Finding the funds: Private funding and training opportunities

Jun. 14, 2023 | 1–2:30 p.m. Eastern
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- Overview & Scope
- Funding Opportunities
- Logistics & Application Process
Alzheimer's Association:
Funding, Collaboration & Convening Opportunities

Stefania Forner, Ph.D.
Director, Medical & Scientific Relations
Vision: A world without Alzheimer’s disease and all other dementia.

1-800-272-3900
alz.org
Our Research Strategy

- Dynamic
- Durable
- Multi-dimensional
- Multi-faceted

**SEED**
new ideas to develop therapies; tools for earlier, accurate diagnosis; care interventions; and more

**SPEED**
scientific discovery

**SCALE**
to accelerate the science
The Largest Nonprofit Funder of Alzheimer’s & All Dementia Research in the World

1000+ projects
$320M currently active
54 countries

Find GRANT info at alz.org/grants
ALZ Early Career and New to Field Research Grants

PROGRAMS OFFERED 2X ANNUALLY
Next cycle will open: Summer 2023

more info: alz.org/grants
contact: grantsapp@alz.org
Emerging Areas, Drug Discovery & Clinical Trial Research Grants

more info: alz.org/grants
contact: grantsapp@alz.org

PROGRAMS OFFERED THROUGH YEAR

• Zenith Fellows Program (in review)
• Discovery Funding Program (in review)
• Sex & Gender Program (SAGA 23 – in review)
• Endolysosomal Dysfunction in Alzheimer’s Funding Program (in review)
• Imaging Research in Alzheimer’s and other Neurodegenerative diseases, in partnership with ASNR- in review

COMING SOON

• Part the Cloud Trials Program
• Tau Pipeline Enabling Program (T-PEP), in partnership with Rainwater Charitable Foundation
Funding the Best Research Worldwide Through Peer-Review

**STEP 1**
Submit letter of intent (LOI)

**STEP 2**
Submit full application & Review

**STEP 3**
Review panel
Expert review panel

**STEP 4**
IRGP council recommends meritorious ranking

**STEP 5**
MSAG of Alzheimer’s Association make final recommendation
STEP 1
Submit letter of intent (LOI)

LOI’s should include:

- Brief project summary, including methodology
- Specific aims of the proposed project
- Innovation/novelty of the proposed project
- Overall Impact on the field of Alzheimer's disease and related dementia
- *NTF only: includes Transition Statement

LOI’s review criteria:

- Demonstrable innovation/novelty of the proposed project (especially in the context of the PIs recently funded work)
- Alignment with the research priorities of the Alzheimer's Association
- Impact of project on Alzheimer’s and all other dementia research
- Evidence of methodological rigor that address the research question(s) being proposed
- *NTF only: how transitioning to the field will elevate Alzheimer’s and all dementia research
AARF
Alzheimer’s Association Research Fellowship

AARF-D
Research Fellowship to Promote Diversity

Targeting postdoc, instructor level researchers and requires a mentorship component – 13 years from Ph.D.

U$200,000 up to 3 years, including up to U$7,500 for travel and U$10,000 stipend at the completion of the award for the awardee and for their mentor

Funding for the full spectrum of science – basic biology, adaptive technology, translational, clinical, social / behavioral and cognitive / functional research
AACSF
Alzheimer’s Association Clinician Scientist Fellowship

AACSF-D
Fellowship to Promote Diversity

Targeting individuals with clinical service (MD, DO, Ph.D. - with clinical licensure) – 18 years from terminal degree

U$250,000 up to 3 years, including U$7,500 for travel and U$10,000 stipend at the completion of the award for the awardee and for their mentor

Funding for the full spectrum of science – basic biology, adaptive technology, translational, clinical, social / behavioral and cognitive / functional research
Alzheimer’s Association: Peer-Review Process

FELLOWSHIPS provide:

- Statement of Mentorship (by Mentor)
- Statement of Commitment (by Fellow / Applicant)
- Area of Research (Problem Statement & Work Plan)
- Letters of support (3)

FELLOWSHIPS review criteria:

- Mentoring plan
- Applicant and originality of research plan
- Significance of question impact-risk
- Resubmission

STEP 2 Submit full application & Review
AARG
Alzheimer’s Association Research Grant

AARG-D
Research Grant to Promote Diversity
(previously called New Investigator Research Grants)

Target for newly independent investigators – Assistant Professor and above at their institution – who are within the first 15 years of their terminal degree

Welcome applications from those “new” to Alzheimer’s & related dementia research

U$200,000 over 2 to 3 years, including U$7,500 for travel

Funding for the full spectrum of science
AARG-NTF
Research Grant
New to the Field

AARG-D-NTF
Research Grant to Promote Diversity
New to the Field

Emphasis on individuals that have not published or been funded in Alzheimer’s or any neurodegenerative disease

In recent years, oncology, immunology, rheumatology, computer science / engineering have been represented

U$200,000 over 2 to 3 years, including U$7,500 for travel

Funding for the full spectrum of science
Alzheimer’s Association: Peer-Review Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESEARCH GRANTS provide:</th>
<th>ALL programs provide:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Problem Statement</td>
<td>• Recruitment Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Work Plan</td>
<td>(if applicable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• *New to the Field (NTF) also includes a Transition Statement</td>
<td>• Available Resources &amp; Budget Justification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Recruitment Plan (if applicable)</td>
<td>• Biosketches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Available Resources &amp; Budget Justification</td>
<td>• Plan for Data Sharing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Biosketches</td>
<td>• Resubmission Statement (if applicable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Plan for Data Sharing</td>
<td>• References</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Resubmission Statement (if applicable)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Tips for Success

ISTAART Guide to Grants

Writing the BEST Fellowship Application

dementiaresearcher.nihr.ac.uk

Hosted by Dr Stefania Forner

Guests
Dr DeAnnah Byrd
Dr Joe Ablaobra
Dr Eduardo Zimmer

Mecanismos de financiamento globais pela Alzheimer’s Association

Recorded: July 6, 2012

Aprendendo sobre os mecanismos de financiamento da Alzheimer’s Association das Estados Unidos para pesquisadores de outros países. Uma sessão com Drs sobre como escrever um projeto internacional financiado pela Alzheimer’s Association com pesquisadores internacionais.

Participação da Dra. Carolina Minto (USAM) e do Dr. Eduard Zimmer (USAM)

Moderadores: Fernando Aguado-Pinto e Stefania Forner

Alzheimer’s Association - Oportunidades de financiación

Recorded: January 17, 2023


El webinar se dirige a miembros de la Alzheimer’s Association y a los candidatos interesados en participar en nuestros proyectos.

https://training.alz.org/Research-Webinars
**Tips for Success**

**READ** the Program Announcement; it changes **EVERY** cycle – call us if you have questions

Your **LOI** is **REVIEWED**, and it is not a guarantee you will be invited to submit – please align with the RFA/ program goals

Some of our eligibility criteria is **VERY** specific; programs may be targeted

Find someone good at getting grants to help review and comment on your application **BEFORE** submitting

**contact:** grantsapp@alz.org
Tips for Success

If invited, **IDENTIFY** reviewers to include / exclude

Read and pay attention to the critiques in resubmissions

Alzheimer’s Association staff only control so much – but are here to help you! **CALL** or **EMAIL** us if you have questions

We want you to be successful – **GOOD LUCK**!
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A REVIEWER FOR THE ALZHEIMER’S ASSOCIATION GRANTS PROGRAM?

SCAN THE QR CODE AND FILL OUT THE FORM. (OR SEND US AN EMAIL AT grantsapp@alz.org)
The Alzheimer’s Association’s International Society To Advance Alzheimer’s Research and Treatment (ISTAART) is an inclusive global network of 7,886 researchers, clinicians and dementia professionals who share common goals: the pursuit of knowledge, collaboration and breakthroughs.
ISTAART members can join 29 Professional Interest Areas (PIAs), which span various aspects of dementia research and treatment.

**Understanding the types of dementia and contributing factors**
- Atypical AD
- Diversity & Disparities
- Down Syndrome & AD
- Frontotemporal Dementia & Related Disorders
- Immunity & Neurodegeneration
- Lewy Body Dementias
- Neuromodulatory Subcortical Systems
- Nutrition, Metabolism & Dementia
- Perioperative Cognition & Delirium
- Reserve, Resilience & Protective Factors
- Sex & Gender Differences
- Sleep & Circadian Rhythms
- Vascular Cognitive Disorders

**Assessing markers and manifestations of the disease process**
- Artificial Intelligence for Precision Dementia Medicine
- Biofluid Based Biomarkers
- Cognition
- Design & Data Analytics
- Electrophysiology
- The Eye as a Biomarker for AD
- Neuroimaging
- Neuropsychiatric Syndromes
- Subjective Cognitive Decline
- Technology & Dementia

**Intervening to improve outcomes**
- Clinical Trials Advancement & Methods
- Health Policy
- Nonpharmacological Interventions

**Supporting professionals in advancing their careers**
- Alliance of Women Alzheimer’s Researchers (AWARE)
- Diversity & Disparities
- PIA to Elevate Early-Career Researchers (PEERs)
- Partnering with Research Participants

ISTAART members can also stand for election to a PIA’s executive committee to join global leaders in the field and drive a PIA’s activities.
ISTAART has three membership tiers

>> **Student Membership:** Free

>> **Postdoctoral Membership:** $65*

>> **Professional Membership:** $125*

*Student, postdoctoral and professional memberships are all FREE for individuals based in low- and middle-income countries.
The ISTAART Ambassador Program provides students and early postdocs with a **year-round program of volunteering** and networking opportunities.

Ambassadors gain valuable experience **volunteering** at AAIC and other in-person or virtual scientific meetings, and also build **awareness** of ISTAART’s activities within their regions.

**Ambassador Program is open to…**
Students, both undergraduate and graduate, and early postdocs (within 2 years of obtaining PhD) world-wide

**Applications open annually in February**
Visit alz.org/ISTAART for more information on the program
There are also year-round opportunities to learn and network in focused meetings.

With conferences dedicated to specific topics - addressing burgeoning areas in research and practice, specific locations - growing regional networks, and specific career-stages - supporting the next generation of professionals.

Find SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS at
alz.org/scientificmeetings
RECORD BREAKING NUMBER OF ABSTRACTS SUBMITTED!

HIGHEST NUMBER OF ABSTRACTS EVER SUBMITTED: 5,101 total abstracts submitted
(40% higher than last year (3,654 abstracts) & 23% higher than next highest year (4,154 abstracts, AAIC 2020))
Thank You!

For more information visit alz.org
GRANTS info at alz.org/grants
grantsapp@alz.org
Finding the Funds at the ACS

Lynne Elmore, PhD
Sr. Scientific Director

June 14, 2023
Vision: End cancer as we know it, for everyone.
Mission: Improve the lives of people with cancer and their families through advocacy, research, and patient support, to ensure everyone has an opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer.
Extramural Discovery Science

Research We Fund

- Largest non-governmental funder of cancer research in the US
- Over $5B in research funded since the 1940’s
- Very often first major grant for young researchers
- Historically, 50% of ACS grants are to women researchers

**We’ve funded:** >32,000 grants, >25,000 investigators, >1,100 institutions
Where do we currently fund research?

634 Grants nationwide
$434.3 million
41 states

As of February 2023
ACS Research Focus

We fund research across the cancer continuum

Basic science

Preclinical research

Clinical research
What do we fund?

Our cancer research portfolio is broad - any type of cancer and within any part of the research continuum - with a special emphasis on solution-based health equity research.
Extramural Discovery Science Research Programs

Scientific Directors
- Doug Hurst, PhD
  - Nicole Lopanik
- Lynne Elmore, PhD
  - Rachel Commander, PhD
- Joanne Elena, PhD, MPH

Scientific Programs
- Biochemistry & Immunology of Cancer
- Cell Biology & Preclinical Cancer Research
- Clinical & Cancer Control Research

Standard Peer Review Committees
- Immunology & Blood Cell Development
- DNA Mechanisms of Cancer
- RNA Mechanisms of Cancer
- Tumor Biochemistry & Endocrinology
- Mission Boost Grants
- Cancer Cell Biology
- Cancer Detection & Progression
- Experimental Therapeutics
- Metastasis & Microenvironment
- Cancer Prevention, Screening & Health Promotion
- Cancer Trx, Palliative Care & Survivorship
- Clinical Studies & Clinical Trials
- Health Outcomes, Policy & Systems Research
- Health Equity Focus
- Institutional Research Grants
ACS has six research priorities that span the cancer continuum
Extramural Discovery Science Research Priorities

**Biochemistry & Immunology of Cancer**
- Causes and Etiology
  - Causes of cancer
  - Incidence, initiation, biology of early onset cancers
- Obesity/Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL)
  - Role of metabolism, inflammation, nutrition, physical activity in cancer risk, initiation, treatment, progression, survivorship

**Cell Biology & Preclinical Cancer Research**
- Screening and Diagnosis
  - Cancer screening and early detection
  - Risk Assessment
  - Diagnostics
  - Prognostics
- Treatment
  - Develop new cancer treatments, targets, and systems
  - Improve models and test interventions for prevention, tumor dormancy, recurrence, resistance, metastasis

**Clinical & Cancer Control Research**
- Survivorship
  - Improving emotional, financial, spiritual, and supportive services, care delivery, communication for survivors and their caregivers
- Health Equity
  - Understanding the interplay between social determinants of health and access to high quality care and services to achieve optimal outcomes for all
Why apply for ACS funding?
ACS is the largest non-governmental funder of cancer research in the US.

- 30,000+ grants since 1946
- Three programs covering all aspects of cancer research
- Focus on innovative, early-career investigators, but also increasing investments for researchers at later stages in their career
- 50 Nobel Laureates funded prior to their award
- ~70% of current NCI Cancer Center Directors received ACS funding
- We are committed to helping ESIs succeed
- Being a part of the ACS ecosystem has many perks (e.g., conferences, mini-symposia, special funding opportunities)
ACS Grant Mechanisms and Stage of Career

Pre-Faculty

- Postdoctoral Fellowship

Early Career

- Clinician Scientist Development Grant
- IRG Pilot Grant

- Research Scholar Grant

Mid-Late Stage

- Professor Award

All Stages

- Special Initiative:
  - Mission Boost
  - Discovery Boost
  - DICR
  - TheoryLab
  - RFAs

New Doctoral Graduates <4 years out

Junior Faculty

Faculty w/in 10 years

Full Professor

Faculty @ any career stage
## Standard Research Grant Mechanisms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard Grant Mechanisms</th>
<th>Intent</th>
<th>Eligibility</th>
<th>Max Term</th>
<th>Max Award</th>
<th>Percent Effort</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postdoctoral Fellowship (PF)</td>
<td>Provide salary support for new doctoral graduates participating in post-doctoral cancer research, to receive mentoring, training, and partake in research</td>
<td>Training at a US institution; within 4 years of receiving a doctoral degree</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>$217,500 ($66,680-$70,000/year, direct cost only) Plus: 4K discretionary stipend, 1.5K travel to Jiler Conference</td>
<td>100% non-clinicians 80-100% clinicians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinician Scientist Development Grant (CSDG)</td>
<td>Provide support to allow/protect time for new clinical faculty to receive mentoring, research training, and conduct cancer research</td>
<td>Licensed clinician with a role in patient care</td>
<td>3-5 years</td>
<td>$729,000 ($135,000/year +8% Indirect cost)</td>
<td>50% minimum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Scholar Grant (RSG)</td>
<td>To support both innovation launch and career launch to research independence for early-career investigators</td>
<td>Within 10 years of 1st faculty appointment*</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>$960,000 ($200,000/year +20% indirect cost)</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discovery Boost Grants</td>
<td>Test feasible and collect pilot data to inform future research</td>
<td>Full-tie faculty at US institution</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>$300,000,000 (100,000/year directs +20% indirect)</td>
<td>No minimum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Boost Grants (MBG)</td>
<td>Move preclinical research to first in human studies</td>
<td>Select current and former ACS research grantees</td>
<td>Phase 1: 24 months Phase 2: 18 months</td>
<td>Stage 1: $240,000 Stage 2: $600,000</td>
<td>No minimum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Applications accepted April 1 and October 15 annually

See [https://www.cancer.org/research/we-fund-cancer-research/apply-research-grant.html](https://www.cancer.org/research/we-fund-cancer-research/apply-research-grant.html)
Research Scholar Grant (RSG)

Purpose
Provide support for independent, self-directed researchers

Eligibility
Investigators within first 10 years of initial independent research career or full-time faculty appointment

Term and Budget
Up to 4 years and $165,000 per year in direct costs, plus 20% allowable indirect costs

Percent effort
> 0%
Despite having only, a small fraction of the budget, ACS funds nearly ½ the number of early-career investigators as the NCI.

*FY2021 grants reflect a reduced number of application cycles due to covid
Discovery Boost Grant (DBG)

Purpose
To fund exploratory research to develop research methodologies, establish feasibility, or pilot test high-risk/high-reward research across the research continuum

Eligibility
Independent investigators at any career stage

Term and Budget
Two years and $125,000 per year direct costs, plus 20% allowable indirect costs ($300K total)
Can resubmit once
**Mission Boost Grant (MBG)**

**Purpose**

To support select current and past ACS grantees specifically for the translation of their research to human testing

Innovative, high-risk/high-reward projects

**Eligibility**

Current and past ACS grantees, including former ACS Postdoctoral Fellows

**Term and Budget**

**Stage I:** Two years and $100,000 per year direct costs, plus 20% allowable indirect costs

**Stage II:** 18 months, maximum of $500,000 direct, plus 20% indirect costs

Can resubmit once
Clinician Scientist Development Grant (CSDG)

Purpose
Support junior faculty members in becoming independent investigators as clinician scientists
Designed for people trained primarily as clinicians

Eligibility
Full-time, board-certified junior faculty who see patients
Cannot be PI of an R-level grant or a comparable mentored award

Term and Budget
3 to 5 years and $135,000 per year in direct costs, plus 8% allowable indirect costs; PI must justify years of training

Percent effort
50% minimum
Postdoctoral Fellowship (PF)

Purpose
Support a program of research training to position a new investigator for an independent career in cancer research

Eligibility
Have had your doctoral degree for LESS than 4 years (time spent in clinical-only training is not counted)
Open to US citizens and non-citizens holding an appropriate visa when application is submitted

Term and Budget
2 or 3 years with progressive stipends of $66,000, $68,000, and $70,000 per year, plus $4,000 per year fellowship allowance; $1,500 travel allowance in last year to present at a conference, such as the biannual Jiler conference

Percent effort
100%
• Can resubmit once
• Generous parental leave policy
See Cancer.org for these and other special initiatives

- ACS Professor Awards
- Priority Area of Screening
- Priority Area of Health Equity (CHERCs)
- AHEAD Discovery Boost Awards
- TheoryLab Collaborative (TLC) Pilot Grants

https://www.cancer.org/research/we-fund-cancer-research/apply-research-grant.html
### Peer Review Process - Timeline

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>April 1</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>January 1</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>APPLICATION DEADLINE</td>
<td>PEER REVIEW</td>
<td>COUNCIL REVIEW</td>
<td>GRANT ACTIVATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>July 1</td>
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## Paylines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All Investigators</th>
<th>ACS Mechanism</th>
<th>FY 2022 Payline</th>
<th>5-Year Average Payline</th>
<th>NCI Mechanism</th>
<th>FY 2022 Payline</th>
<th>5-Year Average Payline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research Scholar Grant (RSG)</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>R01</td>
<td>9%†</td>
<td>12%†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discovery Boost Grants (DBG)</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>*No 5-year average because this is a new mechanism as of S22</td>
<td>R21</td>
<td>9%†</td>
<td>10%†</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Young Investigators*</th>
<th>ACS Mechanism</th>
<th>FY 2022 Payline</th>
<th>5-Year Average Payline</th>
<th>NCI Mechanism</th>
<th>FY 2022 Payline</th>
<th>5-Year Average Payline</th>
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<td>Research Scholar Grant (RSG)</td>
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<td>R01</td>
<td>14%†</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discovery Boost Grants (DBG)</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>*No 5-year average because this is a new mechanism as of S22</td>
<td>R21</td>
<td>9%†</td>
<td>10%†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Postdoctoral Fellowship (PF)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>F32</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clinician Scientist Development Grant (CSDG)</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>K08</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Young Investigators are either post doctoral fellows or investigators who are within 10 years of receiving their first faculty appointment
† Actual success rates for 2022 R01 and R21 grants are not yet available, so announced paylines were used for these figures
Thank you!

See cancer.org for more info.

Lynne.Elmore@cancer.org
Grant.Eligibility@cancer.org
Grants@cancer.org
Inside the AHA’s Research Enterprise:
Grant Funding and Other Opportunities
Jessica M. Biddinger
National Senior Director
Research & Grants Administration
BRIEF OVERVIEW

• Grant Funding Opportunities at AHA
  • Across the career stage
  • Application expectations and timelines
  • The peer review process

• Service and Career Development Opportunities
AHA Mission
To be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives.

2024 Impact Goal
Every person deserves the opportunity for a full, healthy life.
As champions for health equity, by 2024, the American Heart Association will advance cardiovascular health for all, including identifying and removing barriers to health care access and quality.
RESEARCH: The Foundation of our Work

- $5 billion since 1949
- 1,440 active awards
- $462 million committed
- 1,850 volunteer reviewers in 2021-22
- >3,000 proposals and approx. 700 awards in 2021-22
AHA RESEARCH AWARDS

- Open to all academic and health professionals
- Broadening our reach - engineers, psychologists, computer scientists, etc.
- Clinical, translational, population, behavioral, and basic science
- Strongly encourage applications by women, those from groups under-represented in research, those with non-traditional career trajectories
- Strong interest in health equity, social determinants of health, structural racism
- Research across the lifespan
In a typical year, the AHA offers research funding largely based on career stage:

- Predoctoral Fellowship - Sept. 6
- Postdoctoral Fellowship - Sept. 7
- Institutional Award for Undergraduate Student Training - Sept. 13
- AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) - Sept. 14
- Career Development Award - Dec. 6
- Collaborative Sciences Award
- Innovative Project Award
- Transformational Project Award
- Merit Award - LOI due July 13 (required for full proposal submission)
## WEBINARS

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<th>Special Sessions For Most Programs</th>
<th>Next General Session To be announced</th>
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<td>• AHA Research award offerings</td>
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<td>• Application tips</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Review process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Q &amp; A session</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

https://professional.heart.org/en/research-programs/application-resources

All are invited
OPTIMIZE YOUR CHANCE OF FUNDING

Application Resources

https://professional.heart.org/en/research-programs/application-resources

Internal and external tools: Fact sheets, articles, videos, online tools

- AHA Research Application & Award Process
- Step-by-step application instructions
- Lay summary
- Career development plan
- Biosketch
- Writing a proposal
- Peer Review & Scoring
APPLICATION TIPS

✔ Some require pre-proposal (LOI)

✔ Follow the instructions on ProposalCentral screens & AHA Application Instructions document

✔ Apply@Heart.org
Institutional Eligibility and Transferability

American Heart Association research awards are limited to U.S.-based non-profit institutions, including medical, osteopathic and dental schools, veterinary schools, schools of public health, pharmacy schools, nursing schools, universities and colleges, public and voluntary hospitals and others that can demonstrate the ability to conduct the proposed research, except for applications specifically related to the AHA’s Institute for Precision Cardiovascular Medicine.

Applications will not be accepted for work with funding to be administered through any federal institution or work to be performed by a federal employee, except for Veterans Administration employees.

AHA project awards are fully transferable to make the awardee a "free agent" who is empowered to move to another qualified institution while retaining the award.
AHA awards are open to all academic and health professionals. This includes but is not limited to all academic disciplines (biology, chemistry, mathematics, technology, physics, engineering, data science, etc.) and all health-related professions (physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, physical and occupational therapists, statisticians, nutritionists, etc.).

The extent to which the focus of the project is related to cardiovascular and/or cerebrovascular diseases and/or brain health is an important factor that will be considered, though an applicant is not required to be a part of a cardiovascular/cerebrovascular-oriented laboratory, clinic or department.
Multiple Awards

An individual may hold more than one AHA award concurrently but may only hold one career development/recognition award (Career Development Award, Established Investigator Award, Merit Award) at a time. Strategically Focused Research Network personnel may also hold individual AHA awards.
Percent Effort and Rebudgeting

Unless specified in the Request for Proposals (RFP), no minimum percent effort is required; however, the Principal Investigator must demonstrate that adequate time will be devoted to ensuring successful completion of the project.

Unless specified, award budgets are unrestricted among allowable categories (salary/fringe of PI and essential personnel, supplies, equipment/computers, travel, human subjects, etc.), funds may be re-budgeted between categories without prior AHA approval.
Visa Types

- U.S. citizen
- Permanent resident
- Pending permanent resident (must have filed Form I-485 for permanent resident status and obtained an I-797C Notice of Action that the application has been received by USCIS and case is pending)
- E-3 Visa - specialty occupation worker
- F-1 Visa - student (predoctoral and postdoctoral fellows only)
- G-4 Visa - family member of an international organization employee
- H-1B Visa - temporary worker in a specialty occupation
- J-1 Visa - exchange visitor (except for pre- and postdoctoral fellowships, awardees must obtain an H-1B or equivalent by the award activation date)
- O-1 Visa - temporary worker with extraordinary abilities in the sciences
- TN Visa - NAFTA Professional
- DACA - Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
MUST BE A MEMBER TO APPLY

• All applicants -- including predoctoral and postdoctoral fellows -- must be an American Heart Association professional member (memberships start at $109).

• Applicants may renew or join membership during the application process

• Join or renew by phone at 800-787-8984 (inside US) or 301-223-2307 (outside US)

There is a 3-5 day waiting period to process membership, so do not wait until the application deadline to renew or join.
## GRANT DEADLINES SUMMER/FALL 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Proposals Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Merit Award</td>
<td>LOI due July 13(^{th}), 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Predoctoral Fellowship</td>
<td>Sept 6(^{th}), 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postdoctoral Fellowship</td>
<td>Sept 7(^{th}), 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Undergraduate Student Award</td>
<td>Sept 13(^{th}), 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award</td>
<td>Sept 14(^{th}), 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Development Award</td>
<td>Dec 6(^{th}), 2023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Other programs in late Fall and Early 2024: Subscribe to Research Insider, watch the website*

https://professional.heart.org/en/research-programs/aha-funding-opportunities
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Description/Target</th>
<th>Award Amount</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Institutional Undergraduate Student Award** | To institutions that can offer a meaningful research experience to undergraduate college students.                                                | **Total Award Amount:** $160,000  
**Deadline:** Sept. 13th                       | 3 Years  
**Jan 1 start**                           |
| **AHA Predoctoral Fellowship**          | Enhances the training of promising students in pre-doctoral or clinical health professional degree training programs and who intend careers as scientists, clinician-scientists, or related careers. Supports non-citizen, non green card holders. | **Total Award Amount:** Approx. $70,000  
for 2 years  
**Mirrors NIH Scale**  
**Deadline:** Sept. 6th                       | 1 or 2 Years  
**Jan 1 start (flexibility)**                 |
| **AHA Postdoctoral Fellowship**         | Enhances the training of postdoctoral applicants who are not yet independent. The applicant must be embedded in an appropriate investigative group with the mentorship, support, and relevant scientific guidance of a research mentor. Supports non-citizen, non green card holders. | **Total Award Amount:** Approx. $150,000  
for 2 years  
**Mirrors NIH Scale**                        | 1 or 2 Years  
**Jan 1 start (flexibility)**                 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Description/Target</th>
<th>Award Amount</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Research Supplement to Promote Diversity in Science | Under the mentorship of a current AHA awardee, this mechanism supports **predoctoral and postdoctoral fellows** from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups in science.                                                                                                                                                                                   | **Total Award Amount:** matches NIH scales as per other AHA fellowships  
**Deadline:** TBA                                                                                           | 1 or 2 Years  
April 1 start |
| Career Development Award                         | Highly promising investigators who are newly in or are transitioning into their first non-training position (must have faculty/staff appointment at time of award activation).                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | **Total Award Amount:** $231,000  
**Deadline:** Dec. 6th                                                                                   | 3 Years  
April 1 start |
| AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA) | Supports researchers at institutions that have not been major recipients of NIH support. Goals: support meritorious research; expose students to research; enhance research environment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | **Total Award Amount:** $154,000  
**Deadline:** Sept. 14th                                                                                 | 2 Years        |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Description/Target</th>
<th>Award Amount</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Innovative Project Award</td>
<td>High risk/high reward type projects. <em>Preliminary data is not accepted.</em> However, a solid rationale for the work must be provided.</td>
<td>Total Award Amount: $200,000</td>
<td>2 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Deadline: TBA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transformational Project Award</td>
<td>Supports next logical step of an investigator’s previous work. Should be suggestive of a high probability of success in new avenue; should include preliminary data.</td>
<td>Total Award Amount: $300,000</td>
<td>3 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Deadline: TBA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Collaborative Sciences Award    | Two or more primary investigators from disparate disciplines to work on a project that is achievable only with combined efforts.  
• At least one investigator at early or mid-career stage                                                                        | Total Award Amount: $750,000                      | 3 Years  |
<p>|                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Deadline: TBA                                      |          |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Description/Target</th>
<th>Award Amount</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Established Investigator Award</td>
<td>Mid-career investigators (Associate Professors) with great promise, established</td>
<td>Total Award Amount: $400,000</td>
<td>5 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>records, demonstrated commitment.</td>
<td>Deadline: TBA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merit Award</td>
<td>Exceptional scientists with established track records, who propose novel approaches</td>
<td>Total Award Amount: $1,000,000</td>
<td>5 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to major research challenges, potential for high impact.</td>
<td>LOI due July 13th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AHA’S SUPPORT OF UNDERREPRESENTED INVESTIGATORS
$100M Toward Health Equity, Structural Racism Research

**Drive systemic public health change focused on removing barriers to equitable health for everyone, everywhere**

New scientific research programs & grants focused on health inequities & structural racism

Expand diversity-research opportunities for underrepresented racial & ethnic groups

**Call to Action: Structural Racism as a Fundamental Driver of Health Disparities**

A Presidential Advisory From the American Heart Association

**ARTICLE** Structural racism has been, and remains, a fundamental cause of persistent health disparities in the United States. The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and the police killing of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and numerous others have been reminders that structural racism persists and offers the opportunity for long, healthy lives of Black Americans and other historically disadvantaged groups.

The American Heart Association has previously published statements addressing cardiovascular and cerebrovascular risk and disparities among racial and ethnic groups in the United States, but those statements have not adequately recognized structural racism as a fundamental cause of poor health and disparities in cardiovascular disease. This presidential advisory renews the historical context, current state, and potential solutions to address structural racism in our country. Several principles emerge from our review: racism is persistent, is experienced, and the task of dismantling racism must belong to all of society. It cannot be left to the government, the academy, or even to the institutions of medicine.

This presidential advisory renews our commitment to transforming the conditions of historically marginalized communities, improving the quality of housing and neighborhood environments of these populations, advocating for policies that address inequities in access to economic opportunity, quality education, and health care, and enhancing health among racial and ethnic groups. The views on racism must be accelerated and should investigate the joint effects of multiple domains of racism (structural, interpersonal, cultural, and biologic). The American Heart Association must look internally to correct its own shortcomings and advance antiracist policies and practices regarding science, policy, and professional education, and advocacy. With this advisory, the American Heart Association declares its unequivocal support of antiracist principles.
Research Supplement to Promote Diversity in Science

- Support a predoctoral or postdoctoral fellow from a racial or ethnic group underrepresented in science

- Up to two additional co-mentors permitted, but not required

- Awards match existing AHA predoc/postdoc fellowships

- Two-year award (can ask for 1 year)

- 3-page research plan, 3-page training plan
Additional Initiatives

• SURE (Supporting Undergraduate Research Experiences) Program
• Diversity is required for AHA’s large, team science-oriented research programs (SFRNs & HERNs)
  • At least one institution focused on serving persons underrepresented in medicine (e.g., HBCUs, HSIIs)
  • At least 25% of core research team & at least 50% of trainees
  • Score-driving criteria
• Strong participation of underrepresented investigators in peer review, committee service
FOCUSED RESEARCH PROGRAMS
STRATEGICALLY FOCUSED RESEARCH TOPICS

Board-directed - past examples:

• COVID-related grants
• Health Equity Research Networks
  o Prevention of Hypertension
  o Disparities in Maternal-Infant Health Outcomes
  o Rural Health Disparities
• End Nicotine Addiction in Children and Teens

Watch application information page

Sign up for monthly Research newsletter from our main web page: professional.heart.org/research
The RESTORE Network: Addressing Social Determinants of Health to Prevent Hypertension


NEXT HERN: Improving access to care and other health inequities in rural America
Newly awarded: Mechanism(s) of psychosocial stress and cardiovascular disease
FOCUSED RESEARCH TOPICS

Funding Partner Organizations - 2023

Research focused on

• congenital heart defects
• effects of walnut consumption on health-related outcomes
• Barth Syndrome

Early Career Researchers in

• clinical vascular science
• anesthesiology
• cerebrovascular research related to vascular neurology, stroke and neurocritical care
PEER REVIEW
The Peer Review Process

Assigned to committee, reviewers (3)

NIH-style review, NIH scoring
  • Mix of face-to-face and teleconference
  • Triage process
  • Review criteria (general)
    • The science: Innovation, Impact, Significance, Approach, Investigator, Environment
    • Fellowships: 1) the Applicant; 2) Sponsor/Training Plan and Environment; 3) the Proposal
    • Similar for CDA
## Score Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Evaluation of Program Peer Review Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Exceptional, no weaknesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Outstanding, minor weaknesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Excellent, more strengths than weaknesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Very Good, minor weaknesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Good, strengths and weaknesses are equivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Satisfactory, weaknesses are greater than strengths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Fair, weaknesses are greater than strengths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Marginal, too many weaknesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Poor, little to no strengths</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Best approach is to review each grant assuming each criterion will start at 5 “in the middle”, then adjust your score for each criterion accordingly based on strengths and weaknesses. AHA, like NIH, expects that scores of 1 or 9 will be used less frequently than the other scores. A score of 5 correlates to a good, medium-impact proposal and should be considered an average score.
Meeting process

All members will work in ProposalCentral (PC) throughout the meeting

AHA Staff will “pin” the application to be discussed

Chair will introduce the proposal

Conflicting reviewers moved to “Lobby” by AHA staff

Chair will ask for initial scores from the 3 reviewers

R1 explains project and highlights major strengths and weaknesses

R2 and R3 add any additional points

Chair opens the Discussion for the committee

Optional: Chair quickly summarizes strengths and weaknesses

Chair asks for final scores from the 3 reviewers

Anyone scoring outside the +/- 1 range recommended should state their rationale

Everyone enters their individual scores in PC

Concerns discussed, if any

Review ends... move to next proposal
Peer Review Opportunities – AHA–Funded Postdoctoral Fellows

• 2nd year postdoctoral fellows eligible
• Approval of sponsor
• Training sessions
  • One specifically for fellows, one attended by all reviewers
• Assigned up to 3 grants (Fellowship applications currently)
• Prepare full written critiques and assign preliminary scores (won’t submit final scores)
Consider Becoming an AHA Peer Reviewer

- All ranks
- Basic, clinical and population research expertise
- Research experience needed (funding, publication record)
- Excellent experience
- Scientifically stimulating, see the newest science, important academic service, establish new colleagues, collaborations, potential leadership opportunity

JOIN OUR TEAM
Thank You.
Q&A

Please put your questions into the Zoom Q&A function

• Please indicate if your question is for a specific panelist or all panelists.
• Be ready to clarify your question, if needed.

The webinar recording and slides will be available on ASBMB’s On-Demand Webinar soon.