



**INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM
JUNE 2021 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT
(December 2020 – June 2021)**

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INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM JUNE 2021 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT (December 2020 – June 2021)

The purpose of this Program Announcement for the June 2021 International Research Grant Program (IRGP) is to help applicants understand the context and history of the Alzheimer's Association International Research Grant Program and to publicize high-priority areas of focus. However, applicants should not consider areas of focus restrictive—projects exploring other topics are actively encouraged, even if they fall outside the areas discussed below.

I. BACKGROUND: ASSOCIATION MISSION AND SCIENTIFIC AGENDA

The Alzheimer's Association was founded in 1980 by a small group of family members caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's disease. These individuals united in disappointment with the quality of information available to them and in dissatisfaction with the lack of medical and social awareness of this devastating condition. Two years after its founding, the fledgling organization funded its first research grant, awarding a total of about \$80,000 to a handful of investigators. Since then, the Association has grown into the largest nonprofit funder of Alzheimer's research. Today, the Alzheimer's Association leads the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support.

As the world's leading nonprofit funder of Alzheimer's and all other dementia research, the Association is currently investing over \$205 million in more than 550 projects in 31 countries. The Association supplements its own funding efforts with public policy initiatives directed toward increasing Alzheimer's and all other dementia research funding at the federal level. The Association's International Research Grant Program has served historically as an incubator for novel ideas, complementing the programs of the National Institute on Aging and the other institutes of the National Institutes of Health as well as other federal agencies around the world. As our funding initiative has grown and matured, grant categories have expanded to support researchers at every stage in their careers. Funded projects now explore the broadest possible spectrum of biological approaches to understanding, preventing and treating Alzheimer's and all other dementia; social and behavioral strategies for ameliorating the effects of dementia on individuals and their families and professional caregivers; clinical studies; and adaptive technologies.

II. AREAS OF FOCUS

Areas of focus are high-priority research areas in which the Association actively seeks proposals. **The areas are defined broadly, and the examples cited are not intended to preclude or constrain other projects or proposals.** Potential applicants are strongly

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encouraged to submit proposals in their own areas of interest or formulate questions different from those presented in this announcement. Innovative and novel ideas to address challenges in research are the core of the Association's scientific program.

A. RESEARCH IN DIVERSE POPULATIONS

Results of the 2000 census confirm that the overall population of the United States is rapidly becoming more diverse. However, the language and techniques often used to characterize diverse populations fail to reflect the true richness of origin, culture, and genetic variation represented in our society. This failure is well illustrated by the following excerpt: "Today, discussion of cultural diversity—ethnicity—most often identifies four major U.S. ethnic subgroups: African Americans (Blacks), Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (or Pan Asian populations), American Indians and Alaska Natives, and Hispanics (or Latinos). Indeed, the term 'Asian Americans' represents more than 50 distinct linguistic groups. African Americans include persons who trace their roots to Africa, who were born in Africa, or who were born in the Caribbean Islands. Hispanics count more than 25 different countries of national origin. American Indians and Alaska Natives encompass over 500 federally recognized tribes and groups, with at least 30 different languages." (From *The Fourth Report of the Advisory Panel on Alzheimer's Disease, 1992: A Report to the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*; NIH Publication 03-3520.)

As the general population reflects a richer ethnic mix, subpopulations of older adults and those at risk for Alzheimer's and all other dementia are also growing more diverse. These extraordinarily rapid demographic changes are forcing organizations to re-evaluate whether they have sufficient knowledge of all groups within their potential clientele to deliver programs and services effectively. The Alzheimer's Association has concluded that there are significant information and data deficits about ethnic and cultural groups in most major research areas in Alzheimer's and all other dementia. These include screening and neuropsychological testing instruments; diagnostic procedures; recruitment and retention in research protocols and clinical trials; clinical and neuropathological correlative studies; caregiving and family studies; basic laboratory investigations; genetics projects; development of new models of long-term care and management of these services; epidemiological and health services research; and the economics of care.

Our understanding of Alzheimer's and all other dementia is limited by the characteristics of the people who have traditionally been included in investigations. There is a need for basic sociological and anthropological data about Alzheimer's and all other dementia, families and caregiving in specific cultural, social, and regional contexts to provide a working platform for effective service, education and program delivery. To fill these gaps in knowledge, projects must address the following issues:

i. Socioeconomic status

- What is the effect of high or low socioeconomic status on Alzheimer's and all other dementia and its meaning in diverse populations?
- How can services for people with Alzheimer's and all other dementia and their

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families be developed to most effectively reach a large range of socioeconomic levels and people from minority-groups?

- What is the best method to convey information about Alzheimer's and all other dementia to specific diverse groups?

ii. Values and beliefs

- How do values and beliefs shape receptivity to and perceptions about community-based and institutional services for cognitive impairment and dementia? How do values, beliefs, and perceptions vary among groups?
- How do the beliefs about Alzheimer's and all other dementia and normal aging encourage or prevent use of services?
- How must services and programs respond to be effective in the face of values and beliefs?

iii. Role of the family and community

- In specific diverse groups, how does the role of family differ in the long-term care of older members with dementia?
- How does the decision-making process differ in these groups?
- Is it necessary to understand family dynamics before planning interventions and services?

iv. Geographical and regional variation

- How do these factors affect the development and provision of services and programs?
- How do they interact with socioeconomic status and minority group membership in majority locales?

v. Interactions among factors

- How do socioeconomic status, values, beliefs, and the role of the family interact to influence care and service delivery to people with Alzheimer's and all other dementia and their families?
- What are the geographical and regional differences that could account for variations within minority populations?

vi. Incidence, prevalence, and risk factors

- What key epidemiological information remains unknown in certain defined ethnic and cultural groups?
- How can we better quantify the public health implications of Alzheimer's and all other dementia in order to support the development of necessary programs and services?
- How can we obtain reliable and valid data on the distribution of the disease in the U.S. and throughout the world in diverse populations?

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vii. Tools and measurements for epidemiological data collection

- How can we develop assessment tools that are both valid and reliable for specific ages, genders, cultures, languages, ethnic groups, and education levels?
- How can we standardize test norms by age and gender for specific ethnic groups by taking into account language, education level, and literacy within a given population while still accounting for educational equivalency between cultures and countries of origin?
- What steps can be taken to correct misleading interpretations due to norms derived from majority group data being misapplied to minority groups, especially for those with little or no formal education.

In many cases, adequate tools for detection and monitoring do not exist. The lack of such robust research instruments inhibit epidemiological investigations and limit the conduct of behavioral, social and clinical studies. Tools and strategies are needed to address these deficiencies. Although very large population studies fall outside the funding scope of the Alzheimer's Association, smaller, well-designed studies can effectively address a number of the information and instrument gaps that must be filled.

viii. Recruitment and retention efforts

- Which programs that are successful in the recruitment, enrollment, and retention of cultural group members can be cross-validated with other cultural groups and in different geographic areas to determine their broad-based usefulness in research?
- Under what circumstances are individual or local community-rooted approaches more effective than large mass media or marketing approaches, particularly for clinical trials?
- How do specific, clearly defined cultural groups differ from one another in the acceptability of various approaches and methods of contact?
- What difference does the cultural identity of the investigator make in successful identification, recruitment, enrollment and retention of specific cultural group members in clinical studies?
- Does it enhance long-term successful retention to have investigators who are of the same cultural group as the people to be recruited or is it adequate that the investigator be culturally competent?
- What does it mean to be culturally competent for the purposes of Alzheimer's research?
- What are the real and perceived barriers to participation in Alzheimer's and all other dementia research in specific cultural groups and how can these barriers be overcome?

There is a need to initiate a program of hypothesis-driven research to determine the efficacy of specific methods to enlist and retain ethnic minority and cultural group members in Alzheimer's and all other dementia research.

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B. SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL FOCUS

Social and behavioral research has the potential to increase our understanding of the effects of Alzheimer's and all other dementia on individuals, their families and other caregivers. At the same time, it can increase our knowledge about interventions that improve care practices, health, functional and emotional outcomes and quality of life, as well as prevent or reduce symptoms for millions of individuals and their families.

It is important to consider the influence of socioeconomic status, cultural and ethnic diversity, health/lifestyle practices, stigma and family attitudes about seeking care, availability of services and regional variation when proposing research about social and behavioral issues. Alzheimer's and all other dementia as well as those living with dementia are heterogeneous. Research into understanding these factors and how they might influence treatment outcomes (both in pharmacological and non-pharmacological trials) as well as the natural course of the disease are needed.

In addition, earlier detection and diagnosis are increasing the number of individuals identified with early-stage dementia. The characteristics and care needs of diagnosed individuals and their families in early, middle and late stages of Alzheimer's and all other dementia differ greatly. Social and behavioral research proposals should consider these differences in the design of proposed studies and the translation of findings from research into practice.

A wide range of questions in the social and behavioral arenas are applicable for research. The answers to these questions, if broadly applied, would improve the quality of daily life for people with Alzheimer's and all other dementia and their families. The questions under each domain are provided as examples to facilitate the development of more specific research questions. Each investigator is encouraged to tailor his or her question to particular populations.

i. Person with dementia

- How can the experience of the person with dementia be characterized throughout the disease course to provide insight into areas such as decision-making capacity, quality of life and advance planning?
- How can the perspective of the person early in the disease process help shape decisions and care?
- Do personal or social factors influence the experience of the person with dementia in important and measurable ways?

Over time, we have been able to gain an understanding of the experience of the person with dementia. This can be attributed to such things as people in the early stages speaking and writing about their experiences and the development of individualized approaches to care.

ii. Physical and social environment

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- What characteristics of one's physical and social environment contribute to an individual's quality of life? How do these characteristics change through the course of illness?
- What are the components of a supportive environment in the home or residential care setting for someone with cognitive impairment? How do these components change through the course of illness?

Environmental design for persons with dementia is a multi-dimensional construct that purports to satisfy the need for autonomy, dignity, safety, comfort and community as well as enhance one's mobility, cognition and memory. We need to gain a better understanding of the specific dimensions of the environment, as well as their interaction, and how they produce desired outcomes.

iii. Family and household

- What unique problems are encountered by families of persons with various types of dementia (e.g., early-onset dementia), and what interventions, services and policies are needed to mitigate those problems?
- How are these problems affected by the characteristics (e.g., socioeconomic status, culture and ethnicity, region of the country) of the families?
- What interventions can improve communication among family caregivers, persons with dementia and their health and long-term care providers and have a positive effect on care and outcomes?
- What effect do family attitudes about dementia have on the self-image and functioning of persons with dementia?

The family of a person with dementia often plays a critical role in providing care and navigating the health and long-term care systems. Although caregiving has been studied intensively, there is still a need to understand how best to support the families that provide care and enhance (or ameliorate) the impact on the family.

iv. Identification and evaluation of services and interventions

- What interventions or programs are most likely to have positive effects for people with Alzheimer's and all other dementia and/or their families in the community?
- What interventions or programs are most likely to have positive impact on people with cognitive impairment and dementia and the staff providing care in residential care settings?
- What characteristics of programs and services render them most acceptable to people with the illness and their families?
- What are the most effective strategies to motivate physicians and other health care providers to improve the quality of care they provide to people with dementia in clinical and long-term care settings?
- How can we translate programs developed in research settings to be effectively delivered in the community?

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- What are the best strategies for effectively sustaining improved practices – either in the home or care setting?

v. Health policy

- What techniques should be used to determine consumer preferences for and satisfaction with their health and long-term care when the consumers have dementia?
- What techniques should publicly funded programs use to identify and properly care for people with dementia, including those with multiple chronic conditions?

Research can guide the adoption of policies that reshape systems of support in the home, community, health and long-term care settings. Researchers and policy makers together must ensure that public and private policies respond to the unique needs of those with dementia.

vi. Behavioral modifications to help maintain cognitive function

- How do lifestyle factors and behaviors interact with biological mechanisms in maintaining cognitive function?
- What are effective information sharing strategies about prevention and about the potential benefits of changing behaviors?

vii. Implementation and dissemination of knowledge

- What strategies are effective for getting the science of prevention and treatment out to the general public?
- How can we measure and evaluate public response to (or acceptance of) such information?
- How can we measure and evaluate people's use of the information to change important behaviors?
- What help do people need to support important lifestyle changes?
- How can the effect of these strategies be measured in relation to their impact on cognitive decline?

With the development of novel interventions and the investigation of these interventions in scientifically valid ways, strategies for disseminating them must be established. Studies must bridge the gap between what has been demonstrated empirically and the daily care practices for people with cognitive impairment and dementia. Often, lack of knowledge about what constitutes a successful intervention hinders the transfer of the technique to everyday care settings. The research world is fragmented and disseminates its findings in ways that are not easily or routinely available to various audiences. Finding ways to meet this challenge and getting the information out to those who need it is essential.

C. COGNITIVE AND FUNCTIONAL FOCUS

By definition, dementia impacts cognitive function and day-to-day abilities. It is important to understand the nature of these changes, as well as their biological basis. This can lead to

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better diagnoses, potential targets for treatment, and better understanding of the disease itself. There are several themes that are considered important foci of potential proposals, including but not limited to:

i. Cognitive/functional profiles

- What are the distinct cognitive/functional profiles between the different forms of dementia?
- How early can we begin to detect cognitive/functional changes?

ii. Tools and measures

- How can we develop and validate tools and measurements that will aid in adding diagnosis and testing during clinical trials?

iii. Biological correlates of cognition/function

- What are the biological underpinnings of cognitive change?
- Can correlations be made from imaging measures (such as: brain volume, cortical thickness, white matter hyperintensities, regional cerebral blood flow, brain amyloid) with cognitive and functional changes?
- Do cognitive and functional changes correlate with biological markers measured from blood or CSF?

iv. Ethical implications

- How do cognitive changes interfere with the ability to provide consent?
- What impact does cognitive changes have on medical and/or financial decision-making?
- How can we explore whether the ability to recognize that a cognitive deficit exists (metacognition) and how the impacts legal, medical, or financial decision-making?

v. Application of cognitive neuroscience

- What approaches can be applied from cognitive neuroscience to better understand and characterize cognitive/functional changes?
- What measures can be used to help identify the functional brain changes underlying cognitive/functional change?

D. BIOLOGICAL FOCUS

Although vast advances have been made in Alzheimer's research, the field still faces a great number of serious impediments to progress in translating basic science discoveries into effective treatments and evidence-based clinical practices for dementia. Some of the many challenges that remain for investigators to address include:

i. Cause(s) of Alzheimer's and other dementias

- *How do specific sets of neurons in select brain structures become dysfunctional?*

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- *What causes selective neuronal death in specific brain regions and not in others?*
- *What factors initiate these processes, and what are key steps in the cascade leading to cell death?*
- *How do genetics interact with other factors to influence these processes?*
- *What factors tip the balance between effective removal and/or accumulation of toxins from the brain?*
- *How do risk factors interact with one another and how are they associated with the brain changes seen in disease?*

The primary neuropathological events in Alzheimer's and all other dementia involve aberrant formation of pathologic protein species. Advances in molecular biology have provided the tools needed to unravel the mechanisms of synthesis, trafficking and accumulation of these proteins in the brain. Research in this area has begun to produce promising leads about the role of these proteins in neural function, dysfunction, and cell death and to suggest strategies to correct this molecular damage. Although these insights into the neurobiology of the disease have generated a number of ideas, the precise etiology of the disease is still not known. While there are many theories on possible mechanisms of neural dysfunction and/or cell death, critical questions remain unanswered.

None of these theories has been validated by crucial experiments designed to demonstrate the functional relationship(s) between characteristic molecular aberrations and the clinical manifestations of the disease. One of the most difficult challenges for the field is to link the perspectives of investigators inhabiting two totally different worlds: those who view Alzheimer's and all other dementia through the prism of molecular/neuropathological events and those who know it through its behavioral and clinical manifestations.

The precise relationships between the clinical symptomatology and the neuropathology of the disease are not well defined. There is a critical need to understand not only the presumptive causal links between the neurobiology and clinical course of the disease but also the mechanisms for the heterogeneity of presentation. These mechanisms may vary widely and may influence differential diagnosis and differences in adverse events/responses to treatments.

ii. Early and Accurate Detection and Diagnosis

- *What are the most sensitive, specific and cost-effective diagnostic procedures?*
- *What are the most sensitive, specific and cost-effective procedures for assessing change through the course of the disease?*
- *How accurate are specific biomarkers across diverse racial and ethnic groups?*

Several converging lines of evidence suggest that the neurodegenerative processes associated with dementia begin several years before the first clinical features can be detected with current instruments. Although clinical information can be gleaned from longitudinal studies, even these data are usually obtained in the middle to later stages of

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the disease when some of the cognitive and behavioral signs appear. As a result, there is little or no information on manifestations of the disease during its earliest preclinical stages or the very earliest behaviors of individuals at risk. These gaps result from the lack of appropriate technologies for non-invasive observation and early detection of the disease. Finding sensitive and specific markers will become even more important as pressure increases to develop very early treatments, especially if these early interventions have the potential for harmful side effects, it is crucial that they be targeted appropriately. Thus, there is an urgent need to find accurate biological markers of the disease, including improved imaging techniques and more sensitive cognitive and behavioral assessment instruments.

Well-tested biological markers for Alzheimer's and all other dementia are not the only critical need—investigators are also encouraged to explore the observational and subjective perspective that family members, care providers and people with the illness can provide about the very earliest events. The observations of family members, nurses, social workers and other care providers have already provided some important insights about early cognitive and behavioral events. Importantly, we must consider that biomarker profiles may not be identical across all groups and should be closely assessed.

iii. Treatment

- *What are the most effective and safe pharmacological treatment strategies, behavioral management techniques, and combinations of therapies?*

Research on interventions is poised for a revolution and we must leave no stone left unturned. Dramatic advances in understanding the neurobiology of Alzheimer's—including elucidation of many genetic and molecular mechanisms involved in the disease—have provided numerous promising leads for drug development. It is now generally agreed that the most critical neurobiological events underlying the behavioral problems and clinical manifestations of the disease concern dysfunctions in nerve cell signal transduction, loss of synapses, and premature cell death. Until recently, strategies for developing interventions focused primarily on symptomatic treatments for middle and late stages of the disease. It is anticipated that as new therapeutic targets are discovered, it will be possible to improve the quality of signal transduction and the ability of nerve cells to communicate. As even more is learned about the neurobiology of Alzheimer's and all other dementia, there will be greater reliance on techniques to design specific molecules aimed at correcting a particular cellular dysfunction. Some important therapeutic approaches should involve the discovery of interventions aimed at preventing premature cell death and restoring or prolonging the function of surviving damaged nerve cells.

Until effective pharmacological treatments are discovered, family and facility-based care providers must rely on a variety of behavioral and social interventions to assist in managing symptoms and maintaining the highest quality of life for people with dementia. The development and testing of new social and behavioral interventions, in the appropriate cultural context, is a priority and is discussed under Social/ Behavioral Research and Cognitive/Functional Focus.

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iv. Reduced Risk and Prevention

- *What are the prospects and strategies for reduced risk or prevention?*

One of the most important priorities is research on strategies to reduce risk or prevent Alzheimer's and all other dementia. This is rooted in the severe effects of the diseases on individuals and their families, the very large number of people with the illnesses and the anticipated growth of these numbers with the aging of populations around the world. Developing effective strategies will bring significant benefit in reducing the economic and social costs, preserving the economic productivity of those who are or will be family caregivers, and lessening the impact on the health care system.

Research into basic disease mechanisms can have immense benefit for development of strategies to reduce risk or improve prevention, but there is not always a tight link between understanding the mechanisms of a disease and preventing it. In fact, highly successful prevention efforts have been designed and conducted under circumstances in which disease mechanisms were understood poorly, or not at all.

v. Risk Factors

- *What are the characteristics, either genetic or acquired, that increase the risk of Alzheimer's and all other dementia or conversely, offer protection against disease or delay it's onset?*
- *How do the risk factors vary among specific diverse populations?*
- *Which risk factors are modifiable, and when in life does intervention have greatest impact?*

Epidemiological studies reveal growing evidence that most cases of Alzheimer's and all other dementia likely involve a combination of genetic and environmental risk factors. Identifying and validating these risk factors remains one of the most critical scientific challenges. For instance, the potential link between cerebral blood vessel disease and Alzheimer's is one promising area of research. The broader implication is the hypothesis that systemic vascular factors are risk factors for developing Alzheimer's and all other dementia. This risk encompasses different forms of cardiovascular disease, including coronary artery disease, carotid atherosclerosis, history of hypertension or high cholesterol, Type II diabetes and stroke or transient ischemic attacks.

vi. SARS-CoV2

- *What are the short- and long-term impacts of SARS-CoV2 on the brain?*
- *What are the downstream mechanisms of COVID-19 that may lead to lasting neurological complications?*

The novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV2), was first identified in Wuhan, China in early 2020 before rapidly spreading around the world creating a global pandemic. While COVID-19 is primarily a respiratory disease, several studies suggest that SARS-CoV2 infection is associated with neurological complications, including temporary confusion, encephalitis, stroke, and seizures. SARS-CoV2 has been found in post-mortem brains although the

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mechanisms by which SARS-CoV2 can penetrate the brain have yet to be identified. Due to the novelty of this particular coronavirus there is scarcity of data on its impact on the central nervous system and if those interactions and consequences have different outcomes in an aged brain – whether normal or diseased.

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III. KEY DATES, PROGRAM SUMMARY, GENERAL INFORMATION

Letter of Intent Launch	December 8, 2020
Letter of Intent Deadline*	January 13, 2021 5:00 PM EST
Letter of Intent Notifications	Week of February 22, 2021
Application Deadline*	March 31, 2021 5:00 PM EST
Application Review	April – June 2021
Award Notifications	August 31, 2021

*The Letter of Intent and Application must be received by **5:00 PM EST** on their respective deadlines. **Late submissions will not be accepted – no exceptions.**

Grant Competition	AARG	AARG-Diversity	AARG-NTF	AARG-Diversity-NTF	AARF*	AARF-Diversity*	AACSF*	AACSF-Diversity*
Maximum per year:	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Maximum per award:	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$155,000*	\$155,000*	\$155,000*	\$155,000*
Duration:	2-3 years	2-3 years	2-3 years	2-3 years	2-3 years	2-3 years	2-3 years	2-3 years

*Fellowship awards (AARF, AARF-D, AACSF, AACSF-D) also include two \$10,000 research stipends, one for the Fellow and one for the Primary Mentor. These research stipends are not guaranteed and are awarded only upon successful conclusion of the award and accomplishing the Fellowship Benchmarks. These stipends (\$20,000 total) are not to be factored into the billable budget grant total (max \$155,000); they are to be used for on-going research-related purposes after completion of the grant.

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All 2021 Alzheimer's Association International Research Grant Programs share Section I (Background), Section II (Areas of Focus), Section III (Key dates & Scientific Categories), and Section IV (General Considerations), as each of these sections provides information that is common across all programs. Section V (Specific Grant Programs) of this program announcement provides additional information that is unique to each individual competition, including: program objectives, funding and award period, eligibility, receipt and award dates, mechanism of award, reporting requirements and allowable costs.

A. SCIENTIFIC CATEGORIES OF PROPOSALS

Each proposal must be submitted to a specific grant competition. Additionally, proposals must be classified according to the five broad categories of scientific inquiry listed below, along with sample areas of topic within each. The Association recognizes that multiple categories may describe your project; however, we ask that you select the most applicable categorization.

1. Social and behavioral research

Research in diverse populations; assessment of novel approaches to care and support diagnosed individuals and caregivers; special needs of early-stage and early-onset individuals; analysis of the impact of the physical and social environment; evaluation of services and interventions; quality of life; ethical issues; and health policy.

2. Clinical investigations

Projects in which the majority of data is derived directly from studies involving active participation of human subjects. Examples include pilot studies of new therapies; neuropsychological testing; drug administration; biomarker collection; imaging technology; and risk factors including genetics, cardiovascular issues, diabetes and metabolic factors and lifestyle issues. *In vitro* projects conducted in human samples should be categorized as basic biology (the category below) rather than clinical investigations.

3. Basic biology

These are bench science projects involving *in vitro* or animal work pertaining to the causes of dementia; early and accurate detection and diagnosis; animal models; treatments; and prevention. Please note that *in vitro* work involving human samples falls into this category.

4. Adaptive technology

Research focusing on the use of emerging technologies and their clinical and social implications, including mobile computing, high-bandwidth sensing, "smart" environments, robotics, imaging, face recognition, natural language processing and behavioral monitoring for early detection.

5. Cognitive/ functional

Research focusing on identification of cognitive/functional profiles, development of better measures for diagnosis, identification of neural/biological correlates of cognition/function, investigation of how cognitive and functional changes impact on medical, legal, and day-to-day issues; and the use of the cognitive neuroscience approach to better understand and characterize cognitive/functional changes.

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B. ELIGIBILITY AND INELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To avoid disqualification, investigators are encouraged to carefully consider these eligibility and ineligibility requirements before applying. The Alzheimer's Association reserves the right to find an investigator ineligible to submit for a particular program, based on the guidelines below. This section describes general inclusion and exclusion criteria. Specific requirements and additional exclusions to eligibility are noted in some detailed competition descriptions.

i. Eligibility

- In general, public, private, domestic and foreign research laboratories, medical centers, hospitals and universities are eligible to apply. State and federal government-appropriated laboratories in the U.S. and abroad and for-profit organizations are prohibited from serving as the applicant institution. However, state and federal government scientists can participate as collaborating scientists with research teams from other eligible applicant institutions.
- For the Letter of Intent (LOI), you will be required to upload proof of your organization's not-for-profit status. *An IRS Letter of Determination is no longer accepted* and you **must** submit either of the following:
 - a W-9 that is signed and dated by the signing official for US entities
 - a W-8 or W-8-BEN that is signed and dated by the signing official.
 - each must include the EIN, TIN or VAT number.
- For non-profit organizations (non-academic), additional documentation may be required to confirm your organization has segregation of duties between transaction execution and transaction recording.
- **The Alzheimer's Association recognizes the need to increase the number of scientists from underrepresented groups in the research enterprise. Researchers from these groups are encouraged to apply.**

ii. Ineligibility

- **Overlapping funding** of more than one Alzheimer's Association grant **is not allowed**. Investigators who currently have an active Association grant may apply for another award in the last year of their grant if that last year concludes by June 30th before the start of the new funding year on July 1.
 - There are some exceptions so please contact grantsapp@alz.org if you have questions regarding your eligibility.
- **Investigators delinquent in reporting.** The Alzheimer's Association will not accept new grant applications from investigators currently awarded an Association grant who are delinquent in submitting required reports and other deliverables on active grants. Investigators that have previous Alzheimer's Association awards closed as 'Incomplete' are not eligible to apply without exception. **This policy will be strictly adhered to with no exceptions.**
- **Current members of the Association's Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG) and the International Research Grant Program (IRGP) Council** are

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ineligible to:

- compete for any research grant
- be included as co-investigator or to receive any financial benefit from an application. These individuals may be listed as key personnel/collaborator to an application and will be recused from participating in their peer-review.

C. NONDISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT STATEMENT

The Alzheimer's Association is committed to providing an environment free from harassment and discrimination. The Alzheimer's Association strictly prohibits harassment and discrimination based on race; creed; color; religion; sex; sexual orientation; national origin; ancestry; age; veteran status; citizenship status; marital status; physical or mental disabilities; pregnancy, gender identity or expression (including transgender status); genetic information; and any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local law.

D. LETTER OF INTENT PROCEDURES

i. Letter of Intent: General Information

- The first step in applying to the Alzheimer's Association for any research grant is to create and submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) through the online application system at <http://proposalcentral.com>
- First-time users must register and fill out a Professional Profile to begin the LOI/application process and must be submitted by a single Principal Investigator (PI)
- Applicants must submit an LOI for the current active cycle that they are interested in
- An LOI submitted on behalf of another applicant or by an administrator will be rejected
- Hard copies or emails of the LOI will not be accepted.
- The applicant is responsible for adhering to the space limitations (described below) and any decision regarding moving an LOI forward will be evaluated based on the submitted information.
- The Alzheimer's Association requires that all applicants be registered as a reviewer with the Association in order to submit a Letter of Intent. If you submit a Letter of Intent/application and are NOT currently registered as a reviewer, you will be automatically added to the Alzheimer's Association reviewer roster.

NOTE: AS A REQUIREMENT TO SUBMITTING AN LOI/APPLICATION, YOU AGREE TO REVIEW AT LEAST ONE GRANT PROPOSAL WITHIN YOUR AREA OF EXPERTISE IN ONE OF THE OTHER GRANTING MECHANISMS OUTSIDE OF THE SPECIFIC GRANT PROGRAM TO WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING.

- ***LOIs will not be accepted after the deadline date; no exceptions will be made.***

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ii. Letter of Intent: Contents

Applicants must complete the required tabs and upload any required documents. Some of these required fields are described below:

- **Principal Investigator**
 - Name & contact information
- **Lead Institution**
 - Applicant must be a full-time employee at time of submission
 - Institution/organization name must be in English
- **Current academic rank/position**
 - Must be current at the time of submission; *pending promotions are not allowed*
- **Proposal title**
- **Area of focus**
 - Specific options will be available from a dropdown menu
- **Brief project description**
 - Methodology
 - Specific aims of the project
 - Innovation/novelty of the project
 - Impact on Alzheimer's and all other dementia field are required.

NOTE: EACH SECTION IS LIMITED TO 1,000 CHARACTERS, INCLUDING SPACES

- **Employer Identification Number (EIN) or TIN**
 - This number must match the non-profit documentation

NOTE: THIS IS INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO THE INSTITUTION NOT THE APPLICANT.

- **ORCID ID**
- **Non-profit verification**
 - W-9 (US entities) signed and dated by an authorized institutional signing official and must include the EIN number
 - W-8-BEN (non-US entities) signed and dated by an authorized institutional signing official and must include the EIN/TIN or VAT number

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD NOT CONTAIN THE APPLICANT'S INFORMATION.

- **Biosketch**
 - For Principal Investigator only
- **Program specific documents**
 - **AARG-NTF/D: New to the Field Transition Statement** (1 page)
 - Describe how transitioning to the field will elevate Alzheimer's and all other dementia research; specifically, how their unique expertise applied to Alzheimer's and all other dementia will advance/elevate research in potentially new directions

Any additional documents, including budget details and additional biosketches, are not allowed at this early LOI stage and will be removed.

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iii. Letter of Intent: Evaluation

Each LOI is evaluated by the Alzheimer's Association and a select panel of experts to decide whether to triage or invite to submit a full proposal, with special attention given to:

- Demonstrable innovation/novelty of the proposed project (especially in the context of the PI's recently funded work)
- Alignment with the research priorities of the Alzheimer's Association
- Impact of project on Alzheimer's and all other dementia
- Evidence of methodological rigor that address the research question(s) being proposed

Due to the high volume of submitted LOIs, specific feedback and reviewer comments are not provided at the LOI stage.

E. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

i. Application: General Information

If you are invited to submit a full application, the required materials including the application format, templates, and instructions, will be available online at proposalCENTRAL after your LOI has been approved in the system.

- Full applications will not be accepted without an approved LOI
- The PI who submits the application must be the same PI who submitted the approved LOI
- The application does not need to be completed in one session; a partially completed application can be saved and completed at any time before the deadline.
- It is imperative that you proofread your application before submission; you will not be allowed to make any changes to the application after the deadline or once applications are under review.
- The application is submitted by the receipt date/time deadline. Once submitted, you will receive a confirmation e-mail from proposalCENTRAL that your application was successfully submitted. If you do not receive a confirmation, click the **Proposals** tab and under the "**Status**" column make sure it says **Submitted** and not ***In Progress*** which indicates you have not yet submitted your application.
- The application is complete and accurate before submission. Only a single copy of an application will be accepted. **Signatures are not required at the time of submission**, the signature page provided is for use should your institution/organization require signatures; we do not override any institutional policies and/or procedures. Please do not submit the signature page with your application.

ii. Application: Contents

a. Required documents that are common across all programs:

Must not exceed the maximum page limit allowed for each section.

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- **Recruitment Plan** (1 page)
 - If applicable, describe goals and plans for recruitment and retention
 - **Available Resources & Budget Justification** (2 pages)
 - **Biosketch(es)** – (5 pages each)
 - Principal Investigator, Co-PI(s), Key Personnel
- NOTE: FOR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS THE PI IS THE APPLICANT/FELLOW AND THE MENTOR IS THE CO-PI AND BIOSKETCHES FOR BOTH MUST BE INCLUDED***
- **Non-profit verification**
 - W-9 (US entities) signed and dated by an authorized institutional signing official that must include the EIN number
 - W-8-BEN (non-US entities) signed and dated by an authorized institutional signing official that must include the EIN/TIN or VAT number
 - **Plan for Data Sharing** (1 page)
 - **Resubmission Statement** (1 page)
 - Resubmissions have the opportunity to provide a one-page summary addressing comments raised by reviewers in a prior review cycle(s)
- NOTE: THIS IS OPTIONAL AND IS NOT REQUIRED***
- **References** (1 page)
 - No required reference style; use the style that is most common in the major journal(s) for your discipline, specialty or sub-specialty.

b. AARG and AARG-D applications also include the following:

- **Problem Statement** (1 page)
- **Work Plan** (5 pages)

c. AARG-NTF, AARG-D-NTF applications also include the following:

- **Problem Statement** (1 page)
- **Work Plan** (5 pages)
- **New to the Field Transition Statement** (1 page)

d. AARF, AARF-D, AACSF, AACSF-D applications also include the following:

- **Statement of Mentorship** (2-3 pages)
 - Written by the mentor to describe and outline the mentoring plan
- **Statement of Commitment** (3 pages)
 - Written by the applicant highlighting their interest in Alzheimer's and all other dementia research
- **Area of Research** (3 pages)
 - Written by both applicant and mentor summarizing the proposed research, including work plan, aims, anticipated outcomes, potential pitfalls, etc...

Any additional materials that are not specified for a specific program (letters of

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***collaboration/support, manuscripts, appendices, etc...)* are not allowed and will be removed.**

iii. Application: Evaluation

Applications will be reviewed by Alzheimer's Association and a select panel of experts with criteria tailored to each of the programs. Please see Section IV for additional information regarding evaluation of applications within a specific program.

iv. Application: Additional Information

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure and verify that:

- **The application is submitted by the receipt date/time deadline.**

Once submitted, you will receive a confirmation e-mail from proposalCENTRAL that your application was successfully submitted. If you do not receive a confirmation, click the Proposals tab and under the "status" column make sure it says Submitted and not *in progress*, which indicates you have **not** submitted your application.

- **The application is complete and accurate before submission.**

Only a single copy of an application will be accepted. Signatures are not required at the time of submission, the signature page provided is for your use should your institution/organization require signatures, we do not override any institutional policies and/or procedures. **Please do not submit with your application.**

F. MULTIPLE AND OVERLAPPING SUBMISSIONS

If an applicant submits proposals to different grant competitions in the same grant cycle, each proposal submitted must address a **distinctly different topic**. Only one proposal will be funded if scores for multiple submissions fall within the funding range of different grant competitions.

Applicants *cannot* submit more than one proposal in the same grant competition—even if the proposals cover distinctly different topics (i.e. only one application is allowed regardless of the distinct areas of focus).

Applicants may revise and resubmit an application that was previously submitted for an earlier grant cycle; however, a **new** LOI is required each year. A current LOI corresponding to the application year must accompany each application. **Revisions of previous submissions will be treated as new applications. Efforts will be made to provide some continuity in reviews. A resubmission of an approved LOI *does not* guarantee that you will be invited to resubmit a full application in a future cycle.**

G. REVIEW PROCEDURES

All applications are subject to a multiple stage peer-review process carried out with an online system. In the first stage, applications are reviewed and rated by a minimum of three peer scientists with expertise in the proposed area of research. Applicants may include recommended reviewers and also have the option to exclude specific reviewers from

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evaluating their application if a conflict of interest exists. Conflicts of interest include (but are not limited to):

1. The Applicant trained with/ by the reviewer.
2. Reviewer published with the Applicant in the last four (4) years. This excludes workshop or large consortia (i.e. ADNI, IGAP, etc.)
3. Reviewer has been a co-investigator on a grant application or award with the Applicant in the last four (4) years.
4. Reviewer has a conceptual difference of opinion with the Applicant that will prevent a fair review.
5. Reviewer will receive financial benefit from the Applicant receiving an award.

The second stage includes further review and discussion of the scores and comments resulting from the initial review process. This second review is carried out by the International Research Grant Program (IRGP) Council and invited review committee members to ensure fairness and equity in the initial review procedures and to make funding recommendations to the Association. Final recommendations from the IRGP Council are shared with the Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG) and with the Alzheimer's Association for final approval. Members of the IRGP Council and MSAG are internationally recognized experts with distinguished careers in Alzheimer's and all dementias.

This multi-stage process is central to our award decisions and is designed to ensure both scientific rigor and fairness in the review of all submitted applications.

General Reviewer Requirements

- Recognized authority in their respective field.
- Dedicated to conducting high-quality, fair reviews.
- Able to articulate views succinctly while being willing to engage in productive exchanges and active participation in the online discussion of applications.

H. APPEALS OF SCIENTIFIC PEER REVIEW

To maintain a fair and rigorous review system, the Alzheimer's Association has established a process for appeal of funding decisions. An appeal is intended to address extraordinary circumstances. Appropriate reasons for initiating an appeal might include:

- Evidence that a reviewer has an undeclared conflict of interest
- An egregious error or misunderstanding in the review process
- Active malfeasance or demonstrable lack of due diligence

The appeal process is not intended to provide a mechanism for routine protest of failure to receive a grant. Disparities in peer reviewers' enthusiasm for a proposal and the scores they assign are nearly always considered part of the normal variation in human judgment. The reality is that the Alzheimer's Association International Research Grant Program is extremely

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competitive and is limited by availability of funds. In recent grant cycles, 10 to 15 percent of full applications have been awarded grants, although about twice that number fall into the “fundable” category based on overall score.

If an applicant believes an extraordinary circumstance has contributed to failure to receive funding, the principal investigator may send a two-page, double-spaced formal letter of appeal (Word document) to grantsapps@alz.org. Any supporting documents included must be submitted as a PDF. **Appeals must be submitted within two weeks from the date your application outcome notification is sent.** Notification of action on the appeal will be made via email, usually within 90 days of the appeal deadline.

I. ETHICAL/REGULATORY ASSURANCES

Animal welfare and human subject assurances are not required at the time of application. Investigators have up to 90 days after receipt of their award notification to submit these documents. **However, the Alzheimer’s Association encourages investigators to initiate their certification applications on a schedule that recognizes that rDNA certification, IRB/IACUC approval at many institutions can take more than 90 days.** The Association accepts only certifications that apply specifically to the funded project and must include the name of the awardee.

NOTE: AN AWARD LETTER WILL NOT BE ISSUED UNLESS THE APPROPRIATE CERTIFICATIONS ARE IN PLACE AND INCLUDE THE NAME OF THE AWARDEE WITHIN 90 DAYS FROM AWARD NOTIFICATION.

J. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

i. Annual Scientific and Financial Reports

Interim Scientific & Financial Reports must be submitted at the end of each reporting period as long as the grant remains active. Final Scientific & Financial Reports must be filed within 90 days of the grant’s end date. All reports must be submitted electronically via proposalCENTRAL. The Financial Report must be approved and signed by someone with financial authority in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs at the recipient’s institution.

NOTE: FELLOWSHIP AWARDS (AARF, AARF-D, AACSF, AACSF-D) ALSO HAVE ANNUAL MENTOR EVALUATIONS THAT ARE CONSIDERED PART OF THE ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS.

ii. Recruitment Efforts for Clinical Studies

Projects involving human subjects must address the appropriate inclusion or exclusion of individuals in the proposed research project and describe recruitment efforts to represent the community in which the study is planned or being conducted. Prior to distribution of funding, the researcher must provide a description of their recruitment plan, including an outline describing how their recruitment efforts will ensure diversity in their participants. Recruitment efforts should focus on diversity within key target groups, including a diverse representation of (but not limited to): sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, race, and ethnicity. This will be tracked throughout the duration of

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the grant.

iii. Publications, Presentation and Abstracts

Electronic copies of publications, presentations and abstracts that report research supported by funds from the Alzheimer's Association must be submitted electronically at the time of publication. These copies will become part of the official file of the grant and will be provided to the Communications Division of the Alzheimer's Association to assist in the efforts to further inform the public about the International Research Grant Program of the Association.

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IV. SPECIFIC GRANT COMPETITIONS

A. ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION RESEARCH GRANT (AARG) PROGRAM

i. Competition objectives

The Alzheimer's Association Research Grant (AARG) award aims to fund early-career investigators who are less than **15 years** past their doctoral degree or post-residency (MD or DO).

The purpose of this program is to provide newly independent investigators with funding that will allow them to develop preliminary or pilot data, to test procedures and to develop hypotheses. **The intent is to support early-career development that will lay the groundwork for future research grant applications to federal or other funding entities, like the National Institutes of Health, including future proposals to the Alzheimer's Association.**

The mechanism of this award is the individual research grant. The Alzheimer's Association recognizes the need to increase the number of scientists from underrepresented groups in the research enterprise for Alzheimer's and all other dementia. Young scientists from these groups are encouraged to apply.

ii. Funding and award period

Each **AARG** award total is limited to \$150,000 (direct and indirect costs) for up to three years (minimum 2 years = \$120,000). Requests may not exceed \$60,000 in any given year (direct and indirect costs). Indirect costs are **capped at 10 percent** of total direct costs and is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as to any subcontracts.

iii. Eligibility

Applicants must be an Assistant Professors or above at their respective academic institution **and** less than 15 years past their doctoral degree or post-residency (MD or DO).

- The 15-year period applies to the date of submission of the grant application. Adjustments for career interruptions can be made for events such as: family leave, military service, and major illness or injury. **It is the responsibility of the applicant to point out and document such interruptions within their application.**
- Applications will be accepted from postdoctoral fellows and other junior faculty members (for example: Instructor, Research Associate Scientist, Lecturer etc.) who can provide a letter of employment verification indicating they will have a full-time faculty position of an Assistant Professor or above prior to notification of funding (August 31, 2021) should the proposal be in funding range and funded.
 - The letter of employment must be uploaded with the application and dated within 3 months from application submission date, printed on the hiring institution letterhead, signed by an authorized institutional official (i.e. Grants and Contracts officer) and must indicate that the position will be activated by the grant award date. If the anticipated position is not activated by the award

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date for any reason, any offer of funding will be withdrawn. There will be no exceptions.

- In the event your application is funded, you will be required to provide an official letter on organizational letterhead, signed by an institutional signing official, stating you have a full-time faculty position of an Assistant Professor and above.
- If the applicant's institution does not have an Assistant Professor position, the letter of employment should include sufficient information to allow the Alzheimer's Association staff to evaluate the eligibility of the applicant.

APPLICANTS MUST CONTACT THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION AT GRANTSAPP@ALZ.ORG TO VERIFY ELIGIBILITY AND INQUIRE REGARDING ANY POSSIBLE EXCEPTION PRIOR TO SUBMITTING AN LOI. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE AFTER THE LOI DEADLINE HAS PASSED.

iv. Ineligibility

Please refer to **Section III: B. Eligibility & Ineligibility** for additional ineligibility criteria.

v. Deadlines and Award Dates

- **Letter of Intent deadline: January 13, 2021, 5:00 PM EST**
Each AARG LOI is evaluated with attention to:
 - Demonstrable innovation/novelty of the proposed project (especially in the context of the PIs recently funded work)
 - Alignment with the research priorities of the Alzheimer's Association
 - Impact of project on Alzheimer's and all other dementia research
 - Evidence of methodological rigor that address the research question(s) being proposed
- **Letter of Intent notifications: week of February 22, 2021**
NOTE: DUE TO THE HIGH VOLUME OF SUBMISSIONS, SPECIFIC FEEDBACK AND REVIEWER COMMENTS ARE NOT PROVIDED AT THE LOI STAGE.
- **Application deadline: March 31, 2021, 5:00 PM EST**
If invited to submit a full application, each AARG application is evaluated on:
 - Significance of the question being studied
 - Applicant information – including the training of the PI insofar as it enables them to perform the work proposed, qualifications of the collaborators, and the expertise they bring to the project
 - Quality of the work plan – including novelty and innovation of the proposed project; additionally, projects that involve humans subjects will be evaluated on planned recruitment efforts
 - Quality and adequacy of available resources and budget
 - Impact-Risk of the proposal and how it will add to the field's overall knowledge and advancement
 - Resubmissions will have the opportunity to provide a response to prior review
- **Award notifications: prior to August 31, 2021**

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vi. Budget

A “budget summary” for the proposed research project is required and must be submitted with the application and within the allowable two-page limit. However, if the application is to be awarded, a more detailed budget will be required and must be approved before the disbursement of funds.

a. Allowable costs under this award:

It is required that most of the funds awarded under this program be used for direct research support. **No more than 10% of the total direct costs may be included as indirect costs; this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.** Allowable costs include:

- Purchase and care of laboratory animals
- Small pieces of laboratory equipment and laboratory supplies
- ***Purchases over \$10,000 require prior approval, even if included in the project proposal budget***
- Computer software if used strictly for data collection (***requires prior approval***)
- Salary for the principal investigator, scientific (including postdoctoral fellows) and technical staff (including laboratory technicians and administrative support directly related to the funded grant)
- Support for **travel to scientific and professional meetings** not to exceed \$3,000 in any given year; additional support for travel expenses necessary to carry out research planned not to exceed \$1,000 in any given year – this may include site visits. **Total travel cost should not exceed \$5,000 for the duration of the award.**

b. Direct Costs not allowed under this award include:

- Computer hardware or standard software (e.g. Microsoft Office)
- Construction or renovation costs
- Tuition
- Rent for laboratory/office space
- Expenses such as Data Network Recharges and Computing and communication device support services
- General liability insurances, such as GAEL
- Salary and/or compensation for Alzheimer’s Association Staff or current members of the Alzheimer’s Association Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG) and the International Research Grant Program (IRGP) Council. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be found on our website.

vii. Reporting Requirements

Please see **Section III, J: Reporting Requirements** for additional details. This award requires:

- Annual scientific progress reports

Please send all inquiries to grantsapp@alz.org

This PA is posted on the Alzheimer’s Association website (alz.org/grants) and on proposalCENTRAL under Grant Opportunities (proposalCENTRAL.com)

- Annual financial reports
- Annual reports on recruitment & retention efforts (if applicable)

NOTE: THE CONTINUATION OF THE GRANT OVER THE AWARDED DURATION IS CONTINGENT UPON THE TIMELY RECEIPT OF ALL REQUIRED REPORTS.

viii. Contact Information

For any inquires or additional information, please contact a member of the Alzheimer's Association Grants staff at grantsapp@alz.org.

Please send all inquiries to grantsapp@alz.org

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B. ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION RESEARCH GRANT TO PROMOTE DIVERSITY (AARG-D) PROGRAM

i. Competition objectives

The Alzheimer's Association Research Grant to Promote Diversity award is up to three years (minimum 2 years) to increase the number of scientists from underrepresented groups at academic institutions in Alzheimer's or all other dementias research.

The objective of this award is to increase the number of highly trained investigators from diverse backgrounds whose basic, clinical and social/behavioral research interests are grounded in the advanced methods and experimental approaches needed to solve problems related to Alzheimer's and all dementias in general and in health disparities populations. The Alzheimer's Association recognizes the need to increase the number of scientists from underrepresented groups participating in biomedical and behavioral research. The Association anticipates that by providing these research opportunities, the number of scientists from underrepresented groups entering and remaining in biomedical research careers in Alzheimer's and all other dementia will increase.

The purpose of this program is to provide new scientists from underrepresented groups with funding that will allow them to develop preliminary or pilot data, to test procedures, and to develop hypotheses. The intent is to support early-career development that will lay the groundwork for future research grant applications to the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation and other funding agencies and groups, including future proposals to the Alzheimer's Association.

The mechanism of this award is the individual research grant. The Alzheimer's Association recognizes the need to increase the number of scientists from underrepresented groups in the research enterprise for Alzheimer's and all other dementia. Young scientists from these groups are encouraged to apply.

ii. Funding and award period

Each **AARG-D** award total is limited to \$150,000 (direct and indirect costs) for up to three years (**minimum 2 years = \$120,000**). Requests may not exceed \$60,000 in any given year (direct and indirect costs). Indirect costs are **capped at 10 percent** of total direct costs and is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as to any subcontracts.

iii. Eligibility

Applicants must be an Assistant Professors or above at their respective academic institution **and** less than 15 years past their doctoral degree or post-residency (MD or DO).

- The 15-year period applies to the date of submission of the grant application. Adjustments for career interruptions can be made for events such as: family leave, military service, and major illness or injury. **It is the responsibility of the applicant to point out and document such interruptions within their application.**

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This PA is posted on the Alzheimer's Association website (alz.org/grants) and on proposalCENTRAL under Grant Opportunities (proposalCENTRAL.com)

- Applications will be accepted from postdoctoral fellows and other junior faculty members (for example: Instructor, Research Associate Scientist, Lecturer etc.) who can provide a letter of employment verification indicating they will have a full-time faculty position of an Assistant Professor or above prior to notification of funding (August 31, 2021) should the proposal be in funding range and funded.
 - The letter of employment must be uploaded with the application and dated within 3 months from application submission date, printed on the hiring institution letterhead, signed by an authorized institutional official (i.e. Grants and Contracts officer) and must indicate that the position will be activated by the grant award date. **If the anticipated position is not activated by the award date for any reason, any offer of funding will be withdrawn. There will be no exceptions.**
 - In the event your application is funded, you will be required to provide an official letter on organizational letterhead, signed by an institutional signing official, stating you have a full-time faculty position of an Assistant Professor and above.
- If the applicant's institution does not have an Assistant Professor position, the letter of employment should include sufficient information to allow the Alzheimer's Association staff to evaluate the eligibility of the applicant.

Specific for the AARG-D program, eligible applicants are faculty members who have been determined to be underrepresented faculty in biomedical and behavioral research on a national, international or institutional basis. The Alzheimer's Association will require documentation to support the faculty member's underrepresented status at their institution.

Applicants must submit a Letter of Assurance printed on the hiring institution letterhead, signed by an authorized institutional official (i.e. Grants and Contracts officer) that states you have been determined by your institution to be eligible from an underrepresented group at the time of Letter of Intent (LOI) for verification. The Alzheimer's Association reserves the right to require additional documentation to help confirm the applicant's eligibility.

- Applicants from the United States will be subject to the definitions as stated by the National Institutes of Health: NIH-designated U.S health disparity populations include Blacks/ African Americans, Hispanics/ Latinos, American Indians/ Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, underserved rural populations, persons with disabilities, and sexual and gender minorities.
- Applicants from outside the United State Applicants, in addition to the letter, must provide official documentation from their institutional material (such as a website, manual, or other legal documentation) that indicates their eligibility for this program based on their region and/or institution.

APPLICANTS MUST CONTACT THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION AT GRANTSAPP@ALZ.ORG TO VERIFY ELIGIBILITY AND INQUIRE REGARDING ANY POSSIBLE EXCEPTION PRIOR TO SUBMITTING AN LOI.

Please send all inquiries to grantsapp@alz.org

This PA is posted on the Alzheimer's Association website (alz.org/grants) and on proposalCENTRAL under Grant Opportunities (proposalCENTRAL.com)

NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE AFTER THE LOI DEADLINE HAS PASSED.

iv. Ineligibility

Please refer to **Section III: B. Eligibility & Ineligibility** for additional ineligibility criteria.

v. Deadlines and Award Dates

- **Letter of Intent deadline: January 13, 2021, 5:00 PM EST**

Each AARG-D LOI is evaluated with attention to:

- Demonstrable innovation/novelty of the proposed project (especially in the context of the PIs recently funded work)
- Alignment with the research priorities of the Alzheimer's Association
- Impact of project on Alzheimer's and all other dementia research
- Evidence of methodological rigor that address the research question(s) being proposed

- **Letter of Intent notifications: week of February 22, 2021**

NOTE: DUE TO THE HIGH VOLUME OF SUBMISSIONS, SPECIFIC FEEDBACK AND REVIEWER COMMENTS ARE NOT PROVIDED AT THE LOI STAGE.

- **Application deadline: March 31, 2021, 5:00 PM EST**

If invited to submit a full application, each AARG-D application is evaluated on:

- Significance of the question being studied
- Applicant information – including the training of the PI insofar as it enables them to perform the work proposed, qualifications of the collaborators, and the expertise they bring to the project
- Quality of the work plan – including novelty and innovation of the proposed project; additionally, projects that involve humans subjects will be evaluated on planned recruitment efforts
- Quality and adequacy of available resources and budget
- Impact-Risk of the proposal and how it will add to the field's overall knowledge and advancement
- Resubmissions will have the opportunity to provide a response to prior review

- **Award notifications: prior to August 31, 2021**

vi. Budget

A “budget summary” for the proposed research project is required and must be submitted with the application and within the allowable two-page limit. However, if the application is to be awarded, a more detailed budget will be required and must be approved before the disbursement of funds.

a. Allowable costs under this award:

It is required that most of the funds awarded under this program be used for direct research support. **No more than 10% of the total direct costs may be included as indirect costs; this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as**

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well as any to subcontracts. Allowable costs include:

- Purchase and care of laboratory animals
- Small pieces of laboratory equipment and laboratory supplies
- ***Purchases over \$10,000 require prior approval, even if included in the project proposal budget***
- Computer software if used strictly for data collection (***requires prior approval***)
- Salary for the principal investigator, scientific (including postdoctoral fellows) and technical staff (including laboratory technicians and administrative support directly related to the funded grant)
- Support for **travel to scientific and professional meetings** not to exceed \$3,000 in any given year; additional support for travel expenses necessary to carry out research planned not to exceed \$1,000 in any given year – this may include site visits. **Total travel cost should not exceed \$5,000 for the duration of the award.**

b. Direct Costs not allowed under this award include:

- Computer hardware or standard software (e.g. Microsoft Office)
- Construction or renovation costs
- Tuition
- Rent for laboratory/office space
- Expenses such as Data Network Recharges and Computing and communication device support services
- General liability insurances, such as GAEL
- Salary and/or compensation for Alzheimer's Association Staff or current members of the Alzheimer's Association Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG) and the International Research Grant Program (IRGP) Council. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be found on our website.

vii. Reporting Requirements

Please see **Section III, J: Reporting Requirements** for additional details. This award requires:

- Annual scientific progress reports
- Annual financial reports
- Annual reports on recruitment & retention efforts (if applicable)

NOTE: THE CONTINUATION OF THE GRANT OVER THE AWARDED DURATION IS CONTINGENT UPON THE TIMELY RECEIPT OF ALL REQUIRED REPORTS.

viii. Contact Information

For any inquires or additional information, please contact a member of the Alzheimer's Association Grants staff at grantsapp@alz.org.

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C. ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION RESEARCH GRANT – NEW TO THE FIELD (AARG-NTF) PROGRAM

i. Competition objectives

The Alzheimer's Association Research Grant – New to the Field award aims to fund investigators who are new to Alzheimer's and all other dementia field of research. The purpose of this program is to provide independent investigators with unique expertise and apply their knowledge to Alzheimer's and all dementias.

This program aims to provide these investigators with funding to establish a research path in Alzheimer's and all dementias, to develop preliminary or pilot data, to test procedures and to develop hypotheses. Individuals who are new to the field of neuroscience or neurodegeneration (Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Lewy body dementia, etc.) will be considered for this program. The intent is to support research that will lay the groundwork for future research grant applications to federal or other funding entities, like the National Institutes of Health, including future proposals to the Alzheimer's Association. The Alzheimer's Association recognizes the need to increase the number of scientists from underrepresented groups in the research enterprise.

This program is not intended for investigators that have and/or are working in neurodegeneration-related research; this program is intended for investigators from other disciplines applying their expertise to Alzheimer's and all other dementia research. The goal of the New to the Field program is to provide an opportunity for investigators with expertise outside neurodegenerative research to apply their expertise to advance and accelerate Alzheimer's and all other dementia. Competitive applications to this program emphasize how the specific expertise/approach will advance research.

The mechanism of the award is the individual research grant. The maximum allowable duration is three years (minimum 2 years).

NOTE: AARG-NTF APPLICANTS MUST CONFIRM THEIR ELIGIBILITY AND RECEIVE AN EXCEPTION PRIOR TO SUBMITTING AN LOI

ii. Funding and award period

Each **AARG-NTF** award total is limited to \$150,000 (direct and indirect costs) for up to three years (minimum 2 years = \$120,000). Requests may not exceed \$60,000 in any given year (direct and indirect costs). Indirect costs are **capped at 10 percent** of total direct costs and is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as to any subcontracts.

iii. Eligibility

Applicants must be an Assistant Professors or above at their respective academic institution **and** who are new to the field of neuroscience or neurodegeneration (Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Lewy body dementia, etc.).

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This PA is posted on the Alzheimer's Association website (alz.org/grants) and on proposalCENTRAL under Grant Opportunities (proposalCENTRAL.com)

- If the applicant's institution does not have an Assistant Professor position, the letter of employment should include sufficient information to allow the Alzheimer's Association staff to evaluate the eligibility of the applicant.
- Applicants must contact the Alzheimer's Association at grantsapp@alz.org to receive an exception *prior to submitting an LOI*. Please include your **full CV**, which must include full publication and funding record (biosketches are not accepted).

APPLICANTS MUST CONTACT THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION AT GRANTSAPP@ALZ.ORG TO VERIFY ELIGIBILITY AND INQUIRE REGARDING ANY POSSIBLE EXCEPTION PRIOR TO SUBMITTING AN LOI. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE AFTER THE LOI DEADLINE HAS PASSED.

iv. Ineligibility

Please refer to **Section III: B. Eligibility & Ineligibility** for additional ineligibility criteria.

v. Deadlines and Award Dates

- **Letter of Intent deadline: January 13, 2021, 5:00 PM EST**

Each AARG-NTF LOI is evaluated with attention to:

- Background and training of applicant and how transitioning to the field will elevate Alzheimer's and all dementia research; specifically, how their unique expertise applied to Alzheimer's and all dementias will advance/elevate research in potentially new directions
- Demonstrable innovation/novelty of the proposed project (especially in the context of the PIs recently funded work)
- Alignment with the research priorities of the Alzheimer's Association
- Impact of project on Alzheimer's and all other dementia research
- Evidence of methodological rigor that address the research question(s) being proposed

- **Letter of Intent notifications: week of February 22, 2021**

DUE TO THE HIGH VOLUME OF SUBMISSIONS, SPECIFIC FEEDBACK AND REVIEWER COMMENTS ARE NOT PROVIDED AT THE LOI STAGE.

- **Application deadline: March 31, 2021, 5:00 PM EST**

If invited to submit a full application, each AARG-NTF application is evaluated on:

- Significance of the question being studied
- Applicant information – including the training of the PI insofar as it enables them to perform the work proposed and qualifications of the collaborators and the expertise they bring to the project. Review will pay special consideration to applicant description of how applying their expertise and transitioning to the field will elevate Alzheimer's and all dementia research
- Quality of the work plan – including novelty and innovation of the proposed project; additionally, projects that involve humans subjects will be evaluated on planned recruitment efforts
- Quality and adequacy of available resources and budget

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This PA is posted on the Alzheimer's Association website (alz.org/grants) and on proposalCENTRAL under Grant Opportunities (proposalCENTRAL.com)

- Impact-Risk of the proposal and how it will add to the field's overall knowledge and advancement
- Resubmissions will have the opportunity to provide a response to prior review
- **Award notifications:** prior to **August 31, 2021**

vi. Budget

A “budget summary” for the proposed research project is required and must be submitted with the application and within the allowable two-page limit. However, if the application is to be awarded, a more detailed budget will be required and must be approved before the disbursement of funds.

a. Allowable costs under this award:

It is required that most of the funds awarded under this program be used for direct research support. **No more than 10% of the total direct costs may be included as indirect costs; this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.** Allowable costs include:

- Purchase and care of laboratory animals
- Small pieces of laboratory equipment and laboratory supplies
- ***Purchases over \$10,000 require prior approval, even if included in the project proposal budget***
- Computer software if used strictly for data collection (***requires prior approval***)
- Salary for the principal investigator, scientific (including postdoctoral fellows) and technical staff (including laboratory technicians and administrative support directly related to the funded grant)
- Support for **travel to scientific and professional meetings** not to exceed \$3,000 in any given year; additional support for travel expenses necessary to carry out research planned not to exceed \$1,000 in any given year – this may include site visits. **Total travel cost should not exceed \$5,000 for the duration of the award.**

b. Direct Costs not allowed under this award include:

- Computer hardware or standard software (e.g. Microsoft Office)
- Construction or renovation costs
- Tuition
- Rent for laboratory/office space
- Expenses such as Data Network Recharges and Computing and communication device support services
- General liability insurances, such as GAEL
- Salary and/or compensation for Alzheimer's Association Staff or current members of the Alzheimer's Association Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG) and the International Research Grant Program (IRGP) Council. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be found on our website.

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This PA is posted on the Alzheimer's Association website (alz.org/grants) and on proposalCENTRAL under Grant Opportunities (proposalCENTRAL.com)

vii. Reporting Requirements

Please see **Section III, J: Reporting Requirements** for additional details. This award requires:

- Annual scientific progress reports
- Annual financial reports
- Annual reports on recruitment & retention efforts (if applicable)

viii. Contact Information

For any inquires or additional information, please contact a member of the Alzheimer's Association Grants staff at grantsapp@alz.org.

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D. ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION RESEARCH GRANT TO PROMOTE DIVERSITY – NEW TO THE FIELD (AARG-D-NTF) PROGRAM

i. Competition objectives

The Alzheimer's Association Research Grant to Promote Diversity- New to the Field award is up to three years (minimum 2 years) to increase the number of scientists from underrepresented groups at academic institutions in Alzheimer's and all other dementia research. The AARG-D-NTF aims to fund investigators that are new to Alzheimer's and all dementia field of research. Individuals who are new to the field of neuroscience or neurodegeneration (Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Lewy body dementia, etc.) will be considered for this program.

The goal of the New to the Field program is to provide an opportunity for investigators with expertise outside neurodegenerative research to apply their expertise to advance and accelerate Alzheimer's and all other dementia research. Competitive applications to this program emphasize how the specific expertise/approach will advance research.

The objective of this award is to increase the number of highly trained investigators from diverse backgrounds whose basic, clinical and social/behavioral research interests are grounded in the advanced methods and experimental approaches needed to solve problems related to Alzheimer's and all dementias in general and in health disparities populations. The Alzheimer's Association recognizes the need to increase the number of scientists from underrepresented groups participating in biomedical and behavioral research. The Association anticipates that by providing these research opportunities, the number of scientists from underrepresented groups entering and remaining in biomedical research careers in Alzheimer's and all other dementia research will increase.

The mechanism of the award is the individual research grant. The maximum allowable duration is three years (minimum 2 years).

NOTE: AARG-D-NTF APPLICANTS MUST CONFIRM THEIR ELIGIBILITY AND RECEIVE AN EXCEPTION PRIOR TO SUBMITTING AN LOI

ii. Funding and award period

Each **AARG-D-NTF** award total is limited to \$150,000 (direct and indirect costs) for up to three years (**minimum 2 years = \$120,000**). Requests may not exceed \$60,000 in any given year (direct and indirect costs). Indirect costs are **capped at 10 percent** of total direct costs and is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as to any subcontracts.

iii. Eligibility

Applicants must be an Assistant Professors or above at their respective academic institution **and** who are new to the field of neuroscience or neurodegeneration (Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Lewy body dementia, etc.).

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This PA is posted on the Alzheimer's Association website (alz.org/grants) and on proposalCENTRAL under Grant Opportunities (proposalCENTRAL.com)

- If the applicant's institution does not have an Assistant Professor position, the letter of employment should include sufficient information to allow the Alzheimer's Association staff to evaluate the eligibility of the applicant.
- Applicants must contact the Alzheimer's Association at grantsapp@alz.org to receive an exception *prior to submitting an LOI*. Please include your **full CV**, which must include full publication and funding record (biosketches are not accepted).

Specific for the AARG-D program, eligible applicants are faculty members who have been determined to be underrepresented faculty in biomedical and behavioral research on a national, international or institutional basis. The Alzheimer's Association will require documentation to support the faculty member's underrepresented status at their institution.

Applicants must submit a Letter of Assurance printed on the hiring institution letterhead, signed by an authorized institutional official (i.e. Grants and Contracts officer) that states you have been determined by your institution to be eligible from an underrepresented group at the time of Letter of Intent (LOI) for verification. The Alzheimer's Association reserves the right to require additional documentation to help confirm the applicant's eligibility.

- Applicants from the United States will be subject to the definitions as stated by the National Institutes of Health: NIH-designated U.S health disparity populations include Blacks/ African Americans, Hispanics/ Latinos, American Indians/ Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, underserved rural populations, persons with disabilities, and sexual and gender minorities.
- Applicants from outside the United State Applicants, in addition to the letter, must provide official documentation from their institutional material (such as a website, manual, or other legal documentation) that indicates their eligibility for this program based on their region and/or institution.

APPLICANTS MUST CONTACT THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION AT GRANTSAPP@ALZ.ORG TO VERIFY ELIGIBILITY AND INQUIRE REGARDING ANY POSSIBLE EXCEPTION PRIOR TO SUBMITTING AN LOI. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE AFTER THE LOI DEADLINE HAS PASSED.

iv. Ineligibility

Please refer to **Section III: B. Eligibility & Ineligibility** for additional ineligibility criteria.

v. Deadlines and Award Dates

- **Letter of Intent deadline: January 13, 2021, 5:00 PM EST**

Each AARG-D-NTF LOI is evaluated with attention to:

- Background and training of applicant and how transitioning to the field will elevate Alzheimer's and all dementia research; specifically, how their unique expertise applied to Alzheimer's and all dementias will advance/elevate research in potentially new directions

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- Demonstrable innovation/novelty of the proposed project (especially in the context of the PIs recently funded work)
 - Alignment with the research priorities of the Alzheimer's Association
 - Impact of project on Alzheimer's and all other dementia research
 - Evidence of methodological rigor that address the research question(s) being proposed
 - **Letter of Intent notifications: week of February 22, 2021**
- NOTE: DUE TO THE HIGH VOLUME OF SUBMISSIONS, SPECIFIC FEEDBACK AND REVIEWER COMMENTS ARE NOT PROVIDED AT THE LOI STAGE.***
- **Application deadline: March 31, 2021, 5:00 PM EST**
- If invited to submit a full application, each AARG-NTF application is evaluated on:
- Significance of the question being studied
 - Applicant information – including the training of the PI insofar as it enables them to perform the work proposed and qualifications of the collaborators and the expertise they bring to the project. Review will pay special consideration to applicant description of how applying their expertise and transitioning to the field will elevate Alzheimer's and all dementia research
 - Quality of the work plan – including novelty and innovation of the proposed project; additionally, projects that involve humans subjects will be evaluated on planned recruitment efforts
 - Quality and adequacy of available resources and budget
 - Impact-Risk of the proposal and how it will add to the field's overall knowledge and advancement
 - Resubmissions will have the opportunity to provide a response to prior review
- **Award notifications: prior to August 31, 2021**

vi. Budget

A “budget summary” for the proposed research project is required and must be submitted with the application and within the allowable two-page limit. However, if the application is to be awarded, a more detailed budget will be required and must be approved before the disbursement of funds.

a. Allowable costs under this award:

It is required that most of the funds awarded under this program be used for direct research support. **No more than 10% of the total direct costs may be included as indirect costs; this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.** Allowable costs include:

- Purchase and care of laboratory animals
- Small pieces of laboratory equipment and laboratory supplies
- ***Purchases over \$10,000 require prior approval, even if included in the project proposal budget***
- Computer software if used strictly for data collection (***requires prior approval***)
- Salary for the principal investigator, scientific (including postdoctoral fellows) and

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technical staff (including laboratory technicians and administrative support directly related to the funded grant)

- Support for **travel to scientific and professional meetings** not to exceed \$3,000 in any given year; additional support for travel expenses necessary to carry out research planned not to exceed \$1,000 in any given year – this may include site visits. **Total travel cost should not exceed \$5,000 for the duration of the award.**

b. Direct Costs not allowed under this award include:

- Computer hardware or standard software (e.g. Microsoft Office)
- Construction or renovation costs
- Tuition
- Rent for laboratory/office space
- Expenses such as Data Network Recharges and Computing and communication device support services
- General liability insurances, such as GAEL
- Salary and/or compensation for Alzheimer's Association Staff or current members of the Alzheimer's Association Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG) and the International Research Grant Program (IRGP) Council. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be found on our website.

vii. Reporting Requirements

Please see **Section III, J: Reporting Requirements** for additional details. This award requires:

- Annual scientific progress reports
- Annual financial reports
- Annual reports on recruitment & retention efforts (if applicable)

viii. Contact Information

For any inquires or additional information, please contact a member of the Alzheimer's Association Grants staff at grantsapp@alz.org.

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E. ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (AARF) PROGRAM

i. Competition objectives

The Alzheimer's Association Research Fellowship award is intended to support exceptional researchers who are engaged in their post-graduate work (i.e. postdoctoral fellows) and before they have their first independent faculty positions (i.e. Assistant Professor) and working in diverse areas of research, including basic, translational, clinical, functional and social-behavioral research. Investigators doing clinically-focused research without clinical practice are encouraged to apply to this AARF program.

Individuals applying to the program will be accepted from postdoctoral fellows with full time positions at their respective institution who have less than 10 years of research experience after receipt of their doctorate or other terminal degree. **Individuals who have a position of an Assistant Professorship or above are not eligible.**

The Alzheimer's Association feels strongly that the mentoring and involvement of researchers from diverse backgrounds and perspectives is essential to engaging cutting edge ideas and thinking in addressing scientific gaps for Alzheimer's and all other dementias.

The mechanism of the award is the individual research grant. The maximum allowable duration is three years (minimum 2 years).

ii. Funding and award period

Each Fellowship award is limited to **\$175,000**. Component parts of the award include:

- A total of **\$155,000** will be awarded for costs related to the proposed research for up to three years (**minimum 2 years = \$120,000**) for direct (including travel) and indirect costs. Requests in any given year may not exceed \$60,000 (direct and indirect costs). Indirect costs are capped at 10 percent of total direct costs and is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.
- A total of \$5,000 over a three year period may be requested for travel purposes and is not to exceed \$3,000 in any given year. If you request the full \$5,000 towards just two years of travel and are requesting a three year award you will not be able to request travel funds for one of those years.

NOTE: A PORTION MUST BE ALLOCATED TO SUPPORT REGISTRATION AND TRAVEL TO THE ANNUAL ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (AAIC), AS AAIC ATTENDANCE IS A CONDITION OF THE AWARD

- The remaining funds are two \$10,000 research stipends (\$10,000 to the applicant and \$10,000 to the primary mentor), which are not guaranteed and are awarded only upon successful completion of the award. Successful completion of the award includes, but is not limited to, successfully achieving project aims and accomplishing all of the Fellowship benchmarks. These research stipends are to be applied to sustaining ongoing research in the Alzheimer's field and will be paid

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to the applicant's and mentor's respective institutions at the time of release.

The Principal Investigator must commit to a 50% effort toward the proposed project each funding year.

iii. Eligibility

Applications will be accepted from postdoctoral fellows (or an equivalent level position) with full-time positions at their respective academic institution **and** less than 10 years of research experience after receipt of their terminal degree.

APPLICANTS MUST CONTACT THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION AT GRANTSAPP@ALZ.ORG TO VERIFY ELIGIBILITY AND INQUIRE REGARDING ANY POSSIBLE EXCEPTION PRIOR TO SUBMITTING AN LOI. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE AFTER THE LOI DEADLINE HAS PASSED.

iv. Ineligibility

- Individuals who have a position of an **Assistant Professorship or above are not eligible.**
- Please refer to **Section III: B. Eligibility & Ineligibility** for additional ineligibility criteria, which are applicable to both Applicant/Fellow and the Mentor

v. Deadlines and Award Dates

- **Letter of Intent deadline: January 13, 2021, 5:00 PM EST**

Each Fellowship LOI is evaluated with attention to:

- Demonstrable innovation/novelty of the proposed project (especially in the context of the PIs recently funded work)
- Alignment with the research priorities of the Alzheimer's Association
- Impact of project on Alzheimer's and all other dementia research
- Evidence of methodological rigor that address the research question(s) being proposed

- **Letter of Intent notifications: week of February 22, 2021**

NOTE: DUE TO THE HIGH VOLUME OF SUBMISSIONS, SPECIFIC FEEDBACK AND REVIEWER COMMENTS ARE NOT PROVIDED AT THE LOI STAGE.

- **Application deadline: March 31, 2021, 5:00 PM EST**

If invited to submit a full application, each Fellowship application is evaluated on:

- Quality and nature of the training to be provided and the institutional, departmental, and mentor-specific training environment, this includes available resources to support the applicant in their training **(30 %)**
- Quality and emphasis of applicant and originality of the research plan **(40 %)**
- Significance of the question being studied, quality of the work plan and the impact-risk of the proposal **(30 %)**
- Resubmissions will have the opportunity to provide a response to prior review

- **Award notifications: prior to August 31, 2021**

Please send all inquiries to grantsapp@alz.org

This PA is posted on the Alzheimer's Association website (alz.org/grants) and on proposalCENTRAL under Grant Opportunities (proposalCENTRAL.com)

vi. Mentoring plans and Fellowship Benchmarks

Each Fellowship award must identify a primary mentor. The mentor should be experienced in conducting Alzheimer's and dementia research and in mentoring junior investigators. The application must include a 2-3 page statement from the selected mentor that includes information on his/her research qualifications, experience as a research supervisor and commitment to the applicant. This statement will be a significant part of the application review. The application must also include information to describe the mentor's research support relevant to the applicant's research plan and the nature and extent of supervision and training that he/she will provide during the period of the award. Only one primary mentor is allowed; however, additional team members who might function as mentors can be listed as key personnel.

NOTE: THE PRIMARY MENTOR MUST AGREE TO PROVIDE ANNUAL EVALUATIONS OF THE APPLICANT'S PROGRESS FOR THE DURATION OF THE AWARD, AS REQUIRED FOR THE YEARLY PROGRESS REPORT.

Mentors can be early-career researchers and/or mid-career scientists who choose to shift into Alzheimer's and all dementia research. The applicant and proposed mentor must specify a mechanism for ensuring effective mentoring. The application should contain a plan for and an evaluation strategy of the mentoring process for enhancing diversity in the professional research workforce. A successful plan will include specific details on the mentoring goals designed towards achievements both related to research and other professional development.

Additionally, a successful mentorship plan should include the following Fellowship Benchmarks, which are required to receive the research stipends, but should not be limited to only these:

Fellowship Benchmarks

- Attendance at an Association-sponsored networking event at the Alzheimer's Association's International Conference (AAIC) **REQUIRED**
- Acceptance of an abstract at AAIC **REQUIRED**
- Mandatory documentation of hours spent on face-to-face mentoring **REQUIRED**
- Citation of specific exercises of mentorship such as supervision of manuscript writing and submission or grant writing and submission **REQUIRED**
- Reviewing grant applications. This is not limited to the Alzheimer's Association review process, as reviewing for other funding organization, but supervised reviews are encouraged for those with little to no review experience. The Alzheimer's Association staff will provide additional resources for those new to reviewing for the Association **REQUIRED**
- Documentation of specific instances of the facilitation of networking, including introductions to colleagues, inclusion in discussions at scientific meetings, etc... **REQUIRED**

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- Submission of funding proposal(s) to other funding agencies, including Alzheimer's Association, National Institutes of Health or National Science Foundation, Medical Research Council (UK), Canadian Institutes of Health Research, etc. **REQUIRED**
- Submission of an application to the National Institute on Aging's Butler-Williams Scholars Program (formerly the Summer Institute on Aging Research) or submission to another training program. **OPTIONAL**

vii. Budget

A "budget summary" for the proposed research project is required and must be submitted with the application and within the allowable two-page limit. However, if the application is to be awarded, a more detailed budget will be required and must be approved before the disbursement of funds.

a. Allowable costs under this award:

It is required that most of the funds awarded under this program be used for direct research support. **No more than 10% of the total direct costs may be included as indirect costs; this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.** Allowable costs include:

- Purchase and care of laboratory animals
- Small pieces of laboratory equipment and laboratory supplies
- **Purchases over \$10,000 require prior approval, even if included in the project proposal budget**
- Computer software if used strictly for data collection (**requires prior approval**)
- Salary for the principal investigator, scientific (including postdoctoral fellows) and technical staff (including laboratory technicians and administrative support directly related to the funded grant)
- Support for **travel to scientific and professional meetings** not to exceed \$3,000 in any given year; additional support for travel expenses necessary to carry out research planned not to exceed \$1,000 in any given year – this may include site visits. **Total travel cost should not exceed \$5,000 for the duration of the award and must include attendance to the annual Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC)**

b. Direct Costs not allowed under this award include:

- Computer hardware or standard software (e.g. Microsoft Office)
- Construction or renovation costs
- Tuition
- Rent for laboratory/office space
- Expenses such as Data Network Recharges and Computing and communication device support services
- General liability insurances, such as GAEL
- Salary and/or compensation for Alzheimer's Association Staff or current members

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of the Alzheimer's Association Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG) and the International Research Grant Program (IRGP) Council. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be found on our website.

viii. Reporting Requirements

Please see **Section III, J: Reporting Requirements** for additional reporting details. This award requires:

- Annual scientific progress reports
- Annual Mentor evaluations (including tracking progress towards Fellowship benchmarks)
- Annual financial reports
- Annual reports on recruitment & retention efforts (if applicable)

NOTE: THE CONTINUATION OF THE GRANT OVER THE AWARDED DURATION IS CONTINGENT UPON THE TIMELY RECEIPT OF ALL REQUIRED REPORTS.

ix. Additional information

Due to the nature of this grant being awarded to the Fellow, in large part to their uniquely tailored mentoring plan towards achieving specific professional goals, it is expected that the Fellowship will transfer with the Fellow to their future institution. Additionally, any potential change in Mentor role must be approved by the Association. This will be strictly adhered to and only in extreme circumstances will an exception be considered.

x. Contact Information

For any inquires or additional information, please contact a member of the Alzheimer's Association Grants staff at grantsapp@alz.org.

Please send all inquiries to grantsapp@alz.org

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F. ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP TO PROMOTE DIVERSITY (AARF-D) PROGRAM

i. Competition objectives

The Alzheimer's Association Research Fellowship to Promote Diversity (AARF-D) award is intended to support exceptional scientists from underrepresented groups who are working in Alzheimer's or all other dementias research and who are engaged in their post-graduate work (i.e. postdoctoral fellows) and before their first independent faculty positions (i.e. Assistant Professor) and working in diverse areas of research, including basic, translational, clinical, functional and social-behavioral research. Investigators doing clinically-focused research without clinical practice are encouraged to apply to this AARF-D program.

Individuals applying to the program will be accepted from postdoctoral fellows with full time positions at their respective institution who have less than 10 years of research experience after receipt of their doctorate or other terminal degree. **Individuals who have a position of an Assistant Professorship or above are not eligible.**

The objective of this award is to increase the number of highly trained investigators from diverse backgrounds whose basic, clinical and social/behavioral research interests are grounded in the advanced methods and experimental approaches needed to solve problems related to Alzheimer's and all dementias in general and in health disparities populations. The Alzheimer's Association recognizes the need to increase the number of scientists from underrepresented groups participating in biomedical and behavioral research. The Association anticipates that by providing these research opportunities, the number of scientists from underrepresented groups entering and remaining in biomedical research careers in Alzheimer's and all other dementia will increase.

The Alzheimer's Association feels strongly that the mentoring and involvement of researchers from diverse backgrounds and perspectives is essential to engaging cutting edge ideas and thinking in addressing scientific gaps for Alzheimer's and all dementias.

The mechanism of the award is the individual research grant. The maximum allowable duration is three years (minimum 2 years).

ii. Funding and award period

Each AARF-D award is limited to **\$175,000**. Component parts of the award include:

- A total of **\$155,000** will be awarded for costs related to the proposed research for up to three years (**minimum 2 years = \$120,000**) for direct (including travel) and indirect costs. Requests in any given year may not exceed \$60,000 (direct and indirect costs). Indirect costs are capped at 10 percent of total direct costs and is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.
- A total of \$5,000 over a three year period may be requested for travel purposes and is not to exceed \$3,000 in any given year. If you request the full \$5,000 towards

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just two years of travel and are requesting a three year award you will not be able to request travel funds for one of those years.

NOTE: A PORTION MUST BE ALLOCATED TO SUPPORT REGISTRATION AND TRAVEL TO THE ANNUAL ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (AAIC), AS AAIC ATTENDANCE IS A CONDITION OF THE AWARD

- The remaining funds are two \$10,000 research stipends (\$10,000 to the applicant and \$10,000 to the primary mentor), which are not guaranteed and are awarded only upon successful completion of the award. Successful completion of the award includes, but is not limited to, successfully achieving project aims and accomplishing all of the Fellowship benchmarks. These research stipends are to be applied to sustaining ongoing research in the Alzheimer's field and will be paid to the applicant's and mentor's respective institutions at the time of release.

The Principal Investigator must commit to a 50% effort toward the proposed project each funding year.

iii. Eligibility

Applications will be accepted from postdoctoral fellows (or an equivalent level position) with full-time positions at their respective academic institution **and** less than 10 years of research experience after receipt of their terminal degree.

Specific for the AARF-D program, eligible applicants are faculty members who have been determined to be underrepresented faculty in biomedical and behavioral research on a national, international or institutional basis. The Alzheimer's Association will require documentation to support the faculty member's underrepresented status at their institution.

Applicants must submit a Letter of Assurance printed on the hiring institution letterhead, signed by an authorized institutional official (i.e. Grants and Contracts officer) that states you have been determined by your institution to be eligible from an underrepresented group at the time of Letter of Intent (LOI) for verification. The Alzheimer's Association reserves the right to require additional documentation to help confirm the applicant's eligibility.

- Applicants from the United States will be subject to the definitions as stated by the National Institutes of Health: NIH-designated U.S health disparity populations include Blacks/ African Americans, Hispanics/ Latinos, American Indians/ Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, underserved rural populations, persons with disabilities, and sexual and gender minorities.
- Applicants from outside the United State Applicants, in addition to the letter, must provide official documentation from their institutional material (such as a website, manual, or other legal documentation) that indicates their eligibility for this program based on their region and/or institution.

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APPLICANTS MUST CONTACT THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION AT GRANTSAPP@ALZ.ORG TO VERIFY ELIGIBILITY AND INQUIRE REGARDING ANY POSSIBLE EXCEPTION PRIOR TO SUBMITTING AN LOI. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE AFTER THE LOI DEADLINE HAS PASSED.

iv. Ineligibility

- Individuals who have a position of an **Assistant Professorship or above are not eligible.**
- Please refer to **Section III: B. Eligibility & Ineligibility** for additional ineligibility criteria, which are applicable to both Applicant/Fellow and the Mentor

v. Deadlines and Award Dates

- **Letter of Intent deadline: January 13, 2021, 5:00 PM EST**

Each AARF LOI is evaluated with attention to:

- Demonstrable innovation/novelty of the proposed project (especially in the context of the PIs recently funded work)
- Alignment with the research priorities of the Alzheimer's Association
- Impact of project on Alzheimer's and all other dementia research
- Evidence of methodological rigor that address the research question(s) being proposed

- **Letter of Intent notifications: week of February 22, 2021**

NOTE: DUE TO THE HIGH VOLUME OF SUBMISSIONS, SPECIFIC FEEDBACK AND REVIEWER COMMENTS ARE NOT PROVIDED AT THE LOI STAGE.

- **Application deadline: March 31, 2021, 5:00 PM EST**

If invited to submit a full application, each AARF application is evaluated on:

- Quality and nature of the training to be provided and the institutional, departmental, and mentor-specific training environment, this includes available resources to support the applicant in their training **(30 %)**
- Quality and emphasis of applicant and originality of the research plan **(40 %)**
- Significance of the question being studied, quality of the work plan and the impact-risk of the proposal **(30 %)**
- Resubmissions will have the opportunity to provide a response to prior review

- **Award notifications: prior to August 31, 2021**

vi. Mentoring plans and Fellowship Benchmarks

Each Fellowship award must identify a primary mentor. The mentor should be experienced in conducting Alzheimer's and dementia research and in mentoring junior investigators. The application must include a 2-3 page statement from the selected mentor that includes information on his/her research qualifications, experience as a research supervisor and commitment to the applicant. This statement will be a significant part of the application review. The application must also include information to describe the mentor's research support relevant to the applicant's research plan and the nature and extent of supervision and training that he/she will provide during the period of the award. Only one primary

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mentor is allowed; however, additional team members who might function as mentors can be listed as key personnel.

NOTE: THE PRIMARY MENTOR MUST AGREE TO PROVIDE ANNUAL EVALUATIONS OF THE APPLICANT'S PROGRESS FOR THE DURATION OF THE AWARD, AS REQUIRED FOR THE YEARLY PROGRESS REPORT.

Mentors can be early-career researchers and/or mid-career scientists who choose to shift into Alzheimer's and all dementia research. The applicant and proposed mentor must specify a mechanism for ensuring effective mentoring. The application should contain a plan for and an evaluation strategy of the mentoring process for enhancing diversity in the professional research workforce. A successful plan will include specific details on the mentoring goals designed towards achievements both related to research and other professional development.

Additionally, a successful mentorship plan should include the following Fellowship Benchmarks, which are required to receive the research stipends, but should not be limited to only these:

Fellowship Benchmarks

- Attendance at an Association-sponsored networking event at the Alzheimer's Association's International Conference (AAIC) **REQUIRED**
- Acceptance of an abstract at AAIC **REQUIRED**
- Mandatory documentation of hours spent on face-to-face mentoring **REQUIRED**
- Citation of specific exercises of mentorship such as supervision of manuscript writing and submission or grant writing and submission **REQUIRED**
- Reviewing grant applications. This is not limited to the Alzheimer's Association review process, as reviewing for other funding organization, but supervised reviews are encouraged for those with little to no review experience. The Alzheimer's Association staff will provide additional resources for those new to reviewing for the Association **REQUIRED**
- Documentation of specific instances of the facilitation of networking, including introductions to colleagues, inclusion in discussions at scientific meetings, etc... **REQUIRED**
- Submission of funding proposal(s) to other funding agencies, including Alzheimer's Association, National Institutes of Health or National Science Foundation, Medical Research Council (UK), Canadian Institutes of Health Research, etc. **REQUIRED**
- Submission of an application to the National Institute on Aging's Butler-Williams Scholars Program (formerly the Summer Institute on Aging Research) or submission to another training program. **OPTIONAL**

vii. Budget

A "budget summary" for the proposed research project is required and must be submitted with the application and within the allowable two-page limit. However, if the application is

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to be awarded, a more detailed budget will be required and must be approved before the disbursement of funds.

a. Allowable costs under this award:

It is required that most of the funds awarded under this program be used for direct research support. **No more than 10% of the total direct costs may be included as indirect costs; this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.** Allowable costs include:

- Purchase and care of laboratory animals
- Small pieces of laboratory equipment and laboratory supplies
- **Purchases over \$10,000 require prior approval, even if included in the project proposal budget**
- Computer software if used strictly for data collection (**requires prior approval**)
- Salary for the principal investigator, scientific (including postdoctoral fellows) and technical staff (including laboratory technicians and administrative support directly related to the funded grant)
- Support for **travel to scientific and professional meetings** not to exceed \$3,000 in any given year; additional support for travel expenses necessary to carry out research planned not to exceed \$1,000 in any given year – this may include site visits. **Total travel cost should not exceed \$5,000 for the duration of the award and must include attendance to the annual Alzheimer’s Association International Conference**

b. Direct Costs not allowed under this award include:

- Computer hardware or standard software (e.g. Microsoft Office)
- Construction or renovation costs
- Tuition
- Rent for laboratory/office space
- Expenses such as Data Network Recharges and Computing and communication device support services
- General liability insurances, such as GAEL
- Salary and/or compensation for Alzheimer’s Association Staff or current members of the Alzheimer’s Association Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG) and the International Research Grant Program (IRGP) Council. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be found on our website.

viii. Reporting Requirements

Please see Section III, I: Reporting Requirements for additional details. This award requires:

- Annual scientific progress reports
- Annual Mentor evaluations (including tracking progress towards Fellowship benchmarks)

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This PA is posted on the Alzheimer’s Association website (alz.org/grants) and on proposalCENTRAL under Grant Opportunities (proposalCENTRAL.com)

- Annual financial reports
- Annual reports on recruitment & retention efforts (if applicable)

NOTE: THE CONTINUATION OF THE GRANT OVER THE AWARDED DURATION IS CONTINGENT UPON THE TIMELY RECEIPT OF ALL REQUIRED REPORTS.

ix. Additional information

Due to the nature of this grant being awarded to the Fellow, in large part to their uniquely tailored mentoring plan towards achieving specific professional goals, it is expected that the Fellowship will transfer with the Fellow to their future institution. Additionally, any potential change in Mentor role must be approved by the Association. This will be strictly adhered to and only in extreme circumstances will an exception be considered.

x. Contact Information

For any inquires or additional information, please contact a member of the Alzheimer's Association Grants staff at grantsapp@alz.org.

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G. ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION CLINICIAN SCIENTIST FELLOWSHIP (AACSF) PROGRAM

i. Competition objectives

The Alzheimer's Association recognizes the need to support the training of clinician scientists in Alzheimer's and all other dementias. For the purpose of this program, a clinician scientist is defined as an individual already trained, licensed and practicing in a clinical field that includes patient contact (e.g., neurology, psychiatry, geriatrics, psychology) or patient-related diagnostic studies (e.g., neuropathology and radiology).

Applicants who are within 10 years of receiving their M.D., D.O. or Ph.D. (or equivalent) and have licensure for clinical practice, including postdoctoral fellows through Assistant Professors, are eligible. **Positions higher than Assistant Professor will not be considered.**

The areas of research that the clinician scientist proposes for funding are not limited to patient-oriented, human subject research, but may also include translational research specifically designed to develop treatments or enhance diagnosis of neurological disease. These translational areas of research include epidemiologic or behavioral studies, clinical trials, studies of disease mechanisms, the development of new technologies, and health services and outcomes research. Disease related basic science studies not directly involving humans or human tissue are also encouraged if the primary goal is the development of therapies, diagnostic tests, or other tools to prevent or mitigate neurological diseases.

The Alzheimer's Association feels strongly that the mentoring and involvement of researchers from diverse backgrounds and perspectives is essential to engaging cutting edge ideas and thinking in addressing scientific gaps for Alzheimer's and all dementias.

The mechanism of the award is the individual research grant. The maximum allowable duration is three years (minimum 2 years).

ii. Funding and award period

Each AACSF award is limited to **\$175,000**. Component parts of the award include:

- A total of **\$155,000** will be awarded for costs related to the proposed research for up to three years (**minimum 2 years = \$120,000**) for direct (including travel) and indirect costs. Requests in any given year may not exceed \$60,000 (direct and indirect costs). Indirect costs are capped at 10 percent of total direct costs and is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.
- A total of \$5,000 over a three year period may be requested for travel purposes and is not to exceed \$3,000 in any given year. If you request the full \$5,000 towards just two years of travel and are requesting a three year award you will not be able to request travel funds for one of those years.

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NOTE: A PORTION MUST BE ALLOCATED TO SUPPORT REGISTRATION AND TRAVEL TO THE ANNUAL ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (AAIC), AS AAIC ATTENDANCE IS A CONDITION OF THE AWARD

- The remaining funds are two \$10,000 research stipends (\$10,000 to the applicant and \$10,000 to the primary mentor), which are not guaranteed and are awarded only upon successful completion of the award. Successful completion of the award includes, but is not limited to, successfully achieving project aims and accomplishing all of the Fellowship benchmarks. These research stipends are to be applied to sustaining ongoing research in the Alzheimer's field and will be paid to the applicant's and mentor's respective institutions at the time of release.

The Principal Investigator must commit up to an average of 2 protected days per week (40%) effort toward their research efforts during each funding year.

iii. Eligibility

Applicants must be clinicians (postdoctoral fellows through assistant professors; or equivalent positions) interested in an academic career who have:

- Full-time positions at an recognized non- academic institution **and**
- Less than 10 years of research experience after receipt of their terminal degree **and**
- Licensure for clinical practice.

APPLICANTS MUST CONTACT THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION AT GRANTSAPP@ALZ.ORG TO VERIFY ELIGIBILITY AND INQUIRE REGARDING ANY POSSIBLE EXCEPTION PRIOR TO SUBMITTING AN LOI. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE AFTER THE LOI DEADLINE HAS PASSED.

iv. Ineligibility

- Individuals who have a position **above Assistant Professorship are not eligible.**
- Please refer to **Section III: B. Eligibility & Ineligibility** for additional ineligibility criteria, which are applicable to both Applicant/Fellow and the Mentor

v. Deadlines and Award Dates

- **Letter of Intent deadline: January 13, 2021, 5:00 PM EST**

Each Fellowship LOI is evaluated with attention to:

- Demonstrable innovation/novelty of the proposed project (especially in the context of the PIs recently funded work)
- Alignment with the research priorities of the Alzheimer's Association
- Impact of project on Alzheimer's and all other dementia research
- Evidence of methodological rigor that address the research question(s) being proposed

- **Letter of Intent notifications: week of February 22, 2021**

NOTE: DUE TO THE HIGH VOLUME OF SUBMISSIONS, SPECIFIC FEEDBACK AND REVIEWER COMMENTS ARE NOT PROVIDED AT THE LOI STAGE.

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- **Application deadline: March 31, 2021, 5:00 PM EST**

If invited to submit a full application, each Fellowship application is evaluated on:

- Applicant's ability and promise as a clinician scientist based on prior record of achievement and career plan, letters of reference, and CV **(30 %)**
- Quality and emphasis of applicant and originality of the research plan **(40 %)**
- Significance of the question being studied, quality of the work plan and the impact-risk of the proposal **(30 %)**
- Resubmissions will have the opportunity to provide a response to prior review

- **Award notifications: prior to August 31, 2021**

vi. Mentoring plans and Fellowship Benchmarks

Each Fellowship award must identify a primary mentor. The mentor should be experienced in conducting Alzheimer's and dementia research and in mentoring junior investigators. The application must include a 2-3 page statement from the selected mentor that includes information on his/her research qualifications, experience as a research supervisor and commitment to the applicant. This statement will be a significant part of the application review. The application must also include information to describe the mentor's research support relevant to the applicant's research plan and the nature and extent of supervision and training that he/she will provide during the period of the award. Only one primary mentor is allowed; however, additional team members who might function as mentors can be listed as key personnel.

NOTE: THE PRIMARY MENTOR MUST AGREE TO PROVIDE ANNUAL EVALUATIONS OF THE APPLICANT'S PROGRESS FOR THE DURATION OF THE AWARD, AS REQUIRED FOR THE YEARLY PROGRESS REPORT.

Mentors can be early-career researchers and/or mid-career scientists who choose to shift into Alzheimer's and all dementia research. The applicant and proposed mentor must specify a mechanism for ensuring effective mentoring. The application should contain a plan for and an evaluation strategy of the mentoring process for enhancing diversity in the professional research workforce. A successful plan will include specific details on the mentoring goals designed towards achievements both related to research and other professional development.

Additionally, a successful mentorship plan should include the following Fellowship Benchmarks, which are required to receive the research stipends, but should not be limited to only these:

Fellowship Benchmarks

- Attendance at an Association-sponsored networking event at the Alzheimer's Association's International Conference (AAIC) **REQUIRED**
- Acceptance of an abstract at AAIC **REQUIRED**
- Mandatory documentation of hours spent on face-to-face mentoring **REQUIRED**
- Citation of specific exercises of mentorship such as supervision of manuscript

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writing and submission or grant writing and submission **REQUIRED**

- Reviewing grant applications. This is not limited to the Alzheimer's Association review process, as reviewing for other funding organization, but supervised reviews are encouraged for those with little to no review experience. The Alzheimer's Association staff will provide additional resources for those new to reviewing for the Association **REQUIRED**
- Documentation of specific instances of the facilitation of networking, including introductions to colleagues, inclusion in discussions at scientific meetings, etc... **REQUIRED**
- Submission of funding proposal(s) to other funding agencies, including Alzheimer's Association, National Institutes of Health or National Science Foundation, Medical Research Council (UK), Canadian Institutes of Health Research, etc. **REQUIRED**
- Submission of an application to the National Institute on Aging's Butler-Williams Scholars Program (formerly the Summer Institute on Aging Research) or submission to another training program. **OPTIONAL**

vii. Budget

A "budget summary" for the proposed research project is required and must be submitted with the application and within the allowable two-page limit. However, if the application is to be awarded, a more detailed budget will be required and must be approved before the disbursement of funds.

a. Allowable costs under this award:

It is required that most of the funds awarded under this program be used for direct research support. **No more than 10% of the total direct costs may be included as indirect costs; this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.** Allowable costs include:

- Purchase and care of laboratory animals
- Small pieces of laboratory equipment and laboratory supplies
- ***Purchases over \$10,000 require prior approval, even if included in the project proposal budget***
- Computer software if used strictly for data collection (***requires prior approval***)
- Salary for the principal investigator, scientific (including postdoctoral fellows) and technical staff (including laboratory technicians and administrative support directly related to the funded grant)
- Support for **travel to scientific and professional meetings** not to exceed \$3,000 in any given year; additional support for travel expenses necessary to carry out research planned not to exceed \$1,000 in any given year – this may include site visits. **Total travel cost should not exceed \$5,000 for the duration of the award and must include attendance to the annual Alzheimer's Association International Conference**

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This PA is posted on the Alzheimer's Association website (alz.org/grants) and on proposalCENTRAL under Grant Opportunities (proposalCENTRAL.com)

b. Direct Costs not allowed under this award include:

- Computer hardware or standard software (e.g. Microsoft Office)
- Construction or renovation costs
- Tuition
- Rent for laboratory/office space
- Expenses such as Data Network Recharges and Computing and communication device support services
- General liability insurances, such as GAEL
- Salary and/or compensation for Alzheimer's Association Staff or current members of the Alzheimer's Association Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG) and the International Research Grant Program (IRGP) Council. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be found on our website.

viii. Reporting Requirements

Please see **Section III, J: Reporting Requirements** for additional reporting details. This award requires:

- Annual scientific progress reports
- Annual Mentor evaluations (including tracking progress towards Fellowship benchmarks)
- Annual financial reports
- Annual reports on recruitment & retention efforts (if applicable)

NOTE: THE CONTINUATION OF THE GRANT OVER THE AWARDED DURATION IS CONTINGENT UPON THE TIMELY RECEIPT OF ALL REQUIRED REPORTS.

ix. Additional information

Due to the nature of this grant being awarded to the Fellow, in large part to their uniquely tailored mentoring plan towards achieving specific professional goals, it is expected that the Fellowship will transfer with the Fellow to their future institution. This will be strictly adhered to and only in extreme circumstances will an exception be considered.

x. Contact Information

For any inquires or additional information, please contact a member of the Alzheimer's Association Grants staff at grantsapp@alz.org.

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H. ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION CLINICIAN SCIENTIST FELLOWSHIP TO PROMOTE DIVERSITY (AACSF-D) PROGRAM

i. Competition objectives

The Alzheimer's Association recognizes the need to support exceptional clinician scientists who are currently underrepresented at academic institutions in clinical research training in Alzheimer's and all other dementias. For the purpose of this program, a clinician scientist is defined as an individual already trained, licensed and practicing in a clinical field that includes patient contact (e.g., neurology, psychiatry, geriatrics, psychology) or patient-related diagnostic studies (e.g., neuropathology and radiology).

Applicants who are within 10 years of receiving their M.D., D.O. or Ph.D. (or equivalent) and have licensure for clinical practice, including postdoctoral fellows through Assistant Professors, are eligible. **Positions higher than Assistant Professor will not be considered.**

The areas of research that the clinician scientist proposes for funding are not limited to patient-oriented, human subject research, but may also include translational research specifically designed to develop treatments or enhance diagnosis of neurological disease. These translational areas of research include epidemiologic or behavioral studies, clinical trials, studies of disease mechanisms, the development of new technologies, and health services and outcomes research. Disease related basic science studies not directly involving humans or human tissue are also encouraged if the primary goal is the development of therapies, diagnostic tests, or other tools to prevent or mitigate neurological diseases.

The Alzheimer's Association recognizes the need to increase the number of underrepresented clinicians participating in clinical research. The Association anticipates that by providing this funding opportunity, the number of underrepresented physicians entering and remaining in clinical careers in Alzheimer's and all other dementia will increase.

The mechanism of the award is the individual research grant. The maximum allowable duration is three years (minimum 2 years).

ii. Funding and award period

Each AACSF-D award is limited to **\$175,000**. Component parts of the award include:

- A total of **\$155,000** will be awarded for costs related to the proposed research for up to three years (**minimum 2 years = \$120,000**) for direct (including travel) and indirect costs. Requests in any given year may not exceed \$60,000 (direct and indirect costs). Indirect costs are capped at 10 percent of total direct costs and is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.
- A total of \$5,000 over a three year period may be requested for travel purposes and is not to exceed \$3,000 in any given year. If you request the full \$5,000 towards

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just two years of travel and are requesting a three year award you will not be able to request travel funds for one of those years.

NOTE: A PORTION MUST BE ALLOCATED TO SUPPORT REGISTRATION AND TRAVEL TO THE ANNUAL ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (AAIC), AS AAIC ATTENDANCE IS A CONDITION OF THE AWARD

- The remaining funds are two \$10,000 research stipends (\$10,000 to the applicant and \$10,000 to the primary mentor), which are not guaranteed and are awarded only upon successful completion of the award. Successful completion of the award includes, but is not limited to, successfully achieving project aims and accomplishing all of the Fellowship benchmarks. These research stipends are to be applied to sustaining ongoing research in the Alzheimer's field and will be paid to the applicant's and mentor's respective institutions at the time of release.

The Principal Investigator must commit up to an average of 2 protected days per week (40%) effort toward their research efforts during each funding year.

iii. Eligibility

Applicants must be clinicians (postdoctoral fellows through assistant professors; or equivalent positions) interested in an academic career who have:

- Full-time positions at an recognized non- academic institution ***and***
- Less than 10 years of research experience after receipt of their terminal degree ***and***
- Licensure for clinical practice.

Specific for the AACSF-D program, eligible applicants are faculty members who have been determined to be underrepresented faculty in biomedical and behavioral research on a national, international or institutional basis. The Alzheimer's Association will require documentation to support the faculty member's underrepresented status at their institution.

Applicants must submit a Letter of Assurance printed on the hiring institution letterhead, signed by an authorized institutional official (i.e. Grants and Contracts officer) that states you have been determined by your institution to be eligible from an underrepresented group at the time of Letter of Intent (LOI) for verification. The Alzheimer's Association reserves the right to require additional documentation to help confirm the applicant's eligibility.

- Applicants from the United States will be subject to the definitions as stated by the National Institutes of Health: NIH-designated U.S health disparity populations include Blacks/ African Americans, Hispanics/ Latinos, American Indians/ Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, underserved rural populations, persons with disabilities, and sexual and gender minorities.
- Applicants from outside the United State Applicants, in addition to the letter, must

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provide official documentation from their institutional material (such as a website, manual, or other legal documentation) that indicates their eligibility for this program based on their region and/or institution.

APPLICANTS MUST CONTACT THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION AT GRANTSAPP@ALZ.ORG TO VERIFY ELIGIBILITY AND INQUIRE REGARDING ANY POSSIBLE EXCEPTION PRIOR TO SUBMITTING AN LOI. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE AFTER THE LOI DEADLINE HAS PASSED.

iv. Ineligibility

- Individuals who have a position **above Assistant Professorship are not eligible.**
- Please refer to **Section III: B. Eligibility & Ineligibility** for additional ineligibility criteria, which are applicable to both Applicant/Fellow and the Mentor

v. Deadlines and Award Dates

- **Letter of Intent deadline: January 13, 2021, 5:00 PM EST**

Each Fellowship LOI is evaluated with attention to:

- Demonstrable innovation/novelty of the proposed project (especially in the context of the PIs recently funded work)
- Alignment with the research priorities of the Alzheimer's Association
- Impact of project on Alzheimer's and all other dementia research
- Evidence of methodological rigor that address the research question(s) being proposed

- **Letter of Intent notifications: week of February 22, 2021**

NOTE: DUE TO THE HIGH VOLUME OF SUBMISSIONS, SPECIFIC FEEDBACK AND REVIEWER COMMENTS ARE NOT PROVIDED AT THE LOI STAGE.

- **Application deadline: March 31, 2021, 5:00 PM EST**

If invited to submit a full application, each Fellowship application is evaluated on:

- Applicant's ability and promise as a clinician scientist based on prior record of achievement and career plan, letters of reference, and CV **(30 %)**
- Quality and emphasis of applicant and originality of the research plan **(40 %)**
- Significance of the question being studied, quality of the work plan and the impact-risk of the proposal **(30 %)**
- Resubmissions will have the opportunity to provide a response to prior review

- **Award notifications: prior to August 31, 2021**

vi. Mentoring plans and Fellowship Benchmarks

Each Fellowship award must identify a primary mentor. The mentor should be experienced in conducting Alzheimer's and dementia research and in mentoring junior investigators. The application must include a 2-3 page statement from the selected mentor that includes information on his/her research qualifications, experience as a research supervisor and commitment to the applicant. This statement will be a significant part of the application review. The application must also include information to describe the mentor's research support relevant to the applicant's research plan and the nature and extent of supervision

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and training that he/she will provide during the period of the award. Only one primary mentor is allowed; however, additional team members who might function as mentors can be listed as key personnel.

NOTE: THE PRIMARY MENTOR MUST AGREE TO PROVIDE ANNUAL EVALUATIONS OF THE APPLICANT'S PROGRESS FOR THE DURATION OF THE AWARD, AS REQUIRED FOR THE YEARLY PROGRESS REPORT.

Mentors can be early-career researchers and/or mid-career scientists who choose to shift into Alzheimer's and all dementia research. The applicant and proposed mentor must specify a mechanism for ensuring effective mentoring. The application should contain a plan for and an evaluation strategy of the mentoring process for enhancing diversity in the professional research workforce. A successful plan will include specific details on the mentoring goals designed towards achievements both related to research and other professional development.

Additionally, a successful mentorship plan should include the following Fellowship Benchmarks, which are required to receive the research stipends, but should not be limited to only these:

Fellowship Benchmarks

- Attendance at an Association-sponsored networking event at the Alzheimer's Association's International Conference (AAIC) **REQUIRED**
- Acceptance of an abstract at AAIC **REQUIRED**
- Mandatory documentation of hours spent on face-to-face mentoring **REQUIRED**
- Citation of specific exercises of mentorship such as supervision of manuscript writing and submission or grant writing and submission **REQUIRED**
- Reviewing grant applications. This is not limited to the Alzheimer's Association review process, as reviewing for other funding organization, but supervised reviews are encouraged for those with little to no review experience. The Alzheimer's Association staff will provide additional resources for those new to reviewing for the Association **REQUIRED**
- Documentation of specific instances of the facilitation of networking, including introductions to colleagues, inclusion in discussions at scientific meetings, etc... **REQUIRED**
- Submission of funding proposal(s) to other funding agencies, including Alzheimer's Association, National Institutes of Health or National Science Foundation, Medical Research Council (UK), Canadian Institutes of Health Research, etc. **REQUIRED**
- Submission of an application to the National Institute on Aging's Butler-Williams Scholars Program (formerly the Summer Institute on Aging Research) or submission to another training program. **OPTIONAL**

vii. Budget

A "budget summary" for the proposed research project is required and must be submitted

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with the application and within the allowable two-page limit. However, if the application is to be awarded, a more detailed budget will be required and must be approved before the disbursement of funds.

a. Allowable costs under this award:

It is required that most of the funds awarded under this program be used for direct research support. **No more than 10% of the total direct costs may be included as indirect costs; this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.** Allowable costs include:

- Purchase and care of laboratory animals
- Small pieces of laboratory equipment and laboratory supplies
- **Purchases over \$10,000 require prior approval, even if included in the project proposal budget**
- Computer software if used strictly for data collection (**requires prior approval**)
- Salary for the principal investigator, scientific (including postdoctoral fellows) and technical staff (including laboratory technicians and administrative support directly related to the funded grant)
- Support for **travel to scientific and professional meetings** not to exceed \$3,000 in any given year; additional support for travel expenses necessary to carry out research planned not to exceed \$1,000 in any given year – this may include site visits. **Total travel cost should not exceed \$5,000 for the duration of the award and must include attendance to the annual Alzheimer’s Association International Conference**

b. Direct Costs not allowed under this award include:

- Computer hardware or standard software (e.g. Microsoft Office)
- Construction or renovation costs
- Tuition
- Rent for laboratory/office space
- Expenses such as Data Network Recharges and Computing and communication device support services
- General liability insurances, such as GAEL
- Salary and/or compensation for Alzheimer’s Association Staff or current members of the Alzheimer’s Association Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG) and the International Research Grant Program (IRGP) Council. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be found on our website.

viii. Reporting Requirements

Please see **Section III, J: Reporting Requirements** for additional reporting details. This award requires:

- Annual scientific progress reports

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- Annual Mentor evaluations (including tracking progress towards Fellowship benchmarks)
- Annual financial reports
- Annual reports on recruitment & retention efforts (if applicable)

NOTE: THE CONTINUATION OF THE GRANT OVER THE AWARDED DURATION IS CONTINGENT UPON THE TIMELY RECEIPT OF ALL REQUIRED REPORTS.

ix. Additional information

Due to the nature of this grant being awarded to the Fellow, in large part to their uniquely tailored mentoring plan towards achieving specific professional goals, it is expected that the Fellowship will transfer with the Fellow to their future institution. This will be strictly adhered to and only in extreme circumstances will an exception be considered.

x. Contact Information

For any inquires or additional information, please contact a member of the Alzheimer's Association Grants staff at grantsapp@alz.org.

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