



INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
FOR THE STUDY
OF LUNG CANCER

2025 - 2026 IASLC CAREER ADVANCEMENT GRANT

BRIDGING THE GAP TO INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

Request for Proposals

LOI Deadline: October 15th, 2025

Full Application Deadline: January 15th, 2026

Last Updated: August 28, 2025

1775 N. Sherman St., Suite 1600 | Denver, Colorado 80203-4317, USA

CONQUERING LUNG & THORACIC CANCERS WORLDWIDE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Purpose:

The IASLC's Career Advancement Grant aims to support and facilitate the career advancement of mid-career professionals within the thoracic oncology field by bridging the gap between early-career funding opportunities and more advanced support mechanisms. Mid-career professionals often face significant challenges in finding time to advance their research due to their commitments to mentoring, teaching, and other professional activities. This grant aims to provide the necessary resources and motivate these professionals to continue their research endeavors amidst their demanding schedules. Additionally, this grant will facilitate the generation of preliminary data to secure additional larger funding in the future allowing investigators to continue contributing to the field of lung and thoracic malignancies.

Funding Priority:

This grant aims to fund research projects led by mid-career professionals that focus on prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and all other aspects of lung cancer and thoracic malignancies. Research proposals with a focus on multidisciplinary and global research projects are encouraged to apply. Applicants of underrepresented specialties and low-and middle-income economies are highly encouraged to apply.

Eligibility Criteria:

IASLC Career Advancement Grant is open to candidates worldwide. At the time of application, the applicant must meet all these requirements to apply for the Career Advancement grant:

1. The applicant (MD, DO, PhD, PharmD, or equivalent) must be a mid-career professional within 6-15 years from initial faculty appointment.
2. As of the start of the grant term (July 1, 2026), the applicant must not have been awarded a single, independent, major award (i.e. R01, DOD, private foundation, or international equivalent) valued at \$250,000 or more annually. This limitation applies to each award individually and does not apply to the combined funding an applicant may have been awarded from multiple sources. Prior mentored, early-career focused, career-development grants are allowed.
3. Applicants may not concurrently hold ongoing multi-year mentored awards (i.e. YIA, CDA, etc.). If an applicant has previously received a mentored grant, it must be completed before the start of the IASLC Career Advancement Grant term on July 1, 2026.
4. The applicant must be a member of the IASLC, and if selected for grant funding, must maintain IASLC membership for the duration of the grant.

Applicants who believe they should be eligible, but do not meet the above eligibility criteria are encouraged to submit a letter of intent (LOI) in which they explain why they believe they are eligible for the grant. Eligibility will be further assessed during the review of LOIs.

Grant Structure and Allocation:

The IASLC Career Advancement grants are in the amount of USD 100,000 and are intended to fund projects that can be completed in a one-year timeframe. The funds are paid in two installments directly to the institution for the benefit of the grant recipient. The first installment will be paid before the grant start date, and the second installment will be disbursed at the six-month mark, following the submission

and approval of the interim report. The committee aims to select applicants from different specialties and different areas of the world to ensure diverse representation.

Funds may be used at the discretion of the recipient for research project-related expenses, salary for PI or trainees, fringe benefits, publication costs, conference registration, travel, consumables, and other necessary expenses to facilitate the grantee's research. Indirect costs are limited to 10% of the direct costs, with the total award amount not to exceed \$100,000. Indirect costs may be applied to overhead or administrative costs incurred by the grantee's institution from administering the research project. Final selection of the project(s) to be funded will depend on availability of funds.

Grant Program Support & Resources:

The IASLC is dedicated to supporting the career advancement of mid-career professionals in the lung and thoracic cancer field. As such, all grant recipients will have the opportunity to receive mentorship support from members of the IASLC Career Development Committee during the grant period. Additionally, grant recipients are encouraged to use part of the award funds to attend the 2026 World Conference on Lung Cancer to connect with other mid-career professionals and members of the IASLC Career Development Committee.

Application Procedures & Requirements:

All applications are required to be submitted through the [IASLC's online Research Grant Application Portal](#). The application process will be divided into two phases: Letter of Intent (LOI) Phase and Full Application Phase. Only applicants who have been selected after review of LOIs will be invited to submit a full application.

Letter of Intent (LOI) Phase:

Applicant Information:

Please include the following information and documents in your LOI application.

- General Information:
 - First Name, Last Name
 - Institution's Name
 - Institution's Address
 - Country
 - Primary email address
 - Specialty
 - Degree
 - Current Role/Academic Rank
- Applicant Statement (*maximum length= 1 page*): Describe how this funding and completing this project will help you advance in your career. Please include a brief description of your plan to advance to the next level in your career.
- A biosketch (IASLC template).
- A list of previous and current funding awards.

Research Project Information:

The Career Advancement Grant is intended to support research proposals with a focus on the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, or other aspects of lung cancer and thoracic malignancies.

Please include the following documents in your LOI application:

- Research Project Title (*maximum length = 250 characters*).
- Brief statement of the significance of the project to the field of thoracic malignancies (*250 words*).
- Summary of the project and specific aims (*maximum length = 1-page*). Bibliography is not included in the page limit.

Full Application Phase:

Only invited applicants will be required to submit the following materials.

Research Project Information:

The Career Advancement Grant is intended to support research proposals with a focus on the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, or other aspects of lung cancer and thoracic malignancies.

Please include the following documents in your full application:

- Layman's Summary (*250 words*): Explain your project in a way that makes it easy for anyone to understand it.
- Project Background (*maximum length = 1 page*): Describe the problem or need that will be addressed by the proposed project. Describe the project's goals and objectives.
- Specific Aims (*maximum length = 1 page*): Specific aims should be clear and describe how the hypotheses will be tested.
- Research Strategy (*maximum length = 6 pages*): Detail the methods to be used in achieving the project's aims. Tables, figures, or graphs may be included in this field. No appendix or attachments will be allowed. Bibliography is not included in the page limit.
- Biostatistical Plan (*maximum length = 1 page*): Provide a detailed statistical plan that describes the procedures for data analysis and other relevant statistical details that will be used in the study.
- Timetable (*maximum length = 1 page*): Provide a detailed timetable for implementing your proposal. Reviewers will consider the feasibility of carrying out the project in the projected time span.
- Budget: Provide the planned budget for your project.
- Budget Justification (*maximum length = 1 page*): Provide a brief explanation and justification of all expenses.

Recommendation Letters:

Please include the following documents in your full application:

- A letter of commitment from the institution detailing the institution's support for the applicant and the proposed research activities.
- A letter from a professional reference providing a recommendation and ensuring the applicant is qualified to fulfill the duties of the proposed project.

Recommendation letters are submitted through the online application system. The applicant will need to provide the name and email address of the person providing the letter of reference. That individual then receives an email asking him/her to upload the letter directly into the application. Reference letters must be uploaded prior to the application close date. Applications are not considered complete, and will not be considered, until all required references have been uploaded.

Application Review Process:

Applications will be reviewed by a sub-committee of the IASLC's Career Development Committee. Applications are scored using a nine-point rating scale, adapted from the NIH grant scoring rubric.

Applications will be reviewed based on:

1. Significance and impact of the research project on the thoracic cancer field.
 - a. Is the proposal original?
 - b. Will these results significantly improve the application of knowledge of lung cancer?
2. Strength of the research proposal.
 - a. Are the project's hypotheses strong and testable?
 - b. Is the project relevant to the program's stated funding priorities?
3. Potential for the recipient's career development in thoracic cancer.
 - a. Is the candidate prepared and ready for career advancement in the thoracic cancer field?
 - b. Will this grant positively impact the applicant's career development?
4. Eligibility and relevant expertise of the applicant.
 - a. Does the candidate have the necessary training related to the project proposed?
5. Feasibility of workplan/methodology and biostatistical plan.
 - a. Are the specific aims reasonable?
 - b. Is the methodology reasonable to accomplish the objectives?
 - c. Can the project be completed in the time frame specified by the award?
 - d. Is the biostatistical plan appropriate to meet the objectives of the project proposed?
6. Appropriateness of budget.
 - a. Is the budget appropriate to meet the objectives of the project proposed?

Application Timeline:

- Online Applications Open: September 1st, 2025
- LOI Submission Deadline: October 15th, 2025
- Applicants Notified of LOI Decision: December 1st, 2025
- Full Proposal Submission Deadline: January 15th, 2026
- Notification of Award: May 15th, 2026
- Project Start/End Date: July 1st, 2026 – June 30th, 2027

Reporting Requirements:

Grant recipients are required to submit a 1-page expenditure and progress report at the six-month mark and a full report at the end of the 1-year period.

Results of funded projects should be presented and/or published with acknowledgement of IASLC funding. Recipients are encouraged to submit their works as abstract to the World Conference on Lung Cancer and/or IASLC regional conferences.

Questions:

Questions regarding this RFP may be emailed to science@iaslc.org.