membership application pending, who are postdoctoral or early-stage investigators with a research focus in gene and cell therapy. 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. The mentor is not required to be an ASGCT member.

An applicant must be a U.S. citizen or have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence. The mentor must be located in the U.S. during the duration of the research. Any visa and/or citizenship restrictions applicable to receiving the award are the responsibility of the applicant.

Groups underrepresented in the scientific workforce, [as defined by the NIH](#):

- a. Self-identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or Latinx.
- b. Individuals with disabilities, who are defined as those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, as described in the [Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended](#).
- c. Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, defined as those who meet two or more of the following criteria:
 - i. Were or currently are homeless, [as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act](#);
 - ii. Were or currently are in the foster care system, [as defined by the Administration for Children and Families](#);
 - iii. Were eligible for the [Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program](#) for two or more years;
 - iv. Have/had no parents or legal guardians who completed a bachelor's degree;
 - v. Were or currently are [eligible for Federal Pell grants](#);
 - vi. Received support from the [Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children \(WIC\)](#) as a parent or child;
 - vii. Grew up in one of the following areas: a) a U.S. rural area, as designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) [Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer](#), or b) a [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services-designated Low-Income and Health Professional Shortage Areas](#) (qualifying zip codes are

included in the file). Only one of the two possibilities listed can be used as a criterion for the disadvantaged background definition.

Application Process

The ASGCT Underrepresented (UR) Population Fellowship application documents outlined below must be submitted in **one combined PDF** to awards@asgct.org with the subject line **Last Name, First Name – 2023 UR Population Fellowship**. Submissions after the deadline of August 1, 2023 at 11:59 pm CT 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 and be submitted in one combined PDF:

1. Cover Page (limit 1 page and use the [ASGCT required template](#))
2. Applicant Career Development Statement (limit 1 page)
3. Project Narrative (limit 2 pages)
4. Budget (limit 1 page)
5. Mentor Letter of Support (limit 2 pages)
6. Institutional Leader Documentation of Research Time Allotment (limit 1 page)
7. Applicant NIH Biographical Sketch, CV/resume, or equivalent (limit 5 pages)
8. Mentor NIH Biographical Sketch, CV/resume, or equivalent (limit 5 pages)

For more details about the required materials, please see the [Required Documents Checklist](#).

Key Dates & Deadlines

Application Deadline	August 1, 2023 <i>by 11:59 pm CT</i>
Award Notification	November 15, 2023
Award Activation	November 30, 2023
Final Report Due, summarizing the status of the research program, including budget, program goals, and publications and presentations generated by the program.	December 20, 2024
Possible Presentation at the ASGCT 28 th Annual Meeting in Portland, OR	May 14-17, 2025

Evaluation and Selection

Applications will be reviewed by members of ASGCT's Diversity and Inclusion Committee 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 research of gene and cell therapy for oncology indications.
- Applicant's qualifications, experience, and commitment to a career in gene and cell therapy.
- The contribution the project results will offer to the field.

Terms and Conditions

As a condition of acceptance of the Underrepresented Population Fellowship, 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.
- The recipient must be a U.S. citizen or have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence.
- The recipient must submit a final report and budget by the deadline, including documented support from the program director/principal investigator of dedicated research time during the award period.
- The recipient may be asked to present at the ASGCT Annual Meeting in the year following the award completion. 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 Fellowship Award for Any Indication 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