



Waddell Walker Hancock Cancer Discovery Fund Award

The A.B. Hancock Jr. Memorial Laboratory for Cancer Research in collaboration with the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center (VICC) announces a funding opportunity to support cancer-related projects and investigators. This award honors Waddell Walker Hancock who founded the Laboratory in 1972 in honor of her late husband and was a longtime supporter of cancer research at Vanderbilt. The Laboratory continues to be supported by the Hancock family and friends. The award provides \$50,000 to any stage, tenure-track investigator to pursue a high-impact research project. The chosen investigator will also be named a Hancock Scholar.

The application and evaluation process will occur in three stages. First, applicants should submit a title and abstract (limited to 300 words) for the proposed research project. Emphasis should be placed on the novelty of the proposed research and the potential for future discovery and impact. Top candidates will then be invited to submit a two-page application and budget. Finalists will be invited to give a brief presentation to the review committee.

Eligibility Criteria

- Tenured or tenure-track faculty from Vanderbilt University or Vanderbilt University Medical Center are eligible to apply
- Projects should be focused on basic or early translational research

Selection Process

1. Abstract submission (due by April 15)
 - Title and abstract (300 words or less)
 - NIH biosketch (not the new format) for the principal investigator(s)
2. Full application (due by May 15 for selected applicants)
 - Two-page description of the research plan (references are separate)
 - Budget with justification (travel and entertainment costs are not allowed)
3. Finalists may be invited to give a presentation on their proposed research project to a committee in June. Awards will start July 1, 2026. Competitive applicants who were not selected will be referred for other VICC project funding sources.

Abstracts are due April 15, 2026. Please submit a single PDF containing all documentation through the [VICC Pilot Project Application Portal](#). A link to the VICC Pilot Project Application Portal can also be found at the top right-hand corner of the [VICC Funding Opportunities web page](#). In the VICC Pilot Project Application Portal, please select "Other" from the dropdown options and specify the program title as "Hancock Award."

If you have further questions or comments, please contact Crissey Cameron, crissey.cameron@vumc.org.