

## Getting Started

VA research is an intramural program; investigators must be (or become) VA employees to receive funding.

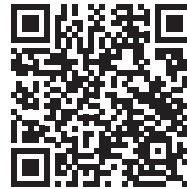
1. Identify a VA-funded researcher who is willing to serve as your mentor and who has appropriate expertise to help guide the proposed project. The research office at your local VA Medical Center may be able to help.
2. Check with the local research office to obtain and review the appropriate Request for Applications (RFA).
3. Work with your mentor(s) and the local research office staff to prepare and submit an LOI/pre-application. Scan the QR code or visit the website shown on the right for more information.



# VA Career Development Program

- **Mentored Research Opportunities for early-career scientists**
- **Most recipients hold a dual appointment with their VA Medical Center's academic affiliate**
- **Funding is available in a variety of disciplines, addressing many areas of Veteran healthcare need**

**For more information on VA Career Development Programs scan QR code or click the link below.**



<https://www.research.va.gov/funding/cdp.cfm>

**VA**



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**  
Veterans Health Administration  
Office of Research & Development

DISCOVERY INNOVATION ADVANCEMENT

# VA Career Development Program

**VA's Career Development Program provides mentoring for junior researchers, so they can learn from renowned, experienced VA investigators.**



**VA**



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**  
Veterans Health Administration  
Office of Research & Development

DISCOVERY INNOVATION ADVANCEMENT

## Overview

VA's Career Development Program is open to both clinician and non-clinician scientists who have the appropriate experience and training.

This offers mentored research funding to attract, develop, and retain talented junior researchers at VA Medical Centers.

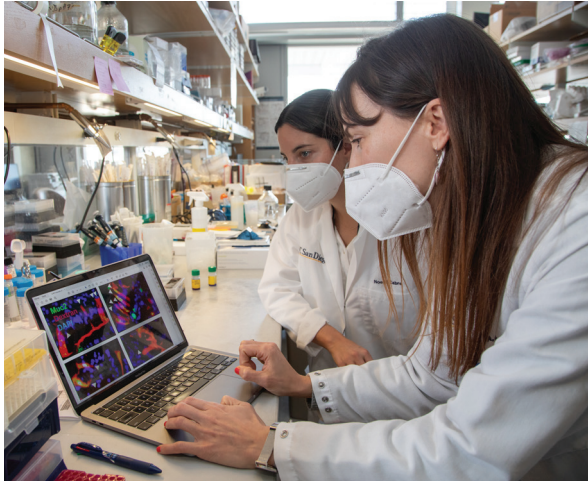
Candidates need not have a VA appointment at the time they apply, but must become VA employees before funding begins.

Interested investigators should work closely with the research office at their local VA Medical Center to prepare a Letter of Intent (LOI) or pre-application.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What types of research funding are available?

- **CDA-1:** This entry-level program (within 2 years of terminal degree) provides salary support for investigators working in certain high-priority areas. Recipients work closely with mentors to obtain preliminary data to support a CDA-2 application.
- **CDA-2:** This mid-level program (within 5-10 years of terminal degree) supports salary and project costs over a 3-5 year duration. This is our primary type of Career Development Award, supporting research across the translational spectrum.



### Who may participate?

Scientists, both clinicians and non-clinicians, who have the appropriate experience and training by award level may apply for Career Development funding. More information is available in VHA Program Guide 1200.04, and in our Letter of Intent (LOI)/pre-application instructions, which vary based on the type of work being proposed. Links to these documents can be found on the back of this brochure.

### Do applicants need to be current VA employees?

Applicants must be US Citizens who are eligible to be hired by their VA Medical Center, but do not need to be employees at the time of application. Successful applicants must be hired prior to the funding start date.

### Does my mentor need to be a VA employee?

All our Career Development awards require at least one member of the mentoring team to be a VA employee with current VA research funding. In some, but not all, cases this must be the primary mentor. More information can be found in the LOI/pre-application instructions, which vary based on the type of work proposed.

### What type of VA appointment do Career Development Awardees hold?

Clinician scientists receive a Title 38 appointment and are expected to split their time between clinical responsibilities and their funded research project. Non-clinician scientists receive a Title 5 time-limited Schedule B appointment.

