



Call for Applications for

**"EXCELLENT PAPER IN NEUROSCIENCE"
AWARD 2021**

With the thematic focus on Biomarkers

Submission deadline for applications: October 30 2021

For further information:

<http://www.neuron-eranet.eu>

or contact

Mr. Maxime Beaudoin

at:

ERA-NET NEURON EPNA Joint Call Secretariat
Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS)

Email: Maxime.Beaudoin@frq.gouv.qc.ca



1. General call description

The ERA-NET NEURON partner countries are issuing the EXCELLENT PAPER IN NEUROSCIENCE AWARD to recognize the remarkable and outstanding scientific publications by early-career researchers in the field of disease-related, translational, neurosciences. **Sole First author** of **original research articles** published between **January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020** and affiliated with the call partner countries are eligible to apply. The deadline for proposal submission is **October 30, 2021**.

The Excellent Paper in Neuroscience Award 2021 focuses on Biomarkers. The article should contribute progress in the development and validation of reliable biomarkers for the diagnosis, patient stratification, prognosis, monitoring and prediction of treatment response and side effects in neurological and psychiatric diseases.

An award of EUR 3 000 will be granted to the best proposal. The winner will be invited as an “Excellent Paper in Neuroscience” special lecturer during the [FENS Forum](#) taking place in Paris, France, on July 12, 2022. ERA-NET NEURON will cover the award and travel costs related to the lecture.

Call Partner Countries (23): Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom.

2. Aim of the call

Currently ERA-NET NEURON (the Network of European Funding for Neuroscience Research) links 27 national research funding programs and organizations in the field of disease-related neurosciences in Europe, Israel, Turkey, Taiwan and Canada. The EXCELLENT PAPER IN NEUROSCIENCE AWARD will emphasize the importance of neuroscience and will contribute to integrating the neuroscience research community. The award is designed as a form of support and encouragement for researchers at the early stage of their career.

3. Eligibility

The application must fulfil the following criteria:

Author:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <u>sole first Author</u> in the proposed publication. Shared first authorships are not considered for the award. • The Author must have been affiliated with a call partner country at the time of publication (list of eligible countries above). • Pre- doctoral and postdoctoral early career researches until a maximum of three years from a PhD or an equivalent degree¹ at the date of publication. • Eligible breaks include parental leaves, long-term illness and national service. Concerning parental leave, national rules apply, or 12 months per child, whichever is the greatest.
----------------	---

¹ [Equivalent degrees to the PhD](#) may vary from a different country. A Medical degree alone is not sufficient. In addition, a minimum formation in research (M.Sc. or Ph.D.) is required or proof of an appointment that requires doctoral equivalency (e.g. post-doctoral fellowship, professorship appointment).



Publication:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Award period: published between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020.• Affiliation of the <i>sole first Author</i> with a call partner country as stated in the publication.• Article published in open access or available via open access publication repository is encouraged.• Original research article published in an international peer review journal.• Topic of the article must be clearly relevant to disease-related, translational, neurosciences and it must fall into one of the following two categories:<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Fundamental research addressing the discovery and validation of biomarkers to be used as bio signatures of the pathophysiology associated with specific neurological and psychiatric diseases.b) Clinical research on clinically relevant biomarkers for the diagnosis, patient stratification, prognosis or monitoring or prediction of treatment response and side effects for specific neurological and psychiatric diseases.
---------------------	--

4. Application

Eligible early-career researchers may submit a proposal for the EXCELLENT PAPER IN NEUROSCIENCE AWARD. The proposal must be submitted electronically using the on-line form available through the [NEURON web page](#). Both pre- and postdoctoral early-career researchers working in ERA-NET NEURON partner countries are encouraged to apply.

Applications **are only accepted from the sole first author of an original research article**. The on-line application must include the following information bundled in one single PDF format attachment.

- 1) Introduction (minimum font size 11, Arial/Calibri/Times or comparable) including the following:
 - Application form (of the first author)
 - One-page short biosketch of the author
 - One-page summary addressing the significance of the work
 - A pitch of not more than 250 characters (including spaces) describing the research focus of the article and the applicant's role in it.
- 2) PDF of the original research article

The deadline for applications is **October 30, 2021**. Applications must be sent by email to the [ERA-NET NEURON EPNA joint call secretariat](#) (see details in the application form) by 5:00 PM (UTC-GMT). Incomplete or late applications will be automatically rejected.

5. Evaluation

ERA-NET NEURON partners will select the proposals upon consultation of high-level scientists in the neuroscience field. The proposals will be evaluated as a whole based on the following criteria:

- ✓ theoretical approach and scientific quality
- ✓ novelty and innovativeness of research
- ✓ scientific and societal impact for the area.



- ✓ Contribution of the ECR to the research discovery

The aforementioned criteria should be reflected through the different sections of the proposal.

Based on the evaluation, the highest-ranked proposal will be awarded the prize.

6. Management

The ERA-NET NEURON EPNA Joint Call Secretariat together with the national funding agencies will be responsible for the management of the evaluation process.

The Joint Call Secretariat will inform the applicants about the decisions individually by the end of January 2022.

7. Award Presentation

The winner will be invited to give an “Excellent Paper in Neuroscience Award” special lecture during the [FENS Forum](#) taking place in Paris, France, 12th of July 2022. The award and travel costs related to the lecture will be covered by ERA-NET NEURON. The winner may also be invited to present in ERA-NET NEURON events and contribute to the planning of the future support activities of the early-career researchers (ECR) or other activities within the NEURON network.

8. Extended Call Schedule

• Announcement of the call	Early October
• Deadline for proposal submission	October 30, 2021
• Evaluation of the proposals	November-December 2021
• Decisions and information about the evaluation results	Late January 2021
• Award Presentation Ceremony	July 2022

9. National Contact points

For further information, follow the links below or contact your national representative:

Table 1: List of all the eligible countries for this call

Country	Contact person	Contact information
Belgium (Flanders)	Dr. Kristen Peeters Mr. Toon Monbaliu	Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO) eranet@fwo.be www.fwo.be
Belgium (French-speaking community)	Dr. Florence Quist	Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique – FNRS (F.R.S.-FNRS) florence.quist@frs-fnrs.be www.frs-fnrs.be



Country	Contact person	Contact information
Canada (Québec)	Mr. Maxime Beaudoin	Fonds de recherche du Québec - Santé (FRQS) Maxime.Beaudoin@frq.gouv.qc.ca http://www.frqs.gouv.qc.ca
Croatia	Mr. Mateo Ante Bosnić	Ministarstvo Znanosti I Obrazovanja (MZO) MateoAnte.Bosnic@mzo.hr https://mzo.gov.hr/en
Estland Estonia	Mr. Argo Soon	Eesti Teadusagentuur (Estonian Research Council, ETAG) Argo.Soon@etag.ee www.etag.ee
Finland	Dr. Aki Salo	Academy of Finland (AKA) aki.salo@aka.fi www.aka.fi
France	Dr. Sheyla Mejia Gervacio	National Research Agency (ANR) Health & Biology Department Sheyla.mejia@anr.fr www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr
	Prof. Dr. Bernard Poulain	Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) bernard.poulain@cnrs-dir.fr http://www.cnrs.fr/
	Prof. Dr. Etienne Hirsch	INSERM etienne.hirsch@upmc.fr www.inserm.fr
Germany	Dr. Christina Müller	German Programme Management Health Research (DLR-PT) chr.meueller@dlr.de www.gesundheitsforschung-bmbf.de
Greece	Georgia Kostopoulou	General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT) g.kostopoulou@gsrt.gr www.gsrt.gr
Hungary	Klára Horváth	National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH) klara.horvath@nkfi.gov.hu nkfi.gov.hu/palyazoknak



Country	Contact person	Contact information
Ireland	Dr. Amanda Daly	Health Research Board (HRB) Amanda.Daly@hrb.ie https://www.hrb.ie/
Israel	Dr. Liron Even-Faitelson	Chief Scientist Office, Ministry of Health (CSO-MOH) liron.ef@moh.gov.il www.health.gov.il
Italy	Dr. Cinzia Kutschera	Ministero della Salute (IT-MOH) c.kutschera@sanita.it www.ministerosalute.it/
Latvia	Dr. Uldis Berkis	State Education Development Agency (VIAA) uldis.berkis@rsu.lv www.lza.lv
Norway	Dr. Alexandra Bjørk-Skaflestad	The Research Council of Norway (RCN) alb@forskningsradet.no www.forskningsradet.no
Poland	Dr. Marcin Chmielewski	National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR) marcin.chmielewski@ncbr.gov.pl www.ncbr.gov.pl
Portugal	Dr. Anabela Isidro	Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT) Anabela.Isidro@fct.pt www.fct.pt
Romania	Prof. Dr. Leon Zagrean	CAROL DAVILA University of Medicine and Pharmacy/Neuroscience (UEFISCDI) leon.zagrean@uefiscdi.ro www.uefiscdi.gov.ro
Slovakia	Dr. Zuzana Cernakova	Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS) cernakova@up.upsav.sk www.sak.sk
Spain	Mrs. Esther Chacón	Agencia Estatal de Investigación – State Research Agency (AEI) neuron@aei.gob.es http://www.aei.gob.es/



Country	Contact person	Contact information
	Mrs. Clara Martín	National Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII) c.martin@isciii.es http://www.isciii.es/
Switzerland	Dr. Carolin von Schoultz	Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF) carolin.vonschoultz@snf.ch www.snf.ch
Taiwan	Ms. Ching-Mei Tang	MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (MOST) cmtom@most.gov.tw https://www.most.gov.tw/?l=en
Turkey	Dr. Emrah Çevik	The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) emrah.cevik@tubitak.gov.tr www.tubitak.gov.tr
UK	Dr. Siv Vingill	Medical Research Council (MRC) Siv.Vingill@mrc.ukri.org www.mrc.ac.uk