



ASGCT Underrepresented Populations Fellowship Award

Overview and Benefits

Some racial and ethnic populations 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 will award up to (2) \$100,000 awards to U.S. citizens who are postdoctoral or early-career member-researchers from groups that are underrepresented in the scientific workforce, including individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, individuals with disabilities, individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, and women, for one year, from November 2024 to December 2025.

Eligibility Requirements

- Qualified applicants will self-identify as individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, individuals with disabilities, individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, and women.
- 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.
- You will be required to provide a mentor letter of support. 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 Populations (URP) Fellowship application documents outlined below must be submitted in one combined pdf to awards@asgct.org with the subject line **Last Name,**

First Name – 2024 URP Fellowship. Submissions after the deadline of August 1, 2024 at 11:59 pm CST 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:

1. Cover Page (limit one page and use the [ASGCT required cover page template](#))
2. Applicant Career Development Plan (limit one page)
3. Project Narrative (limit two pages)
4. Budget (limit one page)
5. Mentor Letter of Support (limit two pages)
6. Applicant NIH Biographical Sketch, CV/resume, or equivalent (limit five pages)
7. Mentor NIH Biographical Sketch, CV/resume, or equivalent (limit five pages)

Key Dates & Deadlines

Application Deadline	<i>August 1, 2024 by 11:59pm CDT</i>
Award Notification	<i>November 1, 2024</i>
Award Activation	<i>November 30, 2024</i>
Final Report Due	<i>December 19, 2025</i>
Presentation at the ASGCT 29 th Annual Meeting in Boston, MA	<i>May 12-16, 2026</i>

Evaluation and Selection

Applications will be reviewed by members of ASGCT’s Diversity, Equity & 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.
- 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 Populations Fellowship 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.
- U.S. citizenship is required and both the applicant and mentor must be located in the United States during the duration of the research.
- The recipient must submit a final report and budget by the deadline.
- The recipient may be asked to present at the ASGCT Annual Meeting in the year following the award activation. 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 an Underrepresented Population Fellowship Award 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