

McKnight Clinical Translational Research Scholarship in Cognitive Aging and Age-Related Memory Loss

Funded by the McKnight Brain Research Foundation through the American Brain Foundation,
and the American Academy of Neurology

Application Deadline: October 1, 2020

This award aims to support young investigators in clinical studies relevant to age-related cognitive decline and memory loss. The award also recognizes the importance of rigorous training in clinical research and encourages young investigators in seeking opportunities to establish future careers in the area of human cognitive aging. **Please note: the focus should NOT be solely on a neurodegenerative dementia (e.g. Alzheimer's disease); however, proposals that focus on combined study of cognitive aging and neurodegenerative changes may be considered.**

Each award will consist of a commitment of \$65,000 per year for two years, plus a \$10,000 per year stipend to support education and research-related costs for a total of \$150,000.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Visit AAN.com/view/ResearchProgram
2. Select "2021 McKnight Clinical Translational Research Scholarship in Cognitive Aging and Age-Related Memory Loss"
3. Select "Apply now"

Please only submit one application - applicants are not allowed to submit applications for more than one award. Your application may be considered for another category at the discretion of the review committee, however, the system will only allow one application per person.

Visit the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) portion of the website for more information.

IMPORTANT DATES

October 1, 2020: Application deadline – Note that this is the deadline for all documents, including those from references, the mentor, and the chair.
Applications will be declined if this information is not submitted by October 1.
January 2021: Notification of recipients
July 1, 2021: Funding begins

ELIGIBILITY

1. For the purpose of this scholarship, research is defined as "patient-oriented research conducted with human subjects, or translational research specifically designed to develop treatments or enhance identification of age-related cognitive decline and memory changes. These areas of research include epidemiologic or behavioral studies, clinical trials, studies of disease mechanisms, the development of new technologies, and health services and outcomes research." Disease related studies not directly involving humans or human tissue are also encouraged if the primary goal is the development of therapies, diagnostic tests, or other tools to prevent or mitigate neurological diseases. This award is also appropriate for junior investigators interested in an academic career in translational-based research in neurology.
2. Recipient must be interested in an academic career in neurological research who has completed a residency or a PhD degree no more than 5 years prior to the beginning of this award (July 1, 2021). If you completed a fellowship of any kind after residency, your eligibility is still based on the date you finished residency.
3. The proposed program of training and research must be performed entirely within an institution in the United States.

EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Applications are evaluated by reviewers based on the following criteria:

- Applicant's ability and promise as a clinician-scientist based on prior record of achievement and career plan, letters of reference, and NIH Biosketch (30 percent)
- Quality and nature of the training to be provided and the institutional, departmental, and mentor-specific training environment (30 percent)
- Quality and originality of the research plan to study cognitive aging and age-related memory loss (40 percent)

ANNUAL AND FINAL PROGRESS REPORTS

An annual progress report is due in May of the first year. Renewal of the award in year two is contingent upon presentation of a satisfactory progress report. Additionally, a final research report and a final expenditure report are due within 60 days following the close of the grant term. The final expenditure report must be prepared by the institution's financial office.

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS FOR APPLICATION

1. PDF of three-page Research Plan, including brief statements of aims, background, methodology, and any supporting preliminary data/figures. References do not count toward the page limit. The research plan should be written by the applicant and should represent his/her original work. However, the applicant is expected and encouraged to develop this plan based on discussion with the proposed mentor. It is appropriate, but not required, for the proposed work to be specifically related to the mentor's ongoing research.
2. PDF of Applicant's NIH Biosketch. See this [link](#) for the most recent NIH Biosketch template.
Once the above information is fully completed and submitted by the applicant:
3. The **chair** will receive an email with a link asking them to check a box confirming that that applicant's clinical service responsibilities will be restricted to no more than 20 percent of their time. The chair will NOT be asked to submit a letter.
4. Two **references**, identified by applicant, will receive an email with a link to submit a letter of reference supporting the applicant's potential for a clinical, academic research career and qualifications for the scholarship.
5. The **mentor** will receive an email with a link to submit a letter of reference detailing his/her support of and commitment to the applicant and the proposed research and training plan. The letter should specifically indicate the mentor's role in the development and preparation of the applicant's research plan and should include:
 - How the proposed research fits into the mentor's research program
 - Expertise and experience in the area of research proposed and the nature of the mentor's proposed time commitment to the supervision and training of the applicant
 - Mentor's prior experience in the supervision, training, and successful mentoring of clinician scientists
 - Potential for applicant's future research career and comparison of applicant among other residents
6. The **mentor** will also be required to upload a NIH Biosketch.
7. Applications will not be processed or reviewed until the letters of recommendation are submitted. The applicant will receive an email confirmation upon receipt of each support letter. To send a reminder email to the letter writer, log back into the application and select "Re-send Recommendation Request" located in the Support Information section of the application.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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