



RESEARCH PROGRAM REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS 2026 YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD

Introduction: CLL Society is pleased to announce a funding opportunity for researchers who are early in their careers, have not yet established themselves as independent researchers, and plan on having a career in the field of CLL/SLL and related disorders such as Richter's transformation.

The Young Investigator is defined as a junior faculty member (instructor or assistant professor) and/or postdoctoral fellow whose focus is on pre-clinical research. Applicants should ideally be fellows or scientists with an MD, DO, and/or PhD from an accredited institution who plan to be tenure-tracked by the time the grant term begins. *Young Investigator Award applicants should be within 7 years from achieving their terminal degree and/or within 7 years from completing specialty training (i.e., Hematology-Oncology Fellowship training).*

Award Amount: CLL Society's 2026 Young Investigator Award is for \$150,000 which will be distributed in three annual payments of \$50,000. The first \$50,000 will be paid within 30 days of the Effective Date, the second \$50,000 will be paid within 30 days after CLL Society's approval of the first submitted annual Scientific Progress Report and Financial Report, and the final \$50,000 will be paid within 30 days after CLL Society's approval of the second submitted annual Scientific Progress Report and Financial Report.

Eligibility: In addition to the specific eligibility criteria mentioned within this RFP, *applicants must also review CLL Society's general eligibility criteria which is located on the website [here](#).*

Applicants with prior experience in laboratory research are preferred, but previous laboratory experience is not required. Research must be conducted at an academic research institution located within the United States that has a teaching curriculum and mentoring element. Applicants must be mentored by a well-established CLL researcher. Proposals must contain a laboratory research-based component to be eligible for this award. Projects that have a clinical research component will be considered, but clinical research should not be the main component of the proposal. Similarly, the funding is meant to go directly to the researcher who applied for the award who must perform the actual laboratory-based research. If the proposal includes laboratory correlatives, the awardee must be the one performing the majority of them. This grant does allow for concurrently held research awards from other non-profit organizations or government institutions, but applicants must provide documentation of current and pending support within the application.

Goal: The Young Investigator Award is intended to develop medical knowledge, thereby stimulating future research that is applicable to the development of medical innovations that will save and sustain the lives of those with CLL and SLL.

Study Design: Basic bench and translational research projects in all areas of CLL, SLL, and Richter's transformation are eligible for this proposal. Emphasis will be placed on the innovation and transformative potential of submitted proposals. Sufficient information must be included in the application to allow the peer reviewers to evaluate the significance, feasibility, and scientific strength of the project. Applicant's proposals should also demonstrate that their investigative team has the appropriate expertise and environment to complete the research project.



Projects Considered: Proposals must focus exclusively on research that is directly related to CLL, SLL, or Richter's transformation that aim to potentially result in scientific progress. Priority will be given to applications that specifically address any of CLL Society's Research Program Objectives and/or the critical areas of unmet need as provided on CLL Society's website [here](#).

Budget: Funding must be used to support the awardee's salary, with a maximum allowable institutional overhead of 10%. It is expected that the hosting institution (and/or additional supporting grants) will cover expenses for research consumables, equipment, and all other incidental costs required for the project. The estimated funding period is July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2029.

Funding cannot be used to support equipment purchases or travel without explicit written permission from CLL Society, and no overhead will be provided for outside institutions. Funding is intended to directly cover the researcher's salary rather than administrative costs. CLL Society understands that some institutions require a certain proportion of grants to cover indirect and/or modified direct costs. CLL Society allows for up to 10% of the total award to be used as indirect and/or modified direct costs, including any indirect costs associated with sub-awards. CLL Society encourages awardees to work with their institutions to reduce administrative costs so that the maximum amount of funding can be used for the research project.

Request for Letters of Intent: Applicants should submit their Letter of Intent through [ProposalCentral's application portal](#) **no later than October 20, 2025 at 11:59 PM EST**. Letters of Intent will not be received after this date/time. Applicants will be notified via email whether they have been selected to submit their full research proposals through ProposalCentral by **November 27, 2025**.

Request for Full Research Proposals: Full proposal submissions are by invitation only after review and approval of the Letter of Intent. Those approved will be invited via email to submit their full research proposal through [ProposalCentral's application portal](#). The deadline for submission of the full proposal is **no later than January 30, 2026, at 11:59 PM EST**. Any applications received after this date/time will not be considered. Incomplete applications will also not be considered.

Required Documents: Please read through the [Young Investigator Award Application Instructions](#) and [Program Guidelines](#) in full prior to beginning the application process.

Selection Process: Full research proposals will undergo a formal peer-review process by CLL Society's Young Investigator Award Research Review Committee and will be scored using the NIH scoring system, critiqued, and ranked for funding priority based on strategic and scientific merit. Applicants will be notified of the status of their application no later than **May 1, 2026**. Written critiques will be available to the applicants who submitted a full research proposal after the Research Review Committee has made their selection. In submitting a full proposal, applicants agree to allow CLL Society's Research Review Committee members and CLL Society Research Program staff access to all information provided within the application.