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Incyte Announces the Recipients of the 2025 Incyte Ingenuity Awards (IIA) in Vitiligo™ and Vitiligo Innovators Program™ (VIP)

- *University of Virginia School of Medicine and Grassroots Comedy to receive Ingenuity Awards of up to \$100,000 and \$35,000 respectively*
- *Applications for the IIA in Vitiligo and VIP 2026 awards cycle are now open*

WILMINGTON, Del. – June 27, 2026 – Today Incyte recognized the 2025 recipients of the Incyte Ingenuity Awards (IIA) in Vitiligo™ and the Vitiligo Innovators Program™ (VIP), two programs designed to celebrate people and organizations who are driving change for the vitiligo community.

“People living with vitiligo still face challenges every day, and Incyte is dedicated to not only pursuing scientific progress but also supporting the community beyond the lab to address unmet needs,” said Mohamed Issa, Pharm.D., Executive Vice President and Head of U.S. Commercial, Incyte. “We are pleased to support this year’s award recipients in their efforts to make a difference for those affected by this chronic, autoimmune condition.”

2025 IIA in Vitiligo: Fueling Bold Ideas

In its fifth year, the IIA in Vitiligo program awarded two innovative projects that address the specific needs of people with vitiligo:

- **University of Virginia School of Medicine** was selected for the up to \$100,000 award for its initiative *VitiliGo Forward*, which aims to reduce persistent disparities in access to specialized vitiligo care through the creation of a National Vitiligo Care Directory.

“For too many people with vitiligo, the path to effective, specialized care is long and frustrating,” said Dr. Rishab Revankar, medical resident at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. “We want to help them find the care they need, when and where they need it, by increasing transparency around provider expertise, treatment capabilities and geographic availability.”

- **Grassroots Comedy** was selected for the up to \$35,000 award to support its project *How Politics Made Me White*, a sizzle reel that blends comedy, political commentary and intimate storytelling to help spread vitiligo awareness, representation, education and advocacy.

“Comedy can be a powerful tool for change,” said Chris Blackwood, Founder and Executive Director at Grassroots Comedy. “We hope to provide a platform for people with vitiligo to feel seen and heard and to spur action that has a positive impact on their lives.”

Learn more about the IIA in Vitiligo program at <https://www.incyteingenuityawards.com/vitiligo/>.

2025 VIP: Recognizing Innovation and Commitment

Now in its second year, VIP celebrates individuals for their extraordinary efforts to support and bring understanding, compassion and strength to the vitiligo community. The 2025 recipients are:

- **Healthcare Innovator:** Dr. John Harris of Mass General Brigham has centered his career on translational and clinical research approaches to better understand autoimmunity in vitiligo.

“My whole career has been focused on vitiligo,” said Dr. Harris. “I wanted to find a way to understand how it works and try to develop ways to treat it and make it better. We’ve made a lot of progress in the last 10-15 years.”

- **Rising Innovator:** Dr. Kristin Tissera of Duke University School of Medicine has built her career at the intersection of science and advocacy, driven by her grandmother’s personal experience with vitiligo and a deep commitment to the community.

“Working in the vitiligo space has become my life’s purpose,” said Dr. Tissera. “I’ve been able to dedicate a significant amount of time in medical school researching vitiligo and advocate for more awareness about this disease publicly.”

- **Community Innovator:** Yan Valle of the Vitiligo Research Foundation has been a leading force in global vitiligo advocacy, working to raise awareness, reduce stigma, expand access to care and strengthen collaboration across the community.

“The Vitiligo Research Foundation puts patients at the center of everything we do and gives them tools to better understand their disease and their options,” said Valle.

Hear more from the recipients and keep learning about VIP at vitiligoinnovatorsprogram.com/recipients.

Submissions were evaluated by a judging panel composed of vitiligo community experts and advocates including Erika Page (Living Dappled), Dr. Richard Huggins (Dermatologist, Vitiligo Research & Treatment Center, Henry Ford Health, and Chairman, GVF Community Director), Melissa Hughley (Vitiligo Patient Advocate), Dr. Heli Patel (Resident at Emory University School of Medicine) and Dr. Heather Woolery-Lloyd (Board-Certified Dermatologist, University of Miami Health System).

Looking Ahead

Applications for the 2026 IIA in Vitiligo and VIP awards are now open through **October 29, 2026**. Incyte welcomes project submissions and nominations from individuals and organizations committed to creating meaningful change for people living with vitiligo.

The 2026 application cycle for IIA in Vitiligo will be the final year of the program, as Incyte continues to focus its efforts on initiatives that can drive the greatest impact for people living with vitiligo. We are grateful to the many organizations and individuals who have contributed their ideas and passion over the years. It has been a privilege to support work that is making a difference for the vitiligo community. The Vitiligo Innovators Program (VIP) will reopen in 2027.

To apply or submit a nomination, visit incyteingenuityawards.com/vitiligo and

vitiligoinnovatorsprogram.com.

About Vitiligo

Vitiligo is a chronic autoimmune disease characterized by depigmentation of skin that results from the loss of pigment-producing cells known as melanocytes. Overactivity of the JAK signaling pathway is believed to drive inflammation involved in the pathogenesis and progression of vitiligo. In the United States, more than 1.5 million people are diagnosed with vitiligo.¹ The overall prevalence of the condition is estimated to be approximately 2-3 million², with the majority of patients (approximately 85%) suffering from nonsegmental vitiligo.³ Vitiligo can occur at any age, although many patients with vitiligo will experience initial onset before the age of 30.⁴

About Incyte

Incyte is redefining what's possible in biopharmaceutical innovation. Through deep scientific expertise and a relentless focus on patients, we have built an established portfolio of first-in-class medicines and an extensive portfolio of next-generation medicines across our key franchises: Hematology, Oncology and Inflammation and Autoimmunity.

To learn more, visit Incyte.com and Investor.Incyte.com. Follow us on social media: [LinkedIn](#), [X](#) and [Instagram](#).

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¹ Bergqvist C, Ezzedine K. Vitiligo: A Review. *Dermatology*. 2020;236:571-592.

² Gandhi K, et al. Prevalence of vitiligo among adults in the United States. *JAMA Dermatol*. 2022;158(1):43-50.

³ Ezzedine K, et al. Seminar: Vitiligo. *Lancet*. 2015;386:74–84.

⁴ Frisoli M, et al. Vitiligo: mechanisms of pathogenesis and treatment. *Annu. Rev. Immunol*. 2020;38(1):621-648.