



\$100,000

Request for Nominations

2021 Lupus Insight Prize

Due January 19, 2021

Introduction

The Lupus Research Alliance requests nominations for the 2021 Lupus Insight Prize recognizing and honoring significant scientific insights relevant to understanding the causes, pathogenesis, or treatment of lupus. The Prize also aims to stimulate further advances leading to improved outcomes for patients with lupus and ultimately to a cure.

The Lupus Insight 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.

Prize Objectives

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. Instead, the Lupus Insight Prize will be given for a specific, significant, and recent (within the past five years, i.e. the first seminal observation should have been published between 2016-2020) discovery that is relevant to lupus.** Please note that nominations for discoveries dating back to more than five years ago (prior to 2016) will not be considered.

In addition to recognizing a specific insight and/or discovery, the Prize also aims to direct the talents of the Prize recipient toward further high impact research achievement and further testing of the insight in lupus. This should shift the current paradigms and should significantly advance lupus understanding or treatment. Secondary objectives of the Prize are to: (1) raise the visibility of lupus as a significant medical condition among the general public; and (2) demonstrate the determination of the Lupus Research Alliance to surmount the challenges of this complex and debilitating disease through the support of research.

Eligibility

Nominations of basic, clinical, and translational scientists will be considered. Nominations will be accepted for investigators of any age or rank affiliated with an academic, biomedical, research, government or biotechnology/pharmaceutical institution world-wide. Should an investigator currently working in the biotechnology/pharmaceutical industry be awarded the Lupus Insight Prize, recognition will be limited to the presentation of the Award plaque and the celebrations associated with this event at the FOCIS meeting. No monetary grant award can be given to investigators currently working in industry. Co-Investigators or teams of investigators are not eligible for this Prize. Only one nomination will be accepted per investigator. Self-nominations are not allowed.

Nomination

Each nominator can nominate only one candidate per year. Once a nomination has been submitted, it will remain active for up to three years (the original submission plus two additional years), unless withdrawn by the nominator. Nominations carried from prior years can be updated, if necessary, by the nomination deadline. There are no geographic restrictions on the nominee or the nominator. Nominators are discouraged from simultaneously serving as supporters for other Lupus Insight Prize nominees.

The Nominator should submit the following nomination materials, as a single pdf document, by the due date: (1) Nomination form, (2) Publications relevant to the Prize nomination, (3) Candidate's CV.

1. Nomination Form

The "nomination form" template, provided at www.lupusinsightprize.org, must be used to complete this section of the nomination, and must include a list of three supporters who can be contacted by the Prize Selection Committee and who can endorse the nomination. Please note that a nomination letter is no longer accepted. All the information a nominator would like to communicate to the Selection Committee about the nominee must be contained within the specific sections and word limits of the nomination form.

2. Publications relevant to the Lupus Insight Prize nomination

The nominator should submit up to three of the candidate's publications relevant to the nomination. At least one of them must be the primary publication of the discovery for which the Prize is being sought.

3. Candidate's CV

An up-to-date Curriculum Vitae for the candidate must be provided.

Nomination Submission

The nominator must submit the complete nomination (items 1-3 above), as a single pdf file, via email to Diomaris Gonzalez (dgonzalez@lupusresearch.org) by 5pm ET on January 19, 2021. Hard copies are not accepted.

Selection criteria

Nominees for the Lupus Insight Prize will be evaluated based on the scientific discovery/insight for which they are being nominated. Specifically, nominations will be judged based on the novelty, significance, and recent (within the past five years i.e. the first seminal observation should have been published between 2016-2020) nature of the discovery, the likelihood of its successful further application to lupus or further development within lupus, and the potential of the discovery/insight to

ultimately impact lupus patients. Please note that nominations for discoveries dating back to more than five years ago (prior to 2016) will not be considered.

Selection

Representative scientific advisors from academia and industry will be selected by the Lupus Research Alliance and will constitute the Selection Committee for the Lupus Insight Prize. The Committee will not include any nominators or supporters (as defined in #1 above) of an active nomination. The members of the Selection Committee will review all nominations and will solicit input from the supporters of each nomination. The recipient of The Lupus Insight Prize will be selected by the members of the Selection Committee after careful consideration of each Candidate's candidacy represented by the nomination materials and the input from the nominee's supporters. The selection will be ratified by the Board of Directors of the Lupus Research Alliance.

Terms of Award

The Prize recipient must agree to provide a brief (1-page) description of the research he/she will conduct using the Award money. This must be submitted via email within one month of the award notification letter. In addition, the awardee must agree to attend and give a lecture at the Lupus Insight Prize Award Ceremony to be held at the FOCIS meeting June 8-11, 2021 in Boston, MA. For further details see the Prize Ceremony section below.

Prize Funds

The institution of the Prize recipient—unless the recipient is working for a biotechnology or a pharmaceutical company—will receive \$100,000 to be used at the discretion of the recipient with the expectation that those funds will be used to apply the insight for which the Prize was awarded 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 if the recipient changes her/his affiliation, but the Prize cannot be renewed. The funds are to be spent within one year of the start date of the award. All awards will be made in US dollars and no adjustments can be made to offset any currency fluctuations. As noted in the "Eligibility" section, no monetary grant award can be given to investigators currently working in industry.

Limitations on Use of Funds

A maximum of 20% of the total dollar amount of the Lupus Insight Prize can be utilized towards the winner's salary and fringe benefits. In addition, a maximum of 20% of the total dollar amount can be utilized towards the purchase of laboratory equipment. 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—as stated in the Terms of Award section—within one year of the start date of the award.

Prize Ceremony

The recipient of the Lupus Insight Prize will be honored at a public ceremony at the FOCIS meeting June 8-11, 2021 in Boston, MA. This will include an opportunity for the recipient to deliver a lecture describing his/her insight, the past work that resulted in the insight, and the planned research as it relates to lupus.

Additional Information

For further information about the Lupus Insight Prize, including a list of past recipients, please visit the Prize website: www.lupusinsightprize.org.

Key Dates:

Call for Nominations: October 1, 2019
Nominations Due: January 19, 2021
Nominations Review: February – March 2021
Notifications: March 2021
Award Ceremony: FOCIS Annual Meeting June 8-11, 2021

Inquiries

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