



**The Lupus Research Alliance**

**Request for Nominations for**

**The Lupus Insight Prize**

[www.lupusinsightprize.org](http://www.lupusinsightprize.org)

**Award Amount: \$150,000**

**Contact:**

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**Lupus Research Alliance**

[www.lupusresearch.org](http://www.lupusresearch.org)

**RFN Release Date: March 3, 2017**

**Application Deadline: April 24, 2017**

**Award Date: During FOCIS Meeting June 2017**

*exact date to be determined*

## **INTRODUCTION**

With the goal of recognizing and honoring significant insights in scientific investigation relevant to understanding the causes, biology, treatment or cure of lupus, and to stimulate further advances leading to improved outcomes for patients with lupus, the Lupus Research Alliance announces the 2017 Lupus Insight Prize. The Lupus Insight Prize was established by the Alliance for Lupus Research, The Lupus Foundation of America and the Lupus Research Institute, this year the Lupus Research Alliance (formerly the Alliance for Lupus Research and the Lupus Research Institute) will lead the administration of the award. The Prize will provide research funds to an outstanding investigator with a documented record of creativity, innovation, and productivity and who has made a novel insight and/or discovery in an area of research that is applicable to the pathogenesis or treatment of lupus and who is judged to have a high likelihood of generating further significant advances by applying the insight to lupus.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE PRIZE**

The primary objective of the Lupus Insight Prize is to identify and recognize an outstanding investigator who has developed a novel research insight in scientific domains relevant to lupus. The Prize is not a lifetime achievement award; the purpose of the Prize is to recognize a specific insight and/or discovery as well as to provide research funds to the institution of the recipient with the expectation that those funds will direct the talents of the Prize recipient toward further high impact research achievement and specifically application of the insight that will shift the current paradigms and significantly advance understanding of lupus or treatment of patients who suffer from lupus. Secondary objectives of the Prize are to raise the visibility of lupus as a significant medical condition among the general public; and to demonstrate the determination and common purpose of the lupus community, particularly the voluntary lupus organizations, to surmount the challenges of this complex and debilitating disease.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Candidates for the Lupus Insight Prize will be reviewed for their achievements and assessed for their creativity and insight, but the most important criteria for selection is the novelty of the insight and/or discovery and its likelihood of successful application for potential for future advances that will impact patients with lupus. Nominations will be accepted for investigators of any age or rank affiliated with an academic, biomedical, research, or government institution in the United States. Nominations will not be accepted for investigators working in the biotechnology/pharmaceutical industry. Co-Investigators or teams

of investigators are not eligible for this Prize. Only one nomination will be accepted per investigator. Applications will only be accepted from investigators that are based in the United States.

## **PRIZE FUNDS**

The institution of the Prize recipient will receive \$150,000 to be used at the discretion of the recipient scientist with the expectation that those funds will be used to apply the insight for which the Prize was given toward advancing understanding of the genetic, environmental, molecular, immunologic or cellular aspects of lupus or its treatment. The Prize can be transferred to another institution (within the U.S.) in the event that the recipient changes his/her affiliation, but the Prize cannot be renewed. The funds are to be spent within three years of the date of the award of the Prize.

## **NOMINATION PROCESS**

### **Letter of Nomination:**

Nominators and Candidates should work together to prepare each Candidate's Letter of Nomination for the Lupus Insight Prize. Nominations of basic, clinical, and translational scientists will be considered. The Nominator should submit a two-page Letter of Nomination, describing the specific insight and/or discovery for which the Prize will be awarded as well as the worthiness, expertise and achievements of the Candidate. The Letter of Nomination should specifically focus on the unique insight and/or discovery generated by the Candidate that might have an impact on advancing the future of lupus research.

### **Research Narrative:**

The Candidate should also provide a brief explanation of the specific insight and/or discovery for which the Prize will be awarded as well as how her/his insight and/or discovery has the potential to impact critical understanding of lupus. It is important to emphasize that the insight need not have been made specifically about lupus, but only that the insight could be applied to understanding lupus pathogenesis or treatment. The Research Narrative should be single-spaced (with one-inch margins, typed in 12-point Times New Roman font) and no more than 2 pages (inclusive of all material wished to be considered by the Candidate). There are no formal requirements for the Research Narrative to include specific headings or sub-headings. Importantly, the Candidate should include a description of the novel insight and/or discovery and describe innovative or unusually creative experimental

approaches that will be applied to lupus by the Candidate, as well as the anticipated goal of the proposed project and, most significantly, the potential impact of the proposed research on the field as a whole, as well as its potential to galvanize, change, and/or revolutionize lupus research or treatment. The Research Narrative should not be considered as a grant application, but should describe the Candidate's unique insight and its potential to move lupus research forward. The Research Narrative should be a stand-alone document and cannot include any web links to additional materials. Appendices will not be accepted.

### **Full Nomination Submission Instructions:**

The Nominator and Candidate are to submit the full application materials, which include (1) Letter of Nomination; (2) a Research Narrative (as described above), (3) a complete CV of the Candidate, and (4) two blind letters of support of the Candidate. The two blind letters of support of the Candidate (from people other than the Nominator) must be solicited by the Nominator and each must be submitted directly via proposalCENTRAL by the individual writing the letter. Each full application must be received electronically by April 24, 2017 at 5 p.m. ET via proposalCENTRAL online system at <https://proposalcentral.altum.com/>. Hard copies will not be accepted under any circumstances.

### **Additional submission information:**

- The submitted nomination must have the Candidate's name in the title page. The Candidate may begin to prepare the application by logging into proposalCENTRAL <https://proposalcentral.altum.com/> as an applicant. The Candidate then must complete the information in the Title page (proposal section 1) and enable other users to access the proposal (proposal section 2)
- The Nominator's permission must be 'Administrator' (proposal section 2)
- Nominator completes the following sections (1) letter of nomination (upload in proposal section 6); (2) invitation for the two blind letters of support (proposal section 5)
- Candidate completes the following: Title page (proposal section 1); enables Nominator to access the proposal (proposal section 2- permission must be 'Administrator'; candidate information (proposal section 3) institution and contacts (proposal section 4) PI data sheet ( proposal section 5); The proposal narrative, CV and signature page upload must be completed by the Candidate (proposal section 6)
- Signature page must be printed and signed then uploaded in section 6 (upload attachments)

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

Representative scientific advisors will be selected by the Lupus Research Alliance and will constitute the Selection Committee for the Lupus Insight Prize. The members of the Selection Committee will review all nominations. The recipient of The Lupus Insight Prize will be selected by the members of the Selection Committee after careful consideration of each Candidate's unique insight as well as credentials and his/her likelihood of having a unique and important impact on lupus and the selection will be ratified by the Boards of Director of the Lupus Research Alliance.

### **General Timeline:**

- ✓ Request for Nominations Due: April 24, 2017
- ✓ Nominations Review: by Selection Committee May 2017
- ✓ Winner Notification: May 2017
- ✓ Prize Awarded: During FOCIS Meeting – Chicago, IL June 2017

## **PRIZE CEREMONY**

The recipient of the Lupus Insight Prize will be honored at a public ceremony at the FOCIS meeting in June of 2017 that will include an opportunity for the recipient to deliver a lecture describing his/her insight and the past work that resulted in the insight and planned research as it relates to lupus at a site designated by the funding organizations to provide an appropriate audience of involved stakeholders.

## **LIMITATIONS ON USE OF FUNDS**

A maximum of 20% of the total dollar amount of the Lupus Insight Prize can be utilized towards pay of the Candidate's salary and fringe benefit support. In addition, a maximum of 20% of the total dollar amount can be utilized towards the purchase of laboratory equipment for the Candidate. Under no circumstances can any of the funds be used to pay institutional overhead or indirect costs. The total amount of the Prize must be utilized for the described research within three years of the date of the award of the Prize.