



The John Quale Travel Fellowship Program

A special opportunity for early career investigators interested in bladder cancer research to attend the 2025 BCAN Bladder Cancer Think Tank Meeting.

Description: The Travel Fellowship will be awarded to early career physicians and scientists to defray the travel-related costs of attending the **Bladder Cancer Think Tank**, held **July 30 – August 1, 2025**. Hosted by the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN), the primary mission of this meeting is to enhance collaboration among physicians and researchers who are dedicated to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of bladder cancer. The 2025 Think Tank will include a high-level scientific program as well as breakout sessions, small group discussions, didactic presentations, social, interactive, and networking activities. This is a unique opportunity to meet and learn from leaders and experts in the field, present your work, exchange ideas, establish collaborations and seek mentorship.

The Travel Fellowship Program seeks to engage more early-career individuals with bladder cancer research interests including basic/translational scientists, urologists, medical and radiation oncologists, radiologists, pathologists, etc. The fellowship will cover \$2,000 in travel-related costs. Complimentary registration is provided to John Quale Travel Fellows.

Location: Washington, DC Westin City Center in Washington, DC

Meeting Information: This meeting will gather a multidisciplinary group of clinicians, scientists, investigators, lay advocates and industry partners. Scientific sessions will include presentations from researchers and physicians in the medical field and will be followed by interactive discussion sessions. This will be a working meeting designed to advance BCAN's mission in a productive and collaborative environment. Participants will have the opportunity to join small group discussions during the meeting, which may include discussions aimed at identifying possible projects for collaboration and opportunities for improving patient outcomes and quality of life.

Eligibility: MDs and PhDs within the first 1–3 years of their first full-time faculty appointment at the time of application submission, OR MD applicants in a research/scholar residency or fellowship program, OR PhD applicants in a postdoctoral fellowship are eligible and highly encouraged to apply. Prior John Quale Travel Fellowship Award Recipients are not eligible to apply.

Instructions: Please ensure that your application and ALL attachments conform to the instructions outlined in these guidelines and the related templates, including formatting (e.g., page limits, section headers, etc.) and required content.

Your application must include the following information submitted via ProposalCentral:

<https://proposalcentral.com/ProposalGI.asp?SectionID=2236&ProposalID=-1>

- Your name, current institution and position, institution and position you will be in July-August 2025 (if different from current), and your contact information.
- Curriculum Vitae
- Personal Statement: Download and complete the Personal Statement template from ProposalCentral (1 page limit). Please explain: (1) your interest in the Bladder Cancer Think Tank and bladder cancer research and (2) what you hope to gain from attending the meeting.
- Description of Research Activities: Download and complete the Description of Research Activities template from ProposalCentral. This is a 1-2 page description of your current research activities, including any bladder-related research you are involved in. Please include an abstract of your most interesting and innovative work, or alternatively, an abstract describing a novel research proposal you have developed.
- If you are selected for a travel fellowship, you will be required to make a 5 to 7-minute presentation at the meeting. In addition, you will have the opportunity to present your research to Think Tank attendees, in a poster presentation on Thursday evening.
- References: Download and complete the References template from ProposalCentral. Please include the names and contact information of three individuals that can attest to your potential success as an independent investigator.
- All templates must be submitted as a PDF in ProposalCentral. The templates should also follow the formatting guidelines:
- Must be in English, single-spaced:
 - Paper Size: 8.5" x 11".
 - Margins: at least 1/2" all sides.
 - Font: Arial or Helvetica at least 11pt (or larger).

Evaluation: BCAN will not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, ethnicity, creed, religion, sexual orientation, disability, nationality, age, or any other factor irrelevant to the quality of the application. Any reviewer with a conflict of interest is excused from reviewing a specific application. Applications will be evaluated by a Scientific Review Group based on the following criteria:

- Overall quality, merit, innovation, impact, and appropriateness of the abstract.
- Applicant's potential to contribute to this year's meeting and future Think Tank Meetings.
- Applicant's interest and commitment in the Think Tank and in future bladder cancer research.

Deadline: BCAN requires applicants to submit an online application using ProposalCentral by **Friday, March 28, 2025, at 5:00 PM U.S. EST**. Once your application has been submitted you will receive a confirmation email from ProposalCentral. If you do not receive one, or if you have questions, please contact Anne Collins at acollins@bcan.org.

Exceptions will not be made to the application deadline of Friday, March 28, 2025, at 5:00 PM U.S. EST. BCAN strongly suggests beginning application submission well before the deadline to allow time for submission.

Inquiries or technical issues regarding ProposalCentral, and the online application process should be directed to ProposalCentral customer support at: Phone: 703-964-5840, Toll-free phone: 1-800-875-2562, Email: pcsupport@altum.com. Please note the live ProposalCentral customer support is only available from 9am – 5pm U.S. EST.

Inquiries about the program guidelines, eligibility requirements, and application materials can be directed to Rebecca Johnson (rjohnson@bcan.org), Anne Collins (acollins@bcan.org), or to BCAN (grants@bcan.org).

Applicants experiencing technical difficulties must contact ProposalCentral well before the 5:00 PM deadline. Please do not contact BCAN for technical assistance.

The 2025 John Quale Travel Fellowship Award Recipients will be announced **in May 2025**.

Terms of Award

Award Recipients will receive payment from BCAN prior to the Think Tank Meeting in the amount of \$2,000 to be used to cover any travel expenses related to the fellow's attendance. Any costs in excess of \$2,000 are the responsibility of the Award Recipient. BCAN does not require receipts for travel expenses for this Award.

Prior to the Think Tank Meeting, BCAN will provide the Award Recipient with the information needed to register for the meeting at no cost. Hotel and travel arrangements must be made by the Award Recipient.

All John Quale Travel Fellow Award Recipients are expected and required to attend the 2025 Think Tank Meeting in its entirety. Details about Award Recipients' participation and poster presentation will be provided by BCAN prior to the meeting.

To encourage continued participation in the Think Tank Meeting in future years, BCAN will offer free registration to John Quale Travel Fellow Recipients for the subsequent two meetings after their Award.