



**2027 Vallee Scholars
Call for Nominations
Deadline: December 1, 2026**

Please read this carefully since our requirements have been updated.

The Vallee Foundation is committed to supporting the next generation of exceptional early-career independent investigators. Recognizing that they will drive future advances in the biomedical sciences – and that flexible funding for basic research is essential – the Foundation will once again accept nominations for Vallee Scholar Awards.

The Vallee Foundation welcomes nominations of outstanding scientists across the biomedical sciences and from diverse backgrounds and experiences. The Foundation values discovery science and bold and innovative ideas, including those that may not be supported by large funding agencies. We invite your proposal that addresses exciting areas of study that are not currently funded and have a scope commensurate with the level of funding provided by the Vallee Foundation.

Award

This award provides a one-time, career development grant of \$400,000 to exceptional, independent investigators conducting basic biomedical research. The Award is intended for junior faculty in the **early stages of their career** where this level of support can have meaningful impact. The Vallee Scholar Award is not a traditional grant program; reviewers evaluate a candidate's potential as much as the proposed research.

During the four-year 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 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, when comparing closely-ranked candidates, the Selection Committee may, at its discretion, consider a candidate's overall funding levels and sources to determine where the Vallee Scholar Award can have the greatest impact

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, 2026 Nomination Deadline: for institutions to submit a nomination.
February 1, 2027 Application Deadline: for nominees to complete online applications.
September 2027 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 (info@thevalleefoundation.org) no later than December 1, 2026. 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, 2027, 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) including amounts, awards, and publications.
2. **Research proposal.**

There are two sections to the research proposal. Because the Selection Committee includes scientists from a wide range of fields, these sections should be written for broad audiences and should emphasize the bigger-picture impact and why the research excites you.

A) The first section is a one-page¹ overview, outlining the candidate's vision for their lab as a whole.

B) The second section, up to 4 pages, should describe the proposal for Vallee-sponsored research, which should not include currently funded work and should be commensurate with the level of funding. This should include:

 - a) Title
 - b) Abstract
 - c) Brief introduction/survey of the field leading to the open question that you seek to address.
 - d) Proposed research. Including preliminary results (if relevant), figures, expected outcomes (what results might emerge and why would they be important?), and potential weaknesses.

Cited literature can be appended as separate pages.
3. **Budget.** The total grant of \$400,000 is to be spent over four years – or fewer if necessary.
4. **Two of the nominee's most important papers published to date.** The 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, 2027.

Nominees will also be asked to:

- **provide a project summary in lay terms** (less technical than 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**

¹ Pages should be single-spaced, 8.5"x11" pages of text using 12-point font and margins of no less than half an inch. Figure legends of embedded figures should be legible.

- **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 info@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