

## 2017 Weston Brain Institute Outstanding Achievement Award Nomination Form

Deadline for nominations: April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

Award announcement will be made in July, 2017

*This nomination form is an example only. Do not complete this paper form.*

*Please submit your nomination online through the Institute's grant management system at <https://weston.smartsimple.ca/welcome/neuroscience>*

### Award description

The award recognizes an exceptional UK investigator studying neurodegenerative diseases of aging:

- The work must be translational research (i.e. development of therapeutics from target validation to clinical trials, or development of tools to accelerate therapeutic development).
- Nominee must have made significant advances in translational research, in particular in the past 15 years and be still actively doing research in this field.
- Nominee must have demonstrated remarkable leadership.
- Nominee must have a record of impeccable citizenship in the research community and positive societal contributions.

### Eligibility questionnaire

- 1) Is the nominee being nominated for exceptional contributions in **translational research** that have accelerated the development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging? *Please note that the nominee will be evaluated based on their contributions in translational research. While this research may be in any disease, only the impact on accelerating the development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging will be considered. Please see below for the Institute's definition of neurodegenerative diseases of aging and translational research.*
- 2) Is the candidate being nominated for exceptional contributions to accelerate the development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging made in the **past 15 years**? *Please note that this is NOT a lifetime achievement award. In the selection process, greater emphasis (weight – 70% of the score for research contributions) will be placed on contributions that have occurred in the past 15 years. Contributions that occurred more than 15 years ago, and the potential of a nominee's future work to impact the field of translational research in neurodegenerative diseases of aging will also be taken into account in the overall score for research contributions (weight – 15% for each).*
- 3) Is the nominee presently leading or performing translational research on neurodegenerative diseases of aging as part of a full-time position? *Individuals who have retired including those who have Emeritus status are not eligible for this award.*
- 4) Barring any unforeseen circumstances, will the nominee have a full-time position and be engaged in translational research to accelerate the development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging for the next 5 years? *The award is for an individual who has a full time appointment and will be active in translational research in neurodegenerative diseases of aging for the next 5 years or more.*

- 5) Has over 50% of the nominee's relevant research and leadership contributions been carried out in the UK? *The award is intended for UK researchers. An individual is not eligible if greater than 50% of the relevant contributions occurred outside the UK.*
- 6) Is the nominee currently working in the UK >50% of the time, and is at or above the lecturer (assistant professor or equivalent) level if holding an academic position or equivalent? *The 2017 award is intended for UK researchers. Individuals working outside of the UK >50% of the time are not eligible.*
- 7) Are you able to offer a positive recommendation for the nominee's societal contributions and citizenship in the research community?
- 8) Has the nominee been a past recipient of the Weston Brain Institute Outstanding Achievement Award? *Past awardees are not eligible. The winner of last year's inaugural award is Dr. Peter St George-Hyslop.*
- 9) Are you nominating someone other than yourself? *Self-nominations are not permitted.*

### **Institute definitions**

#### **The Institute defines neurodegenerative diseases of aging as:**

- Alzheimer's disease
- Dementia with Lewy bodies
- Frontotemporal dementia
- Multiple system atrophy
- Parkinson's disease
- Progressive supranuclear palsy
- Vascular contributions to neurodegeneration (not stroke-mediated vascular disease)
- Prodromes to the above

*Nominee's work may relate to any disease(s) but must have impact on the diseases above and will be evaluated based on their potential impact on these diseases.*

#### **The Institute defines translational research to be:**

Applied research towards developing therapeutics for the prevention and/or treatment of human disease. For example, for small molecule drug development, this involves research and development activities that go from target validation through to phase II clinical trials. Translational research does not include basic or discovery research (e.g. target identification).

#### **The Institute defines therapeutics to be:**

A pharmacological approach (including small molecules, biologics, cell therapies and vaccines, including drug repositioning and repurposing), medical device, surgical intervention, or magnetic or electrical brain stimulation.

Complementary approaches such as exercise, acupuncture, music, dietary and nutritional supplements are not considered therapeutics. Therapeutics can be for symptomatic relief, disease modification, or prevention.

#### **The Institute defines tools to be:**

Items that accelerate development of therapeutics, e.g., imaging techniques or reagents, biomarkers, and diagnostics.

- Tools must have direct impact on accelerating the translational development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging. Any value the tools contribute to basic research will not be taken into consideration.
- Discovery/identification of a tool is out of scope.
- Tools that will expand our knowledge of basic research can be important for the field, but the Institute will only value the tool for its immediate impact on translational research. This means, for example, that tools will not be valued for their ability to help identify new targets.

### **Evaluation criteria**

Nominees that meet all eligibility requirements will be reviewed by an award jury.

The following criteria will be used to evaluate applications for this Program:

- **Research contributions (weight - 75%):** The nominee must have accelerated the development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging through exceptional contributions to translational research. In the selection process, greater emphasis (weight - 70%) will be placed on contributions that have occurred in the past 15 years. Contributions that occurred more than 15 years ago, and the potential of a nominee's future work to impact the field of translational research in neurodegenerative diseases of aging will also be taken into account in the overall score for 'Research contributions' (weight – 15% for each). Examples and evidence of research contributions include but are not limited to the following:
  - The nominee's work has resulted in the development of new therapies for neurodegenerative diseases of aging.
  - The nominees' findings have enabled earlier and/or more accurate diagnosis of the disease, or better ways of tracking disease course or monitoring treatment effects.
  - The nominee has been a recipient of national and international awards, and has a track record of competitive extramural funding.
  - The nominee's research must have also been recognized internationally as being of the highest quality (e.g. numerous publications in high-impact, peer-reviewed journals where studies addressing compelling hypotheses are consistently addressed in the most rigorous way).
- **Leadership contributions (weight – 25%):** The nominee must have a record of exceptional leadership in translational research for accelerating the development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging.

Examples and evidence of leadership contributions include but are not limited to the following:

- The nominee has contributed significantly to the mentorship and training of the next generation of researchers in this field.
- The nominee has used leadership positions in the field to spur organizations to unusual levels of achievement.
- The nominee has established or led international consortiums or collaborative projects to accelerate research in the field.

A nominee's societal contributions and citizenship will be taken into account if all else (i.e., scientific and leadership contributions) is considered equal among the top candidates.

Examples of societal contributions and citizenship include:

- The nominee respects and acknowledges the scientific contributions of peers including those that may be in competition with him/her.
- The nominee is collaborative and actively shares resources.
- The nominee demonstrated an exceptional level of empathy and concern for patients and families through efforts at improving their quality of life.
- The nominee works to advance disease awareness and patient education.

An award will not be given if the award jury determines that there is no suitable candidate.

### SECTION A: Personal details

Please note that we do not accept group nominations. Separate nomination forms must be completed for each nominee.

**Nominee:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name (First, Last)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Position**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Institution**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Email**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone Number**

**Nominator:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name (First, Last)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Position**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Institution**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Email**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone Number**

### SECTION B: Description of the nominee's accomplishments

Please provide information on the nominee's research, leadership, and societal contributions by answering the following questions.

- 1) How have the nominee's scientific contributions in **translational research** accelerated the development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging? How will the nominee's future work contribute to translational research for the development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging? (**max. 500 words**).

*\*\*Please note that this is NOT a lifetime achievement award. In the selection process, greater emphasis (weight – 70% of the score for research contributions) will be placed on contributions that have occurred in the past 15 years. Contributions that occurred more 15 years ago, and the potential of a nominee's future work to impact the field of translational research in neurodegenerative diseases of aging will also be taken into account in the overall score for research contributions (weight – 15% for each).*

- 2) What evidence of leadership has the nominee displayed? (e.g., has the nominee contributed significantly to the mentorship and training of the next generation of researchers (e.g., graduate students, post-docs) in the field? Has the nominee used leadership positions in the field to spur those organizations to unusual levels of achievement? Has the nominee established or led

international consortiums or collaborative projects to accelerate research in the field?) (**max. 200 words**)

- 3) Compared to peers and other potential nominees, why are the nominee's work particularly distinctive? (**max. 200 words**)
- 4) What societal contributions and evidence of citizenship has the nominee had throughout their career? (e.g., does the nominee respect and acknowledge the scientific contributions of peers including those that may be in competition with him/her? Is the nominee collaborative (e.g. actively shares resources)? Has the nominee demonstrated an exceptional level of empathy and concern for patients and families through efforts at improving their quality of life? Has the nominee worked to advance disease awareness and patient education?) (**max. 200 words**)

### **SECTION C: Supporting documentation**

Please provide a list of the nominee's top 10 high impact publications from the past 15 years that support the case for nomination. Please provide full citations with PMID and hyperlinks (**max. 2 pages**).

After a nomination is submitted, **the Institute will contact the nominee** to submit a curriculum vitae (CV) (**max. 10 pages**), two letters of reference, and a standard release form. The CV should include a section (**max. 1 page**) describing ongoing and future research programs/plans, as well as a list of recent funding that will ensure said research can be carried out in the next few years.