



**2026 Vallee Scholars
Call for Nominations
Deadline: December 1, 2025**

Recognizing that outstanding, early career, independent investigators are the source for future advances in the biomedical sciences and appreciating that flexible funding for basic research is needed, the Vallee Foundation will once again accept nominations for Vallee Scholar Awards.

The Vallee Foundation welcomes nominations for outstanding scientists from diverse backgrounds and experiences and is committed to furthering the careers of the next generation of scholars.

Award

This award provides a one-time, career development award of \$400,000 to exceptional, independent investigators carrying out basic biomedical research. It is expected that Vallee Scholars will be engaged in bold and innovative research. The Award is intended for junior faculty in the early stages of their career for whom it will have an impact. During the four-year scholar award period, Vallee Scholars are invited to two biennial Vallee Scholars Meetings and, in alternate years, to two Vallee Summer Symposia and will be asked to present their research on at least one of these occasions. The Foundation expects Vallee Scholars to make an effort to attend these scientific meetings and become members of the Vallee Foundation community.

Award funds must be expended within four years. (Under extenuating circumstances, a one-year no-cost-extension may be allowed.) While relatively unrestricted, no more than 10% of the funding can be used for institutional indirect costs. Use of award funds for salary support of the applicant is not permitted. Salary for others, such as postdoctoral fellows, graduate students and research assistants is allowed, as are expenditures for supplies, equipment, research travel, and dependent care while attending scientific conferences. Graduate student tuition payments cannot exceed \$10,000 per year.

A list of previous Vallee Scholars can be found on our website: thevalleefoundation.org

Eligibility

This award is available only to investigators nominated by institutions that have been invited by the Vallee Foundation to submit a nomination, and only one application can be submitted per institution. The candidate must have received a PhD/MD or other equivalent professional degree within 12 years of the application deadline. By the same date, the candidate should be in an independent research position at the nominating institution and have been an independent researcher for 6 years or fewer. The Vallee Foundation has no restrictions on nominees having received other grant funding but the Selection Committee may, at its discretion, consider the levels and other sources of funding when comparing closely-ranked candidates.

The Vallee Foundation is sensitive to matters that may affect career trajectories. Institutions that are considering a candidate who has taken leave from their career (eg for childbirth or parenting of a child, long-term care of a parent/spouse/child/dependent or personal health issues) and is thus beyond the eligibility time frame for the award should get in touch with the Foundation to discuss such eligibility ahead of time.

Timetable

December 1, 2025 Nomination Deadline: for institutions to submit a nomination.
February 1, 2026 Application Deadline: for nominees to complete online applications.
September 2026 Awards will be announced by early September 2026, with funding provided soon thereafter.

Selection of nominee

Arrangements for the nomination process at each institution are to be made by a research leader at each of the selected institutions. While the details of the selection process are at the discretion of the institution, a full description of the selection process should accompany the nomination letter.

The Letter of Nomination from the Dean or Department Chair should be sent to the Vallee Foundation (amason@thevalleefoundation.org) no later than December 1, 2025. The letter should include:

- Name and email address of the candidate,
- Description of the merit of the candidate and his or her research,
- Description of the institution's process to select the candidate, including the names of any committee members, and
- Confirmation that the candidate is in an independent research position and falls within all eligibility requirements.

Online Application:

All applications will be administered through Foundant, our Online Grants Management system, where nominees can create an account, draft, save and submit their application, upload documents and reports, and change and control contact information.

Once the institution has selected a nominee and informed the Vallee Foundation, the Foundation will provide the nominee with log-on details. By February 1, 2026, the nominee must complete the application form and upload the following documents:

1. **Complete Curriculum Vitae.** Include degree information, all positions held, research support (institutional and external), awards, and publications.
2. **Research proposal.** The narrative should not exceed five, single-spaced, 8.5"x11" pages of text using 12-point font and not less than ½-inch margin. Figure legends of embedded figures should be legible. The proposal should include:
 - a) Title
 - b) Abstract

- c) Specific Aims
- d) Brief introduction/survey of the field
- e) Proposed research, including preliminary results

Cited literature can be appended as separate pages.

3. **Budget.**

4. **Two of the nominee's most important papers published to date.** Papers that have not been officially accepted by a peer-reviewed journal are preferred. In rare circumstances and with appropriate justification, an applicant may present a paper that has been posted on BioRxiv and is under consideration for publication.

Applications cannot be changed or modified after submission by February 1, 2026.

Nominees will also be asked to:

- **provide a project summary** (this should be in lay terms and not the same as the abstract in the research proposal),
- **explain the most novel and innovative aspects of their research,**
- **give some information on their background and training and how this has affected their career,**
- **describe their approach to mentorship**
- **describe how the Vallee Foundation funding will make a difference to their research, and**
- **describe the importance of their two most significant papers in advancing the field of research.**

Letters of Reference

Two letters of reference from experts in the field should be sent by the referees directly to the Vallee Foundation via email to amason@thevalleefoundation.org to arrive no later than February 1. It is expected that one of these letters would be from one of the candidate's training mentors.

Monitoring of Award

Upon accepting the Award, the institution will be responsible for monitoring the Vallee Scholar's research and funding.. A brief report describing the research progress and a record of expenditures certified by an appropriate institutional official are required each year.

About the Foundation

The Vallee Foundation was established in 1996 to cultivate, refine, and implement a vision for scientific research and medical education with particular appreciation for originality, creativity, individuality, and leadership.

The Vallee Foundation fulfills its mission by promoting research among the various biomedical sciences; by supporting interactions between productive scientists both in the United States and abroad; by promoting dialogue between productive scientists and non-scientists in order to realize the practical application of scientific research; by sponsoring and/or organizing short-term visiting professorships, symposia, and lectures; by

supporting innovative scientific research; and by engaging in other activities consistent with the foregoing purposes.

For further information, please get in touch with: Alexa Mason, Executive Director
The Vallee Foundation, One Mifflin Place, Suite 400, Cambridge, MA 02138
amason@thevalleefoundation.org, tel +1 415 413 6710
or consult our website at www.thevalleefoundation.org