



## PROGRAM DETAILS

### Weston Brain Institute Outstanding Achievement Award 2017

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Neurodegenerative diseases of aging are among the least understood and most undertreated diseases. Diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and frontotemporal dementia are placing a large and increasing burden on society. If ignored, the costs to manage these diseases will rise ten-fold within a generation.

The Weston Brain Institute (the "Institute") accelerates the development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging by supporting translational research. It does this by addressing gaps and inefficiencies in the funding market by supporting high-risk, high-reward projects independent of commercial potential, while leveraging world-class business and scientific expertise in a fast and flexible granting process.

The Institute's programs in the UK and the Netherlands are supported by the Selfridges Group Foundation. The Institute was founded by The W. Garfield Weston Foundation, which supports the Institute's Canadian programs. The Selfridges Group consists of Brown Thomas and Arnotts in Ireland, Holt Renfrew in Canada, Selfridges in the UK and de Bijenkorf in the Netherlands.

#### Section 1 Award overview

The award recognizes an exceptional investigator who, in the field of translational research to accelerate the development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging, has made exceptional advances in research in particular in the past 15 years, demonstrated remarkable leadership, and is likely to make substantial scientific contributions to the field in the next 5-10 years. The awardee should also have made positive societal contributions and have a record of impeccable citizenship in the research community.

The award consists of a £25,000 prize supported by the Selfridges Group. If the awardee is appointed at a public benefit organization, the award may be provided through that institution.

The awardee will be honored at an award presentation in London, UK in July 2017. All travel expenses for the awardee to attend the event will be covered by the Institute.

#### Section 2 Evaluation criteria

Nominees that meet all eligibility requirements (*please refer to Section 4 – Eligibility of Nominees and Nominators*) 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

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The Weston Brain Institute welcomes any inquiries concerning this program announcement. Please contact Cristina Tang at [cristina.tang@weston.ca](mailto:cristina.tang@weston.ca) or +1 416-935-5356.

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 past and future contributions).

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 3 [Application process](#)

Nominators submit a nomination through the Institute's online grants management system (<https://weston.smartsimple.ca/welcome/neuroscience>) by **April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017**.

The Institute will then contact the nominee to submit a curriculum vitae (CV), two letters of reference, and a standard release form.

Completed applications (nomination form, CV, two reference letters, release form) submitted no later than **April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017** will be prescreened for eligibility and then reviewed by the Institute's award jury.

The nominee selected for an award will be contacted in late June 2017 to confirm acceptance of the award. The awardee must be able to accept the award in person in London, UK in July 2017, and participate fully in award activities, including media conferences, ceremonies and other promotional initiatives as requested. The awardee must also be able to allow his/her photograph and public information to be used for publicity and promotional purposes by the Institute. If the award is turned down or the selected recipient is no longer eligible (e.g., unable to attend the award ceremony), the nominee is required to keep the notice of their selection confidential. An awardee accepting the award is required to keep the results of the competition confidential until an official award announcement is made by the Institute.

The Institute, at its sole discretion, may change the timeline of the application process.

## Section 4 Eligibility of Nominees and Nominators

To be eligible, the nominee must

- Have made exceptional contributions in translational research that have accelerated the development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging, in particular in the past 15 years. *Please note that this is NOT a lifetime achievement award.*
- Be presently leading or performing translational research on neurodegenerative diseases of aging as part of a full-time position.
- Be working in the UK >50% of the time.
- Be working at or above the lecturer (assistant professor or equivalent) level if holding an academic position or equivalent.
- Have performed >50% of relevant research and leadership contributions in the UK.
- Have positive recommendations for citizenship in the research community and societal contributions.

The following are not eligible:

- Those who have retired, including those who have Emeritus status.
- Those who do not anticipate having a full-time position for the next 5 years.
- Those who are not likely to be engaged in translational research to accelerate the development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging for the next 5 years.
- Past recipients of this award.
- Self-nominations.

Anyone (in the UK or elsewhere, "Nominator") can nominate an individual ("Nominee").

**Institute definitions:**

Neurodegenerative diseases of aging:

- 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.*

**Translational research:** 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).

**Therapeutic:** 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.

**Tools:** 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.

## Section 5 Confidentiality

The Institute will keep the nominator's recommendation and letters of reference confidential.

Other information in the application to this Program may be used by the Institute and the award jury for its review and assessment of this application and for publicity or promotional purposes.

## Section 6 Other

### ***Liability and Indemnity***

Each nominee and nominator pursuant to this Program acknowledges and agrees in responding to the Program announcement that the nominee and nominator shall have no claim against the Institute, and its respective representatives, related companies or affiliates, should such Program response be unsuccessful for any reason. Each nominee and nominator hereby remises and releases the Institute, its representatives and affiliates, from any cause of action, complaint, or claim in connection with the RFA process and its outcome.

The Institute's role in this Program is that of a funder. The Institute is not the sponsor of funded projects. As such, the Institute will not assume any liability associated with funded projects and each awardee who is ultimately awarded pursuant to this Program releases the Institute from any and all liability with respect thereto and further indemnifies the Institute, and its respective representatives and affiliates, from any claim or loss whatsoever associated with the applicable award.

### ***Other***

The Institute reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications at its discretion and to negotiate the terms of the specific award agreement with the awardee and his/her affiliated institution.

The Institute may, at its discretion, split the award between two or more individuals.

The submission of an application does not bind, either, the Institute, the nominee, or the nominee affiliated institution, by any commitment to provide or receive the award, respectively.