



ATS Early Career Investigator Award in Pulmonary Vascular Disease

Four grants available for 2026
\$100,000 for one year

Target Audience: Early-stage investigators conducting research on the basic mechanisms and/or vascular biology of pulmonary vascular disease. Applicants may be a junior faculty member up to and including the rank of assistant professor, postdoctoral scholar, doctoral candidate or fellow.

Note that the definition for early-stage investigator for this award differs from that of other ATS awards. View complete eligibility requirements below.

This grant supports basic, translational and clinical research aimed at understanding the pathways and pathophysiology of pulmonary vascular disease, with the goal of improving treatment for patients with pulmonary hypertension.

Award-specific eligibility:

- *Must be a US or Canadian citizen, or permanent resident and working at US or Canadian institution*
- *Must have a firm commitment from their home institution for mentored career development*
- ***Review the complete eligibility criteria for this award below.***

2026 Eligibility Criteria

Applicant Criteria

1. At time of grant submission applicants must be a:
 - United States citizen
 - Permanent US resident
 - Canadian citizen
 - Permanent Canadian resident

*Note that you will be required to furnish proof of US/Canadian citizenship or residency if an award is made. **Applicants with nonimmigrant visas are not eligible to apply.***

2. Applicants must complete their primary research training (PhD or subspecialty fellowship training) **by January 1, 2026**.
3. Applicants may be a:
 - junior faculty member up to and including the rank of assistant professor
 - postdoctoral scholar
 - doctoral candidate
 - fellow

*Postdoctoral scholars, doctoral candidates, and fellows must complete their training by the award start date of **January 1, 2026 AND have a pending postdoctoral or faculty appointment.***

4. Applicants' first faculty appointment must be no earlier than 2021.
5. Applicants must be engaged principally in basic science, translation, and/or clinical research, with a proposal aimed at understanding the pathways and pathophysiology of pulmonary vascular disease.
6. Significant funding from any of the following grants or awards is **not allowed** and will disqualify the applicant:
 - **US:** NIH-R01, NIH-P01 project, VA Merit Review Award, NSF, DOD or equivalent, NIH-K awards, American Heart Association Career Development Award, NSA Career Development Award, VA Career Development Award or equivalent
 - **Canada:** CIHR (Project grant), Heart and Stroke Foundation Grant (National Award)
7. Applicants may not be employees of a commercial entity, e.g., pharmaceutical company.
 - Grants will not be awarded to applicants with salaries largely derived from commercial organizations in the pharmaceutical or allied industries. However, **research support** from commercial organizations is allowed.
8. Applicants must have a firm commitment from their home institution for mentored career development. The applicant's mentor should:
 - be involved in overseeing the means for adequate funding to support necessary research.
 - ensure protected time for the applicant to complete their research and to investigate career development.
 - have only an advisory role in the project helping the applicant obtain a firm commitment from the applicant's institution.
 - see the project through to successful completion.

- The points above must be addressed in the mentor's letter (see additional information below).
9. Applicants may submit only one *Early Career Investigator Award in Pulmonary Vascular Disease* proposal per grant cycle.

Project Criteria

1. **Site:** University or research institute in the US or Canada
2. **Length and Budget:** The project must be achievable within the one-year grant time frame and \$100,000 budget allocation.

Additional funding sources are acceptable and must be clearly indicated in the proposal.

3. **Focus:** Develop a better understanding of/approach to disorders of pulmonary vascular biology. ***Bridge funding, therapeutic drug trials, or registry trials will not be funded.***
4. **Research type:** Basic science, translation, and/or clinical
5. **Mentor and Letter of Support:** Applicant must be supervised by an appropriate mentor, who must also provide a letter of support.

Letter of Support

The mentor should describe their commitment to the investigator's faculty appointment and general career development.

Specifically, the letter should address:

- the mentor's track record of productivity, funding, and success with prior trainees; available lab facilities; and a proposed training plan for the applicant.
 - the applicant's research competence, clinical proficiency, originality, perseverance, and ability to exchange ideas and organize scientific data.
6. **Co-investigators** may be included; the specific role of each co-investigator and justification will be evaluated.