



Career Development Award 2026

PURPOSE OF AWARD

This Award is intended to support investigators who have received their initial full-time faculty appointment to establish an independent bladder cancer (including upper tract disease) research program and a successful career path. This three-year grant, totaling \$250,000, is designed for junior investigators who have not yet secured their first significant research funding (NIH R01 or equivalent). Training grants and other mentor-linked funding are not considered independent funding.

This funding mechanism bridges the gap between mentored awards and independent research funding and is not designed to provide supplemental funding for investigators who are already independently funded. The CDA is intended to advance awardees toward research independence, with the goal of positioning them to successfully compete for an independent research award, such as an NIH or R01 equivalent, following the award period.

The research proposed for funding may be translational, clinical (including clinical trials), or epidemiological; must have direct applicability and relevance to bladder cancer; and must demonstrate the potential to translate new concepts into clinical practice. BCAN welcomes research across the spectrum of bladder cancer, with particular consideration given to applications that align with one or more of BCAN's organizational research priorities, as described in the Evaluation Process and Criteria section below. Project proposals should have measurable outcomes during the three-year grant period and include research milestones for the conclusion of the grant.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Monday, October 26, 2026, at 5:00 PM U.S. Eastern Time

DECISION ANNOUNCED

Early February 2027

EARLIEST GRANT START DATE

March 2, 2027

ELIGIBILITY

Note: While applicants may include Co-Investigators in their Career Development Award proposal, this mechanism does not allow Co-Principal Investigators.

1. At the time of submission, the applicant must have a doctoral degree (e.g., MD, DO, DDS, Ph.D., DNP, DSW, PharmD, PsyD, DVM, or equivalent) in the biomedical sciences or a field applicable to health science research and may not currently be a candidate for a further doctoral degree. The applicant must have completed residency and/or fellowship training at the time of application submission. Individuals who are still in training or whose training will not be completed by the application submission deadline are not eligible to apply. The applicant must be an assistant professor, research assistant professor, or equivalent within seven years of their first full-time faculty appointment. At the time of application submission, the applicant cannot hold the title of associate or full professor. Parental, medical, or other well-justified leave for personal or family situations of generally less than 12 months' duration is not included in the 7-year eligibility limit.
2. The applicant must be from a US or Canadian sponsoring academic, nonprofit, or governmental institution. If the applicant is not a U.S. or Canadian citizen, they must provide proof of permanent resident status or a valid work visa.
3. The applicant must commit at least 50% of full-time effort to research (applies to total research, not just the proposed project) during the Award period.
4. The sponsoring institution must ensure institutional support for the applicant's research program and career advancement.
5. The applicant cannot currently or have previously served as a principal investigator on major independent research awards or grants (e.g., NIH R01 or equivalent). Applicants who are/were principal investigators on major grants are considered to have already received funding to catalyze their careers and are not eligible to apply. Training grants and other mentor-linked funding are not regarded as independent funding. Additionally, the applicant must not currently hold an active NIH K-level award or equivalent. Prior completion of a K award or equivalent is not required for eligibility.
6. NIH intramural investigators may apply; however, applicants with significant intramural funding will be deemed ineligible.
7. The applicant may not have another award with significant scientific overlap. Additionally, if an applicant receives notice of funding from another funding agency for a proposal with significant scientific overlap after submitting their CDA application or after receiving award notice, the applicant must choose between the awards. BCAN will not allow the modification of specific aims and will administratively withdraw an application under review or require relinquishment of a funded award.
8. Eligible applicants may apply for other BCAN award programs but are allowed to hold only one active grant from BCAN at a time. If an applicant receives BCAN funding through another program during the review process, their CDA application will be administratively withdrawn.
9. Applicants must be up to date and in compliance with all requirements (e.g., progress reports, final reports) of any past BCAN grants.

10. BCAN will accept only one proposal from each applicant per announcement. There is no limit to the number of applications per institution.

EVALUATION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

BCAN will not discriminate based on gender, race, ethnicity, creed, religion, sexual orientation, disability, nationality, age, or any other factor irrelevant to the quality of the application.

A Scientific Review Group (SRG) of medical and scientific experts recognized for their accomplishments and leadership in genitourinary cancer research, along with patient advocates from BCAN's research advocate program, will evaluate applications. The Award review process is modeled on the peer review system utilized by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and applications will be evaluated and scored based on the review criteria described below.

All applications will initially be reviewed by three scientific reviewers. The top-scoring applications will advance to the second stage of review that includes additional review by a biostatistician and patient advocate. Applications with the strongest scores following these reviews will advance to discussion by the full SRG, where they will receive a new overall score. Each reviewer scores research projects individually, and scores are added to determine each proposal's final ranking. Any reviewer with a conflict of interest is excused from reviewing, discussing, and scoring the relevant application.

Following the SRG discussion, the SRG Chair will present the highest-ranked proposals to BCAN's Research Funding Subcommittee (RFS). The RFS comprises external experts, including key opinion leaders, clinicians, and patient advocates. The RFS will accept the scientific merit scores established through peer review and recommend final Award decisions based on the criteria specified in these Award Guidelines.

Among scientifically meritorious applications, the RFS will consider alignment with BCAN's organizational research priorities when making final funding recommendations. Applications are not required to address a BCAN research priority; however, applications that meaningfully advance one or more of these priorities will receive particular consideration. Final funding recommendations are subject to approval by the BCAN Board of Directors. Any member of the RFS or the BCAN Board of Directors with a conflict of interest is excused from discussion and voting on the Award decisions.

BCAN ORGANIZATIONAL RESEARCH PRIORITIES

BCAN has established the following organizational research priorities to help guide its investment in bladder cancer research. Among scientifically meritorious applications, alignment with one or more of these priority areas will be considered in making final funding recommendations.

The topics listed under each priority area are illustrative and are not intended to be exhaustive or to represent individually preferred areas of research. Inclusion of a specific topic below does not confer additional preference or affect the scientific merit score of an application. Investigators are encouraged to propose innovative research that meaningfully advances the broader priority areas.

1. Diagnostics

- Early detection and diagnosis
- Biomarkers and molecular diagnostics
- Imaging and other diagnostic technologies
- Precision and AI-enabled approaches to detection, diagnosis, and risk stratification

2. Therapeutics

- Precision medicine and treatment selection
- Novel therapies and drug development
- Immunotherapy and combination treatment approaches
- Intravesical and bladder-sparing therapies
- Tumor biology, microenvironment, and novel therapeutic targets
- Metastasis prevention, treatment resistance, and disease control
- Data- and AI-enabled approaches to treatment decision-making

3. Patient-Centered Care

- Shared decision-making, communication, and patient engagement
- Quality of life and survivorship
- Bladder preservation and treatment optimization
- Supportive care, including nutrition, recovery, and symptom management
- Innovations in care delivery and the healthcare workforce

4. Population Health and Epidemiology

- Bladder cancer prevention and risk reduction
- Environmental, occupational, and other risk factors
- Bladder cancer epidemiology and population-level outcomes
- Health disparities and equitable access to care
- Implementation science and strategies to improve delivery of evidence-based care

Evaluation of the proposals will include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. **Responsiveness to the Award Guidelines:** Project's relevance to the prevention, detection, diagnosis, and/or treatment of bladder cancer. Is the proposed research translational, clinical (including clinical trials), or epidemiological? Does it directly demonstrate the likelihood of translating new concepts into clinical practice?
2. **Merit of the Research Plan and Objectives:** Is the conceptual approach or clinical framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well-integrated,

well-reasoned, and appropriate to the project's aims? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?

3. **Feasibility, Acceptability, and Relevance to Bladder Cancer Patients:** Can the project be completed as proposed and in the allotted timeframe? Is it scientifically and logistically feasible? Are the milestones appropriate? Does the proposal demonstrate the research question and steps needed for implementation are acceptable and important to bladder cancer patients? Does the application demonstrate the significance of the research to bladder cancer patients? Was there patient engagement in the study's design, and is there proposed patient engagement in the study? Note: BCAN may be able to assist in identifying a patient advocate if needed. Submit any requests for this type of support by Monday, October 5th, 2026.
4. **Investigator:** Is the candidate appropriately trained and well-suited for the proposed work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the candidate and study team? Does the candidate demonstrate a desire to pursue a research career in bladder cancer, and are they well-poised to succeed as an independent investigator? If awarded, does the applicant appear well positioned and committed to applying for an independent research award upon completion of the CDA?
5. **Environment:** Does the application demonstrate that there are adequate institutional facilities and resources available to the applicant to support the research project? Is there evidence of institutional support?
6. **Budget:** Is the budget appropriate and justified based on the work proposed in the research plan during the grant period?

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

BCAN requires applicants to submit an online application using ProposalCentral. The online application is available here:

<https://proposalcentral.com/ProposalGI.asp?SectionID=10647&ProposalID=-1>

Inquiries or technical issues regarding ProposalCentral and the online application process should be directed to customer support at Phone: 703-964-5840, Toll-free phone: 1-800-875-2562, Email: pcsupport@altum.com. Live customer support is only available from 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM EST.

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

Exceptions will not be made to the application deadline of Monday, October 26th, 2026, at 5:00 PM U.S. Eastern Time. BCAN strongly suggests beginning application submission well before the deadline to allow time for submission and electronic signatures.

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

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

The following information is required to submit a complete application. Numbers correspond to the application sections on the left side of the ProposalCentral website's.

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. Also, ensure your application includes ALL required components and attachments. Applications missing required components and attachments may be administratively withdrawn and will not advance for review.

- 1. Project & Funding Information**
- 2. Download Templates & Instructions:** Guidelines and all templates can be downloaded from this page.
 - a. You must download and complete the following templates: Research Proposal, Facilities, References, Personal Statement, Training and Environment Summary, Patient Advocate Form, Applicant Biosketch + Biographical Sketch Supplement, and Biostatistical Plan. These are not required for Co-Investigators.
 - b. All completed templates must be uploaded in PDF format.
 - c. Completed templates must be uploaded in Section 11: Application Attachments.
- 3. Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal:** Please ensure the institutional signing official is added to allow them to sign the Signatures Page before submission. You may optionally add other contacts if you would like to enable access.
- 4. Applicant Information**
- 5. Institutional and Signing Official Information**
- 6. Key Personnel Information:** Please include pertinent collaborators' information (e.g., Co-Investigators, Key Collaborators, etc.). Please include the effort for anyone added to this tab, even if their effort is 0%.
- 7. Abstracts and Keywords**
 - a. **Lay Abstract (2000 characters):** This abstract must provide a clear, concise, and comprehensive overview of the proposed work, in language suitable for the general public. Be clear and avoid technical and scientific terms when possible. A statement about the research's applicability to bladder cancer patients is required. It should not include confidential information. BCAN may use this information in press releases, Award announcements, and to provide information to the general public regarding its Awards program.
 - b. **Technical Abstract (2000 characters):** The technical abstract should specify the relevant background, research question, hypothesis, aims of the project, and

methodologies. A statement about the research's applicability to bladder cancer patients is required.

8. Budget Period Detail: Enter all budget information for the project here. See instructions under Section 9: Budget Summary & Justification.

9. Budget Summary and Justification (5000 characters): Please use the budget template in ProposalCentral. The total Award amount is \$250,000, payable over three years in amounts specified in the proposed budget for each year. There is a spending cap of \$168,000 during the first year of the Award. During the Award period, at least 80% of the yearly budget must be expended by the end of each reporting year as a condition of approval for new funds. Identify, by name and title, any additional personnel, and their specific responsibilities during each year of the proposed project. Please include the effort for anyone added to this tab, even if their effort is 0%.

- At least 90% of each year's budget should support costs directly related to the research project, such as investigator salary support, personnel salary, supplies, equipment, and other expenses. Salary limits will be equivalent to the NIH applicable limit. Budgeted items must be consistent with available institutional facilities and resources.
- Patient care costs that are reimbursable by a third-party payor, professional membership dues, tuition fees, and other fees for academic courses are unallowable.
- Funds cannot be used to support the purchase of capital equipment. BCAN considers the threshold for a capital expenditure to be the lower of \$2,000 or any capitalization threshold established by the applicant's institution. All equipment purchases require advance approval from BCAN.
- Up to \$2,000 per year should be explicitly allotted for the applicant's travel to the annual BCAN Think Tank meeting and any other travel essential to conducting the study.
- Indirect costs: Up to 7% per year may be applied to overhead or facilities and administrative costs of the applicant's institution in administering the research project.
- BCAN considers the budget submitted in the grant application to be the final, approved budget unless any changes are requested by the awardee and approved by BCAN prior to signing the Grant Activation Form. Any deviation from an approved budget line item exceeding 10% requires prior written approval from BCAN. Awardees must submit a formal request outlining proposed budget adjustments before any related expenditures are made.

10. Organization Assurances

11. Application Attachments

Formatting instructions: Must be in English, single-spaced.

- Paper Size: 8.5" x 11".
- Margins: at least 1/2" on all sides.
- Font: Arial or Helvetica at least 11pt (or larger).

A. Research Proposal (Required; Limited to 5 pages, including figures and tables):

Note the Biostatistical Plan should not be included in this section – see item #11.B below. The information must be presented in this order and must consist of these subheadings:

- Title of Research Project
- Introductory Statement: Research Question, Background, and Rationale. Clearly state the research question. Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the bladder cancer field that the proposed project addresses and how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will change if the proposed aims are achieved.
- Hypothesis and Specific Aims
- Research Design and Methods: Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches, or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions. Describe the overall study design or strategy, the methodology, and planned analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims. If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility and address the management of any high-risk aspects of the proposed work. Where scientifically relevant and feasible, applicants are encouraged to consider biological sex and/or gender, as appropriate to the research question, in the study design, analysis, and interpretation of findings.
- Milestone Timetable (setting forth the steps needed to accomplish each aim, and the estimated time required to complete each step). Include appropriate details to assure a reviewer that the applicant's project is feasible within the grant timeframe.

B. Biostatistical Plan (Required – limited to 1 page): A biostatistician will review applications. A detailed statistical plan is required for all applications and is limited to one typewritten, single-spaced page. For clinical and in-vivo studies, this section should include the primary objective/hypothesis and endpoint of the study; a description of the experimental design and study groups to be compared; a justification of the proposed sample size; detailed procedures for data analysis; and appropriate statistical considerations. A reasonable sample size justification will include all parameters required to compute the sample size: the effect size, power, and type I error rates for each aim. When relevant to the project, it will also state median follow-up, prevalence of mutations in a given population, accrual rate, and estimated percentage of participant dropout. Laboratory-based in vitro research proposals should also include the primary objective/hypothesis and the primary endpoint of the study, procedures for data analysis, and appropriate statistical details describing the summary measures that will be used to meet the study objectives.

Where scientifically relevant and supported by the study design and sample size, the plan should describe how biological sex and/or gender will be considered in the analysis and reporting of findings. The applicant should work with a biostatistician to develop the application. If statistics are not applicable to the project, the applicant should upload a document stating that “Biostatistics are not applicable”, and the reviewers will evaluate the project accordingly.

- C. Facilities (Required; Limited to 3 pages):** Describe the research facilities, resources, and equipment available to the applicant to implement the proposed research program successfully.
- D. References (Required):** There is no page limit for this section. Please use single-spaced, 11-point font for this section.
- E. Personal statement (Required; Limited to 1 page):** Describe the applicant’s career development plan, including:
- Impact of Award on applicant’s career, including the applicant’s career goals.
 - Percentage of time the applicant will spend on total research activities.
 - The applicant’s role in developing and implementing the proposed research study.
 - Commitment to applying for an independent research award upon completion of the CDA, if awarded.
 - Sources of salary support for the applicant.
 - The translational or clinical potential of this research project.
 - List other funding agencies/organizations where this research proposal was or will be submitted. If none, please indicate N/A.
- F. Training and Environment Summary (Required; Limited to 1 page):** This section should accurately represent the time commitment that will be dedicated to the proposed project and a detailed description of the applicant’s non-research responsibilities during this period. The time commitment described should also be reflected in the application’s supporting sponsor letter.
- G. Patient Advocate Form (Required; Limited to 1 page):** A patient advocate will review applications based on how well the applicant explains the proposal’s potential impact. The applicant should address the following three questions to detail the proposal’s relevance to bladder cancer patients and the focus of the proposed work on patient-centered care. The applicant should write the responses, so it is understandable to people without a scientific or medical background.
- Describe the problem being addressed, its scope, and the significance of this research for bladder cancer patients.
 - Describe any steps taken to ensure the research question and steps needed for implementation are acceptable to bladder cancer patients as well as any planned patient engagement during the conduct of the study.
 - If the study is successful, what are the next steps to move the research into clinical practice?

- H. Applicant's Biographical Sketch (Required; adhere to NIH page limits): Please ensure to add the Biographical Sketch Supplement page as an appendix to the respective Biographical Sketch Common Form.** Applicants may either use the BCAN templates provided in ProposalCentral or submit the SCIENV versions, provided the latter include all information requested in the BCAN templates.
- I. Publications (optional):** Include up to two prior publications that highlight the applicant's experience and qualifications. The applicant must be a co-author on these publications.
- J. Sponsor Letter (Required):** The sponsor must attest to the institutional support for the applicant. The sponsor can be the department head, chief of service, or program chair. This letter should include the following information:
- Confirmation that the applicant is within the first 7 years of their first full-time faculty appointment at the time of application submission.
 - Description of the applicant's position.
 - Description of the sponsoring institution's support for the applicant's research and clinical activities.
 - Description of the potential of the applicant to become a leader in bladder cancer research and/or treatment.
 - Future plans for the applicant's career development at the sponsoring institution.
 - Description of how the applicant's time will be divided among research and other responsibilities to the sponsoring institution with a minimum of 50% protected research time.
- K. Patient Advocate Letter of Support (Required):** At least one letter of support from a patient advocate is required. The letter should attest to the importance of the research question to patients and that the steps required for study implementation are acceptable to bladder cancer patients. The letter should also describe any patient engagement or input in the design of the study and proposed patient engagement in the conduct of the study. Note: BCAN may be able to assist in the identification of a patient advocate if needed. Any requests for this type of support must be made by Monday, October 5th, 2026.
- L. Additional Letters of Support (optional)**
- M. Supplemental Material:** Please use this section ONLY to include letters from collaborators, additional letters of recommendation, and IRB/IACUC/IND approval. Do NOT include figures or submit reprints of articles with this application.
- I 2. Validate:** Validate the application on ProposalCentral. This is an essential step. An application that has not been validated cannot be submitted. "Validate" checks for required data and required attachments. You will not be able to submit if all the required data and attachments have not been provided.
- I 3. Signatures Page:** The applicant and institutional signing official must electronically sign this page in ProposalCentral. Co-Investigators do not need to sign. The application will be considered incomplete if this page is not complete. BCAN is no longer requiring an ink

signature for submission. You can print signature pages to save or keep a copy of your application. You do not need to upload anything here.

CHANGES TO YOUR APPLICATION

Withdrawal of Application: Please advise BCAN promptly, in writing, should you decide to withdraw your application for any reason. Your letter or email should include your name, the title of the proposal, and the reason for withdrawal.

Change of Address: Notify BCAN, in writing, of any changes of address, email, or phone number, following the submission of an application. Include your name and application number. The email address provided with your application will be used for all official communication about your submission, including the recipient selection results. Please keep your email address up to date.

Post-Review Consultation

After the review process is complete and funding decisions are communicated, applicants will receive review summaries and reviewer critiques. Applicants who wish to discuss their proposals and reviewer critiques may contact BCAN to request a consultation to improve the proposal for any subsequent applications in support of the applicant's development. Upon request, and as feasible, discussions will be scheduled with the Vice President of Research & Education and the Scientific Review Group (SRG) Chair.

TERMS OF AWARD

Award Administration and Disbursement

Payments will be made annually to the comptroller or to the designated financial officer of the sponsoring institution, which shall then disburse the funds to the individual Award recipient. BCAN considers the start of the grant to occur at the time of grant activation and disbursement of funds and aligns progress report deadlines accordingly. The award start date will be no earlier than March 2nd, 2027. Any activities that occur from the time of grant activation through the end of the first reporting year, including start-up activities, should be reported on in the first progress report period. The Award recipient and the sponsoring institution shall pay at their own costs all taxes and impositions in connection with the Award. The Award does not create an employer-employee relationship between the Award recipient and BCAN. BCAN does not assume any legal responsibility or obligation for the conduct or acts of the Award recipient, the mentor, or the sponsoring institution.

BCAN considers the budget submitted in the grant application to be the final, approved budget unless any changes are requested by the awardee and approved by BCAN prior to signing the Grant Activation Form. Any deviation from an approved budget line item exceeding 10% requires prior written approval from BCAN. Awardees must submit a formal request outlining proposed budget adjustments before any related expenditures are made.

Funds cannot be used to support the purchase of capital equipment. BCAN considers the threshold for a capital expenditure to be the lower of \$2,000 or any capitalization threshold established by the applicant's institution. All equipment purchases require advance approval from BCAN.

Research Scope and Compliance Requirements

Any changes to the specific aims or major changes in research design must be communicated to BCAN in writing prior to implementation of such changes. Examples of a major change in research design include, but are not limited to, studying a different patient population or therapeutic than originally proposed.

Applications involving animals and/or human participants must receive approval from their Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and/or Institutional Review Board (IRB), respectively. Documentation of IACUC and/or IRB approval must be provided to BCAN prior to distribution of the Award and yearly during the funding period. Applications involving an Investigational New Drug (IND) must receive approval from their IRB. Documentation of IND approval must be provided to BCAN prior to distribution of the Award and for each year of funding.

The applicant may not have another award with significant scientific overlap. Additionally, if an applicant receives notice of funding from another funding agency for a proposal with significant scientific overlap after submitting their CDA application or after receiving award notice, the applicant must choose between the awards. BCAN will not allow the modification of specific aims and will administratively withdraw an application under review or require relinquishment of a funded award.

The institution and principal investigator certify that they have disclosed all significant financial interests related to this research and that any actual or potential financial conflict of interest will be managed according to the institution's FCOI policy prior to expenditure of award funds.

Reporting and Use of Funds

At the conclusion of the first 12 months of the Award period, the Award recipient shall submit a written summary documenting in reasonable detail his/her progress in completing the research project. All report templates will be provided by BCAN. Funding for the second 12 months is dependent on the submission of this progress report and review and approval by BCAN. At the conclusion of the second 12 months of the Award period, the Award recipient shall submit a written summary documenting in reasonable detail his/her progress in completing the research project. Funding for the final 12 months is dependent on the submission of this progress report and review and approval by BCAN. At the conclusion of the Award period, the Award recipient must complete a final report summarizing the research conducted, and any plans to continue the research beyond the Award period. No cost extensions are allowed with advance notification and BCAN's approval. Additionally, BCAN

requires a final financial report within 60 days of the end of the award period. BCAN requires that any unused award funds must be returned to BCAN by the sponsoring institution via check within 60 days of the end of the award period.

Publications, research talks, and poster presentations based on any study or research done with the support of the Award should acknowledge the support of BCAN throughout and following the Award period. Reprints of such publications or abstracts should be sent to BCAN.

The Award recipient may be asked to complete brief Award outcome reports for BCAN detailing any publications, funding awards, collaborations, or other outcomes resulting from this Award for a period of five years after Award completion. The Award recipient understands that this reporting obligation survives the Award period.

The Award recipient will be expected to attend BCAN's Bladder Cancer Think Tank Meeting and is **required** to present their research results at the conclusion of the Award at the Bladder Cancer Think Tank Meeting occurring three years from the start of the award (i.e., in July-August 2029).

Delays, Transfers, and Termination

In the event the Award recipient's research is substantively delayed due to unforeseen circumstances, or the recipient is unable to complete the project, the Award recipient and/or sponsoring institution is responsible for notifying BCAN as soon as possible to discuss next steps. In the event no mutually agreeable mitigation strategy is feasible that would allow for completion of the project and the Award is terminated, the unused portion of Award funds must be returned to BCAN by the sponsoring institution within 30 days of the date of termination.

BCAN permits the transfer of an active award to a new institution in the event that a Principal Investigator (PI) changes institutions during the grant period. Such transfers are subject to BCAN review and approval. Transfers will only be considered to another eligible academic, nonprofit, or governmental institution located in the United States or Canada. Transfers to for-profit, private industry, or pharmaceutical organizations are not permitted.

Upon BCAN's acceptance of the transfer, a new Grant Agreement Form (GAF) must be executed with the new institution. Transfers are not guaranteed and remain subject to BCAN's approval. If approved, BCAN will authorize the transfer of remaining funds.

BCAN reserves the right to terminate this grant, in whole or in part, if the awardee materially fails to comply with any term or condition of the grant or if the awardee receives concurrent funding with significant scientific overlap. This includes, but is not limited to, failure to adhere to performance objectives, reporting requirements, or the improper use of funds in accordance with the approved budget. Upon termination, the awardee will be required to

return any unspent or improperly used funds. BCAN may also withhold further payments pending resolution of the non-compliance.

Eligibility FAQ – Career Development Award (CDA)

1. Can I include a Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) on my application?

No. While Co-Investigators are allowed and may be included in your proposal, this mechanism **does not permit Co-Principal Investigators**. Only one Principal Investigator (PI) may be designated per application.

2. What are the degree and training requirements for applicants?

Applicants must have a **doctoral degree** in a biomedical or health-related field (e.g., MD, DO, DDS, PhD, DNP, DSW, PharmD, PsyD, DVM, or equivalent).

- You **must have completed all residency and/or fellowship training** at the time of application submission.
- Applicants **currently in training or planning to complete training after the submission deadline are not eligible**.
- You also **may not be a candidate for another doctoral degree** at the time of submission.

3. What is the eligibility window for faculty rank?

Applicants must hold the rank of **assistant professor, research assistant professor, or equivalent** and must be **within seven years of their first full-time faculty appointment**.

- You **cannot hold the title of associate or full professor** at the time of submission.
- Time taken for **parental, medical, or other justified personal leave (typically less than 12 months)** does **not count toward the seven-year limit**.

4. Are international applicants eligible?

Applicants must be based at a **U.S. or Canadian academic, nonprofit, or governmental institution**.

- If you are **not a U.S. or Canadian citizen**, you must provide proof of **permanent residency** or a **valid work visa** at the time of application.

5. What is the minimum research effort required during the award period?

You must be able to commit **at least 50% of full-time effort to research** (applies to total research), not just limited to the proposed project during the Award period.

6. What kind of institutional support is required?

The sponsoring institution must demonstrate **clear commitment to your research program and career advancement**, including resources, protected time, etc., where applicable.

7. Am I eligible if I've received prior research funding?

Applicants **cannot currently or have previously served as a Principal Investigator on major independent research grants**, such as an NIH R01 or equivalent.

- The applicant must not currently hold an active NIH K-level award or equivalent. Prior completion of a K award or equivalent is not required for eligibility.
- Having received **training grants or mentor-linked awards** (e.g., K awards) **does not disqualify you**.

8. What if I receive another award with overlapping scientific aims?

If your proposal has **significant scientific overlap** with a proposal that is currently funded or later funded by a different agency:

- You must **choose between the awards**.
- BCAN does **not allow modification of aims** and will **administratively withdraw** an application or require you to **relinquish the CDA award** if already granted.

9. Can I apply for more than one BCAN award?

Yes, you may apply for **multiple BCAN programs**, but you can **only hold one active BCAN award at a time**.

- If you receive another BCAN award during the review period, your CDA application will be **administratively withdrawn**.

10. Can I submit more than one proposal in response to this announcement?

No. **Only one proposal per applicant** is allowed for this announcement cycle. However, there is **no limit to the number of applicants from any given institution**.