

ELIGIBILITY

Criteria for eligible applicants:

1. Applicants must be a United States (US) citizen, a permanent US resident, a Canadian citizen, or permanent Canadian resident at time of Grant submission. Applicants with nonimmigrant visas are not eligible to apply.
2. 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.
3. Applicants must have no more than 5 years of experience beyond his/her first faculty appointment at the start of the award (as of July 1st of the award year). [Prior appointments in a different area of research will require an explanation in the application, to avoid being counted as part of the “5 years of experience” criteria.] Applicants must have completed their primary research training (PhD or subspecialty fellowship training) by July 1st of award year. Applicants can be a junior faculty member (up to and including the rank of Assistant Professor), postdoctoral scholar, doctoral candidate or fellow (last year and finishing by July 1st of the award year).
4. Significant funding from any of the following grants or awards will disqualify the applicant:
 - US: NIH-R01, NIH-P01 project, VA Merit Review Award, NSF, DOD or equivalent, NIH-K awards, AHA-SDG, NSA Career Development Award, VA Career Development Award or equivalent
 - Canada: CIHR (Project grant), Heart and Stroke Foundation Grant (National Award)

The Steering Committee adheres strictly to the above eligibility requirements. Particular scrutiny is given to the early career investigator status of the application. If the applicant has had extended training, and/or multiple degrees, and/or multiple fellowships, and/or current or prior research awards but the mentor believes that the applicant is still an early career investigator in his/her career, the mentor should consider justification in the introductory statement of the mentor letter. It should be clear that the applicant is at the early phase of an academic career with a strong interest in pulmonary vascular disease.

5. 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, ensuring protected time for the applicant to complete his/her research and to investigate career development, and helping the applicant obtain a firm commitment from the applicant’s institution. This must be carefully addressed in the mentor's letter).
6. Applicants may not be an employee of a commercial entity (eg, pharmaceutical company).
7. Applicants may submit only one Early Career Investigator Award in Pulmonary Vascular research proposal per application round.

Criteria for eligible projects:

1. Site: University or research institute; US or Canada
2. Length and Budget: The project must be achievable within the time frame (1 year) and budget allocation (\$100,000) of the *Early Career Investigator Award in Pulmonary Vascular Disease* program. 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. Note: bridge funding, therapeutic drug trials, or registry trials will not be funded.
4. Research type: Basic science, translation, and/or clinical
5. Mentor: Applicant must be supervised by an appropriate mentor

Mentors must ensure the means for adequate funding to support necessary research and must see the project through to successful completion. Principal investigators must be given protected time to complete their research and this research should be carried out mainly by the awardee; mentors should have only an advisory role in the project. This must be carefully addressed in the mentor's letter.

6. Co-investigators: Co-investigators may be included; however, the specific role of each co-investigator and justification will be carefully evaluated.

Grant funds cannot be awarded to principal investigators whose salaries are largely derived from commercial organizations in the pharmaceutical or allied industries. However, research support from commercial organizations is allowed.

Grant funds are not institution-specific and are awarded to fund specific projects headed by the principal investigator. In the event that the principal investigator changes institutions during the course of his or her research project, the program may fund remaining unfunded grant amounts to the principal investigator only if the early career investigator can adequately establish to the program Steering Committee that the project can be properly completed as planned at the early career investigator's new institution. Unfunded grant amounts will NOT be distributed to a different principal investigator at the early career investigator's old institution.

Award Ceremony: New award winners will be invited to attend the *Early Career Investigator Award in Pulmonary Vascular Disease Award Ceremony* held during the annual ATS meeting in May of the year the award is to begin. Mentors are encouraged to attend.

Prior award winners may be invited to present their progress/findings of their research in writing. If a data embargo prevents the data from being presented, the study design and objectives will be required to be presented at a return visit the following year to publicize data results and conclusion.