



## Request for Applications:

### **NYSCF – Robertson Stem Cell Investigator Awards**

NYSCF is soliciting applications from early career investigators for awards to support translational stem cell research. The aim of this initiative is to support highly innovative, emerging scientists whose pioneering approaches have the potential to transform the field of stem cell research, and that leverage stem cells to advance the understanding and treatment of human disease.

NYSCF is eager to support scientists who have just started their independent laboratories, and we strongly encourage applicants looking to secure their first major grant funding as an independent investigator. That being said, applicants will be evaluated first and foremost on scientific merit and the transformative potential and translational impact of their research for the stem cell field.

This career development award provides up to \$1.5 million in flexible funding over 5 years. No institutional overhead is provided. NYSCF will accept applications from researchers based at domestic and international accredited non-profit research and academic institutions.

You can learn more and find out how to apply at:  
**[nyscf.org/stemcellaward](https://nyscf.org/stemcellaward)**

All applications must be submitted in the online portal before  
**5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
to be put forward for review.

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND BELONGING (DEIB)

NYSCF is committed to fostering diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in STEM. Overcoming the impact of systematic racism, sexism, and other discrimination that has systematically marginalized certain groups from STEM research is critical for a productive, innovative scientific community. NYSCF strongly encourages applications from scientists of all ethnicities, cultures, religions, nationalities, abilities and disabilities, sexes, gender identities, sexual orientations, geographic locations, and socioeconomic statuses. We invite and encourage applicants to (optionally) self-identify as part of any systematically marginalized groups in STEM (including, but not limited to, groups on the basis of gender (including identity / expression), race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and ability), and to describe how this identity may have impacted their scientific career. We request this information to help us stay true to our commitment to increasing diversity in applicants and awardees and to account for any undue adversity they may have faced due to their identity. We also require applicants to demonstrate their commitment to DEIB by describing any efforts or activities they are involved in that support DEIB in their own labs, institutes, or the broader STEM field.

Additionally, to help benchmark the state of gender equity in research institutions worldwide, we require all applicants to our grant programs to complete the Institutional Report Card for Gender Equity. The data submitted will not impact how your application is evaluated, but the report card must be submitted for the application to be considered complete. Details and FAQs can be found [here](#).

## AWARD BENEFITS

Successful applicants will join the NYSCF Innovators Community, a global group of over 200 outstanding early career scientists and postdoctoral fellows based at institutions around the world including NYSCF Research Institute scientists and engineers. Additionally, they will attend the annual NYSCF Conference as well as an annual scientific retreat, exclusive to the NYSCF – Robertson Investigators, NYSCF – Druckenmiller Fellows, and NYSCF Research Institute Scientists.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Have completed one or more of the following degrees: MD, PhD, DPhil
- Be within 6 years of starting a faculty (professorship) or comparable position on June 1, 2023  
**(Note: an additional year of eligibility was added as a result of the COVID-19 crisis)**
- Independently supervise a research team as head of group/laboratory
- Have a publication record containing articles that are innovative and high impact

In addition, since routes to independence vary significantly outside of the United States, **applicants based at institutions outside the United States** should consider all of the following when assessing their eligibility:

- Do you write grants in your own name?
- Are you or will you be the senior author on publications from your current lab?
- Do you have responsibility for independently recruiting and supervising a research team?

If the answer to all these questions is yes, and the applicant has also met the other eligibility criteria, they may be eligible to apply. Please contact NYSCF Staff if you require additional information on eligibility at [investigators@nyscf.org](mailto:investigators@nyscf.org).

There is no limit to the number of times applicants can apply within their eligibility period, and there is no limit on the number of applications that can be submitted each year per institution or department.

## APPLICATION DETAILS

**Please note this is a career development award, not a project-specific award, and funds may be used at the discretion of awardees to increase the impact of their research, subject to the terms of the award letter.**

**Formatting Requirements:** All PDF uploads must use 0.5-inch margins and a minimum font size of 11 points. Smaller text in figures, tables, and captions is appropriate, as long as it is legible when the page is viewed at 100%. Please use adequate type density, line spacing, and font choice to ensure legibility.

**Application Requirements:** Below is a comprehensive, but non-exhaustive, list of application requirements. Please visit the [application portal](#) to preview the entire application.

**References Requirements:** Cited publications must list all authors.

### Administrative Components

- **Demographic information.** Contact details, demographic information, and other relevant administrative information. (text boxes)
- **Other support.** Please provide details of other secured and pending financial support using [this template](#). (PDF upload)
- **Compliance documentation.** All applications must provide assurance of compliance with research regulatory bodies, state and local laws, and institutional policies. Notice of approval, determination of exemption, or determination of non-human subjects research designation by the overseeing Institutional Review Board (IRB) is required for all research activities in advance of the award start date. Documentation of review and approval by institutional ancillary review committees and/or Embryonic Stem Cell Research Oversight Committee (ESCRO) is not required at the time of application, but must be provided upon request. (check box)

### Scientific Components

- **Vision Statement.** Summarize your central research directions, vision for your research program, and its potential impact on the field of stem cell research. (1-page maximum; PDF upload)
- **Specific Aims Page.** A 1-page summary of the specific aims for the research plan that describes the problem or gap in knowledge being addressed, brief summaries of the aims, and the expected innovation, outcomes, and impact of the project. Please include references. (1-page maximum excluding references; PDF upload)
- **Research Plan.** Although this is not a project-specific award, we request that you provide a proposal that exemplifies the types of projects being undertaken in your lab. Include sections on background/motivation, preliminary data, detailed aims (containing experimental design, analysis plan, consideration of outcomes), timeline, and potential to transform the field. (7-page maximum including figures/tables and excluding references; PDF upload)
- **NIH biosketch** formatted according to current NIH guidelines. [Click here to download the current template](#). Please use the non-fellowship biosketch version for applications submitted after January 25, 2022. Please include your four most significant publications in the Personal Statement of the biosketch, where they typically are placed. (5-page total maximum; PDF upload)

## Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB)

- **Self-identification (optional).** We provide a section in which you may self-identify as a member of any systematically marginalized group in STEM (yes/no) and can also choose to describe that identity and/or how it may have affected your career. We invite and encourage applicants to (optionally) self-identify as part of any systematically marginalized groups in STEM (including, but not limited to, groups on the basis of gender (including identity / expression), race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and ability), and to describe how this identity may have impacted their scientific career. This section is intended to help us accurately estimate the diversity of our applicant pool as part of our commitment to increasing the diversity of applicants and awardees, and to enable reviewers to account for any undue adversity faced by applicants as a result of their membership in minoritized groups. (1,500-character maximum; text box)
- **Commitment to DEIB.** Describe any of your past, current, or planned efforts and activities to foster diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in your lab, institute, or the field in general. These activities will be evaluated as additional merits to scientific accomplishments and potential. Examples of activities may include but are not limited to: mentorship of or outreach to minoritized individuals in STEM; following or advocating for inclusive recruiting practices; educating yourself or others on issues related to DEIB; attending, participating in, or organizing events with a DEIB focus; participating in or leading programs, workshops, or committees dedicated to DEIB; incorporating a DEIB lens into your research; working to establish institutional policies or practices related to DEIB (3,000-character maximum; text box)
- **Institutional Report Card for Gender Equality.** To help benchmark the state of gender equity in research institutions worldwide, we require all applicants to our grant programs to complete this institutional report card. Please note that this will require significant input from your department/institution. The data submitted will not impact how your application is evaluated, but the report card must be submitted for the application to be considered complete. Details and FAQs can be found [here](#).

## Reference Letter

- **Department Chair Reference Letter.** Please request a letter of reference from your department chair. This letter must be submitted through the portal by the application deadline. It should speak to your department's/institution's commitment to you, the dedicated institutional resources they have provided you, and how they plan to support your research program and career.
  - Note: For applicants **based at institutions outside the US**, please also include confirmation of the applicant's eligibility, good standing, and that, if selected, the applicant would be able to accept the award.

## **TIMELINE**

### **2023**

- February 15: Deadline to submit an application
- June: Finalist notified and interviews; non-finalist applicants notified of funding decisions
- June (approximate): Interviewees notified of funding decisions
- October: Awardees announced at NYSCF Conference

### **2024**

- January: Award funding begins