



## ASGCT Underrepresented Minority Fellowship Award in Oncology

### **Background and Overview**

Racial and ethnic minorities are underrepresented in the scientific workforce, specifically in the number of postdoctoral fellows transitioning into faculty positions. 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 gene or cell therapy-related research for an oncology indication for one year, from November 2023 to December 2024.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

Qualified applicants will self-identify as Black, Indigenous, or Latinx. 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 for oncology indications.

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.

Applicants must submit clear and documented support of having an established mentor who has active noncommercial funding and will remain funded for the duration of the award term, or who is recognized through national clinical leadership (if the project is clinical). Applications need to include documentation from an institutional leader with the authority to ensure that at least 75 percent of the applicant's full-time professional efforts will be devoted to research during the funded period.

### **Application Process**

The ASGCT Underrepresented Minority (URM) Fellowship in Oncology application documents outlined below must be submitted in **one combined PDF** to [awards@asgct.org](mailto:awards@asgct.org) with the subject line **Last Name, First Name – 2023 URM Fellowship in Oncology Application**. 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 Minority Fellowship in Oncology Award, 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 in Oncology 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](mailto:awards@asgct.org)