



# INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM January 2024 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT (August- January 2024)

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## INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM January 2024 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT (August - January 2024)

*The purpose of this Program Announcement for the January 2024 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 related 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 \$320 million, in 1000+ research projects in 54 countries. The Association supplements its own funding efforts with public policy initiatives directed toward increasing Alzheimer's and related 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 organizations and federal agencies around the world. As our funding initiatives have 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**

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**preclude or constrain other projects or proposals.** Potential applicants are strongly 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. STUDY POPULATION DIVERSITY FOCUS**

Results from the 2020 US Census Bureau indicate that the ethnic and racial diversity of the United States has increased since 2010 ([ref](#)). The US Census Bureau adheres to the 1997 Office of Management and Budget standards of race and ethnicity, which provides the following categories for race and ethnicity - White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ([ref](#)). However, the language and techniques often used to characterize diverse populations fail to capture 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 related 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 related 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 related 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 related dementia, families and caregiving in specific cultural, social, and regional contexts to provide a working platform for effective service, education and program delivery. There is a need to initiate a program of hypothesis-driven research, including but not limited to work focused on recruitment science, prevalence and risk factors, impact of community and family structures as examples.

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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 related 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 related 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 related 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 related 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.

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 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 cognitive/ functional profiles, development and validation of tools and measures, biological correlates of cognition and/or function, ethical implications,

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adaptive technology, and more.

#### **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 but are not limited to:

##### *Cause(s) of Alzheimer's and related dementia*

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

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- *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 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 related 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 related 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.

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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 related 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 related 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 the greatest impact?*

Epidemiological studies reveal growing evidence that most cases of Alzheimer's and related 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 related 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.

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### **III. KEY DATES, PROGRAM SUMMARY, GENERAL INFORMATION**

<b>Letter of Intent Launch</b>	<b>July 14, 2023</b>
<b>Letter of Intent Deadline*</b>	<b>September 6, 2023 5:00 PM EST</b>
<b>Letter of Intent Notifications</b>	<b>Week of October 2, 2023</b>
<b>Application Deadline*</b>	<b>November 8, 2023 5:00 PM EST</b>
<b>Application Review</b>	<b>November 2023 - February, 2024</b>
<b>Award Notifications</b>	<b>Prior to February 28, 2024</b>

\*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*.

<b>Grant Competition</b>	<b>AARG</b>	<b>AARG-Diversity</b>	<b>AARG-NTF</b>	<b>AARG-Diversity-NTF</b>	<b>AARF*</b>	<b>AARF-Diversity*</b>	<b>AACSF*</b>	<b>AACSF-Diversity*</b>
<b>Maximum per year:</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>Maximum per award:</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$200,000*</b>	<b>\$200,000*</b>	<b>\$250,000*</b>	<b>\$250,000*</b>
<b>Duration:</b>	<b>2–3 years</b>	<b>2–3 years</b>	<b>2–3 years</b>	<b>2–3 years</b>	<b>2–3 years</b>	<b>2–3 years</b>	<b>2–3 years</b>	<b>2–3 years</b>

\*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, totaling \$20,000. 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 (AARF: max \$180,000/max \$70,000 yr and AACSF: max \$230,000 max/\$100,000yr); they are to be used for on-going research-professional-related purposes after completion of the grant.

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All 2024 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), of this program announcement, as each of these sections provides information that is common across all programs. Section V (Specific Grant Programs) 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 four 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; recruitment science; natural language processing and behavioral monitoring for early detection; 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, lifestyle issues, and emerging technologies such as mobile computing, high-bandwidth sensing, "smart" environments, and robotics. *In vitro* projects conducted in human samples should be categorized as basic biology (the category below) rather than clinical investigations. Projects directed toward fundamental understanding, but meeting the criteria above should still be classified as 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. 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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## 5. Computational, Secondary, and Existing Human Data Analyses

Projects in this area will include “big data” datasets, electronic health records, imaging, postmortem, or other pathology samples, and all other already-collected data or samples for use in novel analytic plans. Also included are any use of machine learning, large language models, or other Artificial Intelligence (AI). This could also include secondary data analysis and other similar types of approaches to answering questions.

### **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, 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 within the past five years by the signing official for US entities
  - a W-8 or W-8-BEN that is signed and dated within the past five years 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 AACSF/D, AARF/D, AARG/D, or AARG-NTF/D award may apply for another award in the last year of their grant if that last year concludes by 6 months of the award announcement. Investigators with Association awards in programs not listed above may still apply to a program

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listed in this call, but the project must be distinct from their current award.

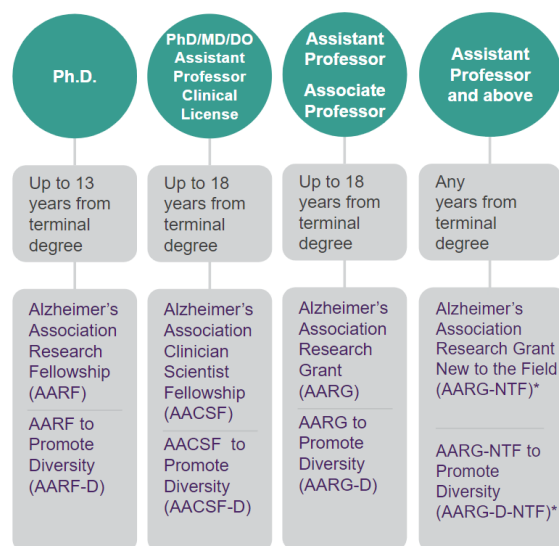
- There are some exceptions so please contact [grantsapp@alz.org](mailto:grantsapp@alz.org) if you have questions regarding your eligibility.
- **Investigators delinquent in reporting.** The Alzheimer's Association will not accept new grant applications from investigators currently awarded an Association 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), the International Research Grant Program (IRGP) Council and Alzheimer's Association staff members** are 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/collaborators to an application and will be recused from participating in their peer-review.

### C. ELIGIBILITY SUMMARY

In response to the impact of the COVID19 pandemic on the research community, the January 2024 cycle has changes in the time of the eligibility criteria after terminal degree, this will be reevaluated in the future.

## Alzheimer's Association International Research Grants Program

All programs are open globally  
more information:  
[alz.org/grants](https://alz.org/grants)



\*Additional eligibility criteria apply to this program, see RFA.

**\*For AARG-NTF and AARG-D-NTF, applicants must confirm exception with the Alzheimer's Association at [grantsapp@alz.org](mailto:grantsapp@alz.org) before submitting a LOI or this may delay the review timeline for your LOI**

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#### **D. NONDISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT STATEMENT**

The Alzheimer's Association is committed to providing an environment free from harassment and discrimination. 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.

#### **E. LETTER OF INTENT PROCEDURES**

##### *i. Letter of Intent: General Information*

- One Letter of Intent per cycle of application is allowed
- 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.**

**AN APPLICANT CANNOT SUBMIT AN LOI TO MORE THAN ONE PROGRAM WITHIN THE CORE PROGRAMS, EVEN IF THE PROJECTS ARE DIFFERENT. APPLICANTS SHOULD APPLY TO ONLY ONE PROGRAM.**

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

##### *ii. Letter of Intent: Contents*

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

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- **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 related 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 within the past five years by an authorized institutional signing official and must include the EIN number
  - W-8-BEN (non-US entities) signed and dated within the past five years 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 (with the exception of the Fellowship program, Mentor bio should be included)
  - We highly recommend using the latest NIH biosketch format (excluding Section D. Scholastic Performance), but any format will be accepted.
  - Applicants will be able to provide Biosketches for other members of the project team at the full application stage.
- **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 related dementia research; specifically, how their unique expertise applied to Alzheimer's and related dementia will advance/elevate research in potentially new directions

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***Any additional documents, including budget details, letters of support or recommendation, and additional biosketches, are not allowed at this early LOI stage and will be removed.***

**iii. Specific for the Promote Diversity Programs (AARG-D, AARG-D-NTF, AARF-D and AACSF-D)**

*Diversity Self Statement (1 paragraph max) outlining the applicant's status and eligibility for this program. Additional details regarding what may be defined as underrepresented, please refer to section of iii - Eligibility, of each specific program. This is from the applicant only and does not need to be signed by the institutional representation. This statement will only be accessible to the applicant and the Alzheimer's Association through their ProposalCentral Account (if the applicant gives others access to the LOI, they will be able to view all attachments). The self-statement will be validated by the Alzheimer's Association and removed from the LOI portion. The self-statement will not be included in the information shared with reviewers and will only be used to confirm eligibility to this program.*

**iv. 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 related 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.***

**F. 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 full application should not be different than the approved LOI, including title and area of focus
- 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

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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*

Applicants must complete the required sections and upload required documents as listed. Some fields are identical to the LOI. Some of these required fields are described below:

- **Resubmission**
  - It is up to the investigator whether or not they wish to declare their application a resubmission. Even if you are submitting a similar application to a prior submission you do not need to declare it a resubmission. Resubmissions are granted a one-page summary addressing comments raised by reviewers in a prior review cycle(s).
- **Principal Investigator, Co-Principal Investigator, and Key Personnel % Effort**
  - All % Efforts listed on the application should reflect RESEARCH EFFORT rather than effort as a percentage of salary or % effort to this specific project. It is not required that Co-PI's and Key Personnel accept salary from an Award, but should have some effort listed.
- **Institution & Contacts**
  - The PI or a first degree relative cannot be listed as the signing official, financial officer or send checks to attention of.
- **How the Research Addresses Gaps in knowledge**
  - Investigators should describe how their research will impact the advancement of diverse science and in addressing the gap on sex and gender, disability, and racial disparities in AD/ADRD research. This may include, but not limited to, aspects specific to the research project, the samples or to the team conducting the research
- **Budget**
  - AARF, AARF-D, AACSF, and AACSF-D applications should include the \$20,000 stipends in year 4 of Section 8. **NO OTHER EXPENDITURES SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN YEAR 4.** Your application will not be accepted if it includes more than \$20,000 in year 4, or does not include the stipends in Section 8 at all.

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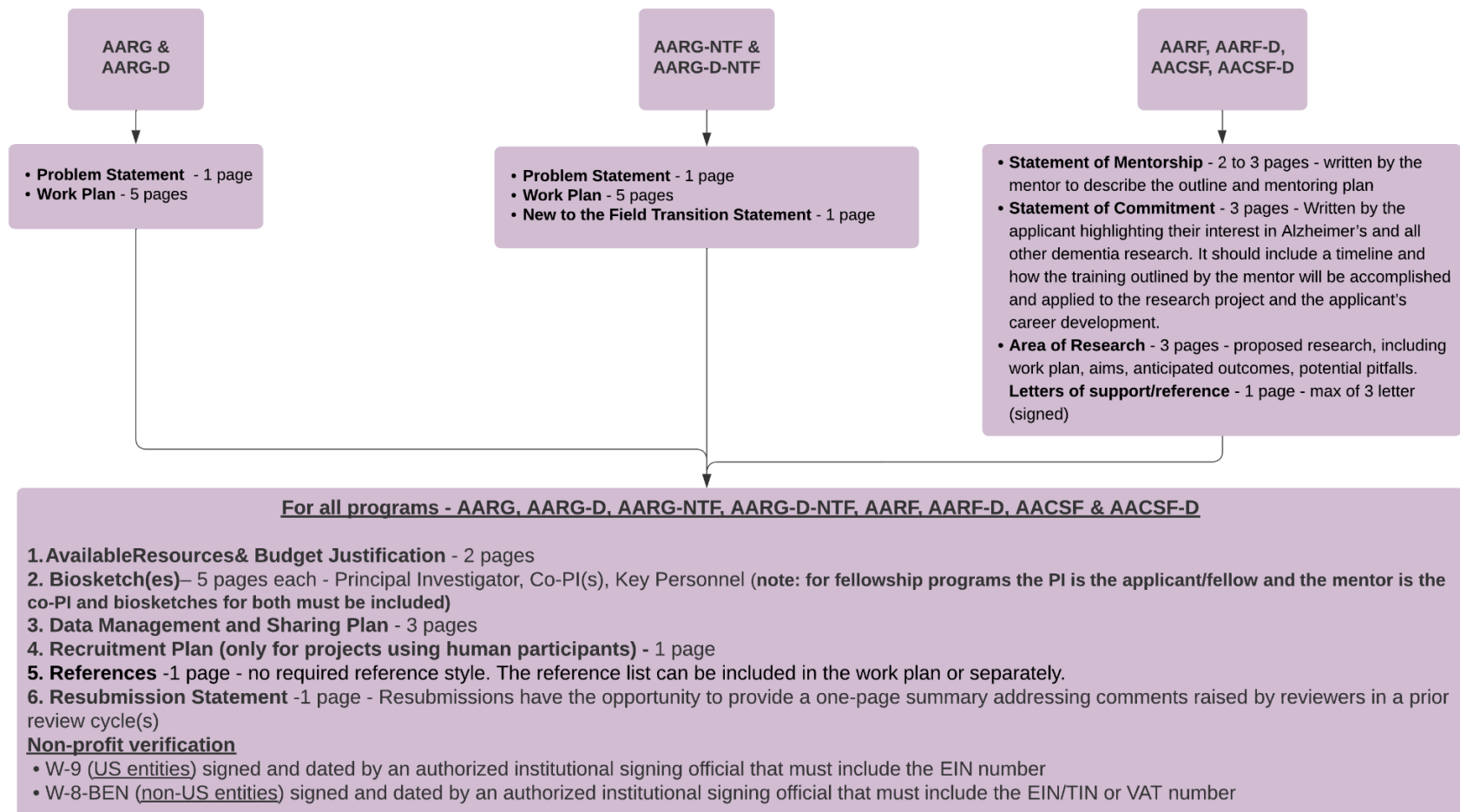
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- Facilities and Administration Costs (Indirect Costs) should not exceed 10% of the PERIOD DIRECT COSTS. You may NOT claim more than 10% in one period and then less than 10% in another. Indirect costs should be based on the period direct cost budget, not the total budget of the award.
- Investigators are not required to have cost share.

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- **Attachments**



**Please note that documents must not exceed the maximum page limit allowed for each section. Any additional materials that are not specified for a specific program (letters of collaboration/support, manuscripts, appendices, etc...) ARE NOT allowed and will be removed.**

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### *iii. Application: Evaluation*

Applications will be reviewed by the 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 email 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, and we do not override any institutional policies and/or procedures. **Please do not submit with your application.**

- **Applicants may use LLMs and other generative AI tools in the preparation of their LOIs and full applications.**

Applicants are fully responsible for the content of their proposal, even those parts produced by an AI tool. Using one of these tools will not affect the review of your application.

## **G. MULTIPLE AND OVERLAPPING SUBMISSIONS**

**Applicants *CANNOT* submit more than one proposal to any of the programs in the current 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. Resubmissions may be submitted to a different program in this call and still be a resubmission.**

## **H. 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 peer scientists with expertise in the proposed area of research. Applicants may include recommended reviewers

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and also have the option to exclude specific reviewers from 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 related dementia.

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.

### **I. 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, 20 to 30 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 [grantsappeals@alz.org](mailto:grantsappeals@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.

**Appeals for Letter of Intent are not allowed, only full applications.**

#### **J. ETHICAL/REGULATORY ASSURANCES**

Animal welfare and human subject assurances are not required at the time of application. Investigators have until their chosen start date to submit these documents provided the start date is within 6 months from award notification. **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. For AARF/D and AACSF/D, if the Ethical certification is on the mentor’s name, the Fellow must include the Ethical approval and a signed letter stating that the ethical approval (rDNA certification, IRB/IACUC approval) covers the awarded project with the Fellows name and Award number included.

#### **K. 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 or Grants & Contracts Office 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 participants 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

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representation of (but not limited to): sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, race, and ethnicity. This will be tracked throughout the duration of the grant.

*iii. Publications, Presentations and Abstracts, and Intellectual Property Disclosures*

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. Any intellectual property disclosures resulting from the award must be submitted electronically at the time of publication. The Alzheimer's Association may request any of the research outputs listed here from any awardee up to 7 years following the end of the award.

## **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 **18 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.**

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 related dementia. Young scientists from these groups are encouraged to apply.

*ii. Funding and award period*

Each **AARG** award total is limited to \$200,000 (direct and indirect costs) for up to three years (**Awards should be a minimum 2 years. For a 2 year award the total is limited to \$140,000 with direct and indirect costs**). Requests may not exceed \$70,000 in any given year (direct and indirect costs). Indirect costs are **capped at 10 percent** of total direct costs and are inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as to any subcontracts.

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### *iii. Eligibility*

Applicants must be an Assistant Professor or Associate Professor at their respective academic institution **and** less than 18 years past their doctoral degree or post-residency (MD or DO).

- The 18-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.**
- The Alzheimer's Association will make exceptions to the terminal degree requirement when the individual applicant has a full-time faculty position of Assistant Professor (or equivalent) or Associate Professor and is expert in the area of public health, social work, neuropsychology, legal, bioethics or a related area of psychosocial research
- 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 Associate Professor (or the institution equivalent) prior to notification of funding (February, 2024) should the proposal be in funding range and funded. Full Professors are not eligible.
  - 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 or Associate Professor .
  - If the applicant's institution does not have an Assistant Professor or Associate 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](mailto:GRANTSAPP@ALZ.ORG) TO VERIFY ELIGIBILITY IF THEY DO NOT HAVE AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR TITLE 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 currently enrolled in a Doctoral Program are not eligible, regardless of prior degree status
- Please refer to **Section III: B. Eligibility & Ineligibility** for additional ineligibility criteria.

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#### v. *Deadlines and Award Dates*

- **Letter of Intent deadline: September 6, 2023 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 October 2, 2023**

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

- **Application deadline: November 8, 2023 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
- Impact on the advancement of diverse science
- Resubmissions will have the opportunity to provide a response to prior reviews

- **Award notifications: Prior to February 28, 2024**

#### vi. *Budget*

A budget justification 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

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- ***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); there is no salary cap
- Membership to scientific association
- Professional development / communication training
- Support for **travel to scientific and professional meetings** not to exceed \$5,000 in any given year; additional support for travel expenses necessary to carry out research planned not to exceed \$2,000 in any given year – this may include site visits. **A total of \$7,500 over a three year period may be requested for travel purposes and is not to exceed \$5,000 in any given year.** If you request the full \$7,500 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.
- Training costs to visit and perform research related to the awarded project on another laboratory/facility (this is not to be included in the travel costs)
- **Participant travel expenses for projects involving human participants is not included in the travel and is allowable expenses that can be captured under other expenses (itemized) in the budget.**
- **As part of Alzheimer's Association ongoing efforts to develop programs that support family-friendly research environments, Alzheimer's Association Research Fellowship awardees can request up to \$2,500 per budget period for childcare costs provided by a licensed childcare provider.**

**b. Direct Costs not allowed under this award include:**

- Computer hardware or standard software (e.g. Microsoft Office, mouse monitor, computer parts, AppleCare)
- Laboratory equipment such as freezers, ultracentrifuges, RT-PCR, Microscopy/imaging equipment
- Service contract fees of equipment
- Construction or renovation costs
- Tuition
- Rent for laboratory/office space
- Expenses such as Data Network Recharges and Computing and communication device support services. However, data sharing and/or data storage for imaging, sequencing and other study data is allowed.
- General liability insurances, such as GAEL
- Wire and currency exchange fees
- The Alzheimer's Association [Medical and Scientific Advisory Group \(MSAG\)](#), the [International Research Grant Program \(IRGP\) Council members](#) and current employees of the Alzheimer's Association are allowed to be key personnel or collaborators on projects, however they are NOT ALLOWED to receive any salary or compensation. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be found on our website [alz.org/grants](http://alz.org/grants)

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#### *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 inquiries or additional information, please contact a member of the Alzheimer's Association Grants staff at [grantsapp@alz.org](mailto:grantsapp@alz.org).**

### **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 related dementia 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 related dementia 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 related 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 federal and other funding agencies.

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.

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## *ii. Funding and award period*

Each **AARG-D** award total is limited to \$200,000 (direct and indirect costs) for up to three years (**Award should be a minimum 2 years. For a 2 year award the total is limited to \$140,000 with direct and indirect costs**). Requests may not exceed \$70,000 in any given year (direct and indirect costs). Indirect costs are **capped at 10 percent** of total direct costs and are inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as to any subcontracts.

## *iii. Eligibility*

Applicants must be an Assistant Professors or Associate Professor at their respective academic institution **and** less than 18 years past their doctoral degree or post-residency (MD or DO).

- The 18-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. Full Professors are ineligible.**
- The Alzheimer's Association will make exceptions to the terminal degree requirement when the individual applicant has a full-time faculty position of Assistant Professor (or equivalent) or Associate Professor and is expert in the area of public health, social work, neuropsychology, legal, bioethics or a related area of psychosocial research
- 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 Associate Professor prior to notification of funding (February 2024) 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 or Associate Professor
- 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 have the same requirements as

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the AARG program, but are an underrepresented faculty in biomedical and behavioral research on a national, international or institutional basis.

Applicants must submit a **Diversity Self Statement (1 paragraph max)** during the letter of intent stage outlining the applicant's status and eligibility for this program. Additional details regarding what may be defined as underrepresented include:

- 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 (defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as a person with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities), minoritized sexual and gender populations, and Individuals from [economically developing nations of Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean](#).
- In addition, applicants born in any of the economically developing nations of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean are eligible granted that all other criteria regarding career stage are met. The Alzheimer's Association will not require proof of American citizenship or a Permanent Resident Status.
- In addition, applicants employed by a university that is located in an economically developing nation of Africa, Asia and Latin America, are eligible granted that all other criteria regarding career stage are met.

**ANY QUESTIONS RELATED TO ELIGIBILITY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION AT [GRANTSAPP@ALZ.ORG](mailto:GRANTSAPP@ALZ.ORG) PRIOR TO SUBMITTING AN LOI. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE AFTER THE LOI DEADLINE HAS PASSED.** The Alzheimer's Association reserves the right to require additional documentation if necessary.

The self-statement will be validated by the Alzheimer's Association and removed from the LOI. The self-statement will not be included in the information shared with reviewers and will only be used by the Association staff to confirm eligibility to this program.

#### *iv. Ineligibility*

- Individuals currently enrolled in a Doctoral Program are not eligible, regardless of prior degree status
- Please refer to **Section III: B. Eligibility & Ineligibility** for additional ineligibility criteria.

#### *v. Deadlines and Award Dates*

**Letter of Intent deadline: September 6, 2023 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

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- Impact of project on Alzheimer's and related dementia research
- Evidence of methodological rigor that address the research question(s) being proposed
- **Letter of Intent notifications: Week of October 2, 2023**

**NOTE: DUE TO THE HIGH VOLUME OF SUBMISSIONS, SPECIFIC FEEDBACK AND REVIEWER COMMENTS ARE NOT PROVIDED AT THE LOI STAGE.**
- **Application deadline: November 8, 2023 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
  - Impact on advancement of diverse science
  - 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 February 28, 2024**

#### *vi. Budget*

A budget justification 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); there is no salary cap
- Membership to scientific association
- Professional development / communication training

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- Training costs to visit and perform research related to the awarded project on another laboratory/facility (this is not to be included in the travel costs)
- Support for **travel to scientific and professional meetings** not to exceed \$5,000 in any given year; additional support for travel expenses necessary to carry out research planned not to exceed \$2,000 in any given year – this may include site visits. **A total of \$7,500 over a three year period may be requested for travel purposes and is not to exceed \$5,000 in any given year.** If you request the full \$7,500 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.
- **Participant travel expenses for projects involving human participants is not included in the travel and is allowable expenses that can be captured under other expenses (itemized) in the budget.**
- **As part of Alzheimer's Association ongoing efforts to develop programs that support family-friendly research environments, Alzheimer's Association Research Fellowship awardees can request up to \$2,500 per budget period for childcare costs provided by a licensed childcare provider.**

**b. Direct Costs not allowed under this award include:**

- Computer hardware or standard software (e.g. Microsoft Office, mouse monitor, computer parts, AppleCare)
- Laboratory equipment such as freezers, ultracentrifuges, RT-PCR, Microscopy/imaging equipment
- Service contract fees of equipment
- Construction or renovation costs
- Tuition
- Rent for laboratory/office space
- Expenses such as Data Network Recharges and Computing and communication device support services. However, data sharing and/or data storage for imaging, sequencing and other study data is allowed
- General liability insurances, such as GAEL
- Wire and currency exchange fees
- The Alzheimer's Association [Medical and Scientific Advisory Group \(MSAG\)](#), the [International Research Grant Program \(IRGP\) Council members](#) and current employees of the Alzheimer's Association are allowed to be key personnel or collaborators on projects, however they are NOT ALLOWED to receive any salary or compensation. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be found on our website [alz.org/grants](http://alz.org/grants)

*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)

Please send all inquiries to [grantsapp@alz.org](mailto:grantsapp@alz.org)

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**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 inquiries or additional information, please contact a member of the Alzheimer's Association Grants staff at [grantsapp@alz.org](mailto:grantsapp@alz.org).**

**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 related dementia fields of research. The purpose of this program is to provide independent investigators with unique expertise and apply their knowledge to Alzheimer's and related dementia

This program aims to provide these investigators with funding to establish a research path in Alzheimer's and related dementia, 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, nor early career researchers; this program is intended for investigators from other disciplines applying their expertise to Alzheimer's and related 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 related 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 APPROVAL PRIOR TO SUBMITTING AN LOI. YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SUBMIT AN LOI WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL**

*ii. Funding and award period*

Each **AARG-NTF** award total is limited to \$200,000 (direct and indirect costs) for up to

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three years (**Award should be a minimum 2 years. For a 2 year award the total is limited to \$140,000 with direct and indirect costs**). Requests may not exceed \$70,000 in any given year (direct and indirect costs). Indirect costs are **capped at 10 percent** of total direct costs and are inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as to any subcontracts.

### *iii. Eligibility*

Applicants must be 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.).

- 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](mailto: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).
- A doctoral degree is *not* required for applicants to this program
- Applicants should not have more than 1 publication as first or last author in Alzheimer's or other dementia field; middle authorships do not count against applicants when determining eligibility
- Applicants should not have more than \$200,000 in current or past funding for Alzheimer's and other dementia; this includes any supplements to awards where competitive review of the supplement was performed

**APPLICANTS MUST CONTACT THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION AT [GRANTSAPP@ALZ.ORG](mailto: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 currently enrolled in a Doctoral Program are not eligible, regardless of prior degree status
- Please refer to **Section III: B. Eligibility & Ineligibility** for additional ineligibility criteria.

### *v. Deadlines and Award Dates*

- **Letter of Intent deadline: September 6, 2023 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 related dementia research; specifically, how their unique expertise applied to Alzheimer's and related dementia 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)

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- Alignment with the research priorities of the Alzheimer's Association
- Impact of project on Alzheimer's and related dementia research
- Evidence of methodological rigor that address the research question(s) being proposed
- **Letter of Intent notifications: Week of October 2, 2023**  
***DUE TO THE HIGH VOLUME OF SUBMISSIONS, SPECIFIC FEEDBACK AND REVIEWER COMMENTS ARE NOT PROVIDED AT THE LOI STAGE.***
- **Application deadline: November 8, 2023 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 on advancement of diverse science
  - 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 February 28, 2024**

#### *vi. Budget*

A budget justification 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

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- related to the funded grant); there is no salary cap
- Membership to scientific association
- Professional development / communication training
- Training costs to visit and perform research related to the awarded project on another laboratory/facility (this is not to be included in the travel costs)
- Support for **travel to scientific and professional meetings** not to exceed \$5,000 in any given year; additional support for travel expenses necessary to carry out research planned not to exceed \$2,000 in any given year – this may include site visits. **A total of \$7,500 over a three year period may be requested for travel purposes and is not to exceed \$5,000 in any given year.** If you request the full \$7,500 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.
- **Participant travel expenses for projects involving human participants is not included in the travel and is allowable expenses that can be captured under other expenses (itemized) in the budget.**
- **As part of Alzheimer's Association ongoing efforts to develop programs that support family-friendly research environments, Alzheimer's Association Research Fellowship awardees can request up to \$2,500 per budget period for childcare costs provided by a licensed childcare provider.**

**b. Direct Costs not allowed under this award include:**

- Computer hardware or standard software (e.g. Microsoft Office, mouse monitor, computer parts, AppleCare)
- Laboratory equipment such as freezers, ultracentrifuges, RT-PCR, Microscopy/imaging equipment
- Service contract fees of equipment
- Construction or renovation costs
- Tuition
- Rent for laboratory/office space
- Expenses such as Data Network Recharges and Computing and communication device support services. However, data sharing and/or data storage for imaging, sequencing and other study data is allowed
- General liability insurances, such as GAEL
- Wire and currency exchange fees
- The Alzheimer's Association [Medical and Scientific Advisory Group \(MSAG\)](#), the [International Research Grant Program \(IRGP\) Council members](#) and current employees of the Alzheimer's Association are allowed to be key personnel or collaborators on projects, however they are NOT ALLOWED to receive any salary or compensation. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be found on our website [alz.org/grants](http://alz.org/grants)

*vii. Reporting Requirements*

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

- Annual scientific progress reports

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

*viii. Contact Information*

***For any inquiries or additional information, please contact a member of the Alzheimer's Association Grants staff at [grantsapp@alz.org](mailto:grantsapp@alz.org).***

**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 related dementia research. The AARG-D-NTF aims to fund investigators that are new to Alzheimer's and all dementia fields 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 related 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 related dementia 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 related 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 APPROVAL PRIOR TO SUBMITTING AN LOI. YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SUBMIT AN LOI WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL.***

*ii. Funding and award period*

Each **AARG-D-NTF** award total is limited to \$200,000 (direct and indirect costs) for up to three years **(Award should be a minimum 2 years. For a 2 year award the total is**

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**limited to \$140,000 with direct and indirect costs).** Requests may not exceed \$70,000 in any given year (direct and indirect costs). Indirect costs are **capped at 10 percent** of total direct costs and are inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as to any subcontracts.

### *iii. Eligibility*

Applicants must be an Assistant Professor 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.).

- 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](mailto: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).
- A doctoral degree is *not* required for applicants to this program
- Applicants should not have more than 1 publication as first or last author in Alzheimer's or other dementia field; middle authorships do not count against applicants when determining eligibility.
- Applicants should not have more than \$200,000 in current or past funding for Alzheimer's and other dementia; this includes any supplements to awards where competitive review of the supplement was performed

**Specific for the AARG-D-NTF program**, eligible applicants have the same requirements as the AARG program, but are an underrepresented faculty in biomedical and behavioral research on a national, international or institutional basis.

Applicants must submit a **Diversity Self Statement (1 paragraph max)** during the letter of intent stage outlining the applicant's status and eligibility for this program. Additional details regarding what may be defined as underrepresented include:

- 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 (defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as a person with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities), minoritized sexual and gender populations, and Individuals from [economically developing nations of Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean](#).
- Applicants born in any of the economically developing nations of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean are eligible granted that all other criteria regarding career

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stage are met. The Alzheimer's Association will not require proof of American citizenship or a Permanent Resident Status.

- Applicants employed by a university that is located in an economically developing nation of Africa, Asia and Latin America, are eligible granted that all other criteria regarding career stage are met.

**ANY QUESTIONS RELATED TO ELIGIBILITY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION AT GRANTSAPP@ALZ.ORG PRIOR TO SUBMITTING AN LOI. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE AFTER THE LOI DEADLINE HAS PASSED.** The Alzheimer's Association reserves the right to require additional documentation if necessary.

The self-statement will be validated by the Alzheimer's Association and removed from the LOI. The self-statement will not be included in the information shared with reviewers and will only be used by Alzheimer's Association staff to confirm eligibility to this program.

#### *iv. Ineligibility*

- Individuals currently enrolled in a Doctoral Program are not eligible, regardless of prior degree status
- Please refer to **Section III: B. Eligibility & Ineligibility** for additional ineligibility criteria.

#### *v. Deadlines and Award Dates*

- **Letter of Intent deadline: September 6, 2023 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 related dementia research; specifically, how their unique expertise applied to Alzheimer's and related dementia 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 related dementia research
- Evidence of methodological rigor that address the research question(s) being proposed

- **Letter of Intent notifications: Week of October 2, 2023**

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

- **Application deadline: November 8, 2023 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

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- field will elevate Alzheimer's and related 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 on advancement of diverse science
- 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 February 28, 2024**

#### *vi. Budget*

A budget justification 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); there is no salary cap
- Membership to scientific association
- Professional development / communication training
- Training costs to visit and perform research related to the awarded project on another laboratory/facility (this is not to be included in the travel costs)
- Support for **travel to scientific and professional meetings** not to exceed \$5,000 in any given year; additional support for travel expenses necessary to carry out research planned not to exceed \$2,000 in any given year – this may include site visits. **A total of \$7,500 over a three year period may be requested for travel purposes and is not to exceed \$5,000 in any given year.** If you request the full \$7,500 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.
- **Participant travel expenses for projects involving human participants is not included in the travel and are allowable expenses that can be captured under other expenses (itemized) in the budget.**

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- As part of Alzheimer's Association ongoing efforts to develop programs that support family-friendly research environments, Alzheimer's Association Research Fellowship awardees can request up to \$2,500 per budget period for childcare costs provided by a licensed childcare provider.

**b. Direct Costs not allowed under this award include:**

- Computer hardware or standard software (e.g. Microsoft Office, mouse monitor, computer parts)
- Laboratory equipment such as freezers, ultracentrifuges, RT-PCR, Microscopy/imaging equipment
- Service contract fees of equipment
- Construction or renovation costs
- Construction or renovation costs
- Tuition
- Rent for laboratory/office space
- Expenses such as Data Network Recharges and Computing and communication device support services. However, data sharing and/or data storage for imaging, sequencing and other study data is allowed
- General liability insurances, such as GAEL
- Wire and currency exchange fees
- The Alzheimer's Association [Medical and Scientific Advisory Group \(MSAG\)](#), the [International Research Grant Program \(IRGP\) Council members](#) and current employees of the Alzheimer's Association are allowed to be key personnel or collaborators on projects, however they are NOT ALLOWED to receive any salary or compensation. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be found on our website [alz.org/grants](http://alz.org/grants)

*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 inquiries or additional information, please contact a member of the Alzheimer's Association Grants staff at [grantsapp@alz.org](mailto:grantsapp@alz.org).***

**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

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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 13 years of research experience after receipt of their doctorate or other terminal degree. **Individuals who have a position of an Assistant Professor 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 **\$200,000**. Component parts of the award include:

- A total of **\$180,000** (including direct and indirect costs) will be awarded for costs related to the proposed research for up to three years (**Award should be a minimum 2 years. For a 2 year award the total is limited to \$140,000 with direct and indirect costs**). Requests in any given year may not exceed **\$70,000 (direct and indirect costs)**. Indirect costs are capped at 10 percent of total direct costs and are inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.
- **A total of \$7,500 over a three year period may be requested for travel purposes and is not to exceed \$5,000 in any given year.** If you request the full \$7,500 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. **Total travel cost should not exceed \$7,500 for the duration of the award and must include attendance to the annual Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC).**

**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, as well as professional development of the Fellow and Mentor, including but not limited to

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training fees, membership fees, open access publication fees and will be paid to the applicant's and mentor's respective institutions at the time of release. No additional financial reporting is required for these funds.

**The Principal Investigator must commit to a 50% research effort each funding year. Note this is minimum time committed to research; and not necessary time to this project or equivalent to salary % allocated.**

*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 13 years of research experience after receipt of their terminal degree.
- If the applicant is promoted to faculty during the application process, the applicant may continue to proceed with the AARF program

*iv. Ineligibility*

- Individuals who have a position of an **Assistant Professorship or above are not eligible.**
- Individuals currently enrolled in a Doctoral Program are not eligible, regardless of prior degree status
- 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: September 6, 2023 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 related dementia research
- Evidence of methodological rigor that address the research question(s) being proposed

- **Letter of Intent notifications: Week of October 2, 2023**

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

- **Application deadline: November 8, 2023 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 %)**

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- Significance of the question being studied, quality of the work plan and the impact-risk of the proposal, impact on advancement of diverse science **(30 %)**
- Resubmissions will have the opportunity to provide a response to prior review
- **Award notifications: Prior to February 28, 2024**

#### *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 their 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 they 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**

- Attend at least on one 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 organizations, 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

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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**

#### *vii. Budget*

A budget justification 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); there is no salary cap
- Membership to scientific association
- Professional development / communication training
- Training costs to visit and perform research related to the awarded project on another laboratory/facility (this is not to be included in the travel costs)
- Support for **travel to scientific and professional meetings** not to exceed \$5,000 in any given year; additional support for travel expenses necessary to carry out research planned not to exceed \$2,000 in any given year – this may include site visits. **Total travel cost should not exceed \$7,500 for the duration of the award and must include attendance to the annual Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC).**
- **Participant travel expenses for projects involving human participants is not included in the travel and is allowable expenses that can be captured under other expenses (itemized) in the budget.**
- **As part of Alzheimer's Association ongoing efforts to develop programs that support family-friendly research environments, Alzheimer's Association Research Fellowship awardees can request up to \$2,500 per budget period for childcare costs provided by a licensed childcare provider.**

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**b. Direct Costs not allowed under this award include:**

- Computer hardware or standard software (e.g. Microsoft Office, mouse monitor, computer parts, AppleCare)
- Laboratory equipment such as freezers, ultracentrifuges, RT-PCR, Microscopy/imaging equipment
- Service contract fees of equipment
- Construction or renovation costs
- Tuition
- Rent for laboratory/office space
- Expenses such as Data Network Recharges and Computing and communication device support services. However, data sharing and/or data storage for imaging, sequencing and other study data is allowed
- General liability insurances, such as GAEL
- Wire and currency exchange fees
- The Alzheimer's Association [Medical and Scientific Advisory Group \(MSAG\)](#), the [International Research Grant Program \(IRGP\) Council members](#) and current employees of the Alzheimer's Association are allowed to be key personnel or collaborators on projects, however they are NOT ALLOWED to receive any salary or compensation. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be found on our website [alz.org/grants](http://alz.org/grants)

*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 inquiries or additional information, please contact a member of the Alzheimer's Association Grants staff at [grantsapp@alz.org](mailto: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 related dementia 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 13 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 related dementia 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 related 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 related dementia.

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 **\$200,000**. Component parts of the award include:

- A total of **\$180,000** (including direct and indirect costs) will be awarded for costs related to the proposed research for up to three years (**Award should be a minimum 2 years. For a 2 year award the total is limited to \$140,000 with direct and indirect costs**). **Requests in any given year may not exceed \$70,000 (direct and indirect costs)**. Indirect costs are capped at 10 percent of total direct costs and are inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.

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- **A total of \$7,500 over a three year period may be requested for travel purposes and is not to exceed \$5,000 in any given year.** If you request the full \$7,500 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. **Total travel cost should not exceed \$7,500 for the duration of the award and must include attendance to the annual Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC).**

**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, as well as professional development of the Fellow and Mentor, including but not limited to training fees, membership fees, publication fees and will be paid to the applicant's and mentor's respective institutions at the time of release. No financial reporting is required for these funds.

**The Principal Investigator must commit to a 50% research effort each funding year. Note this is minimum time committed to research; and not necessary time to this project or equivalent to salary % allocated.**

### *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 13 years of research experience after receipt of their doctorate (Ph.D) or terminal degree.
- If the applicant is promoted to faculty during the application process, the applicant may continue to proceed with the AARF-D program

**Specific for the AARF-D program**, eligible applicants have the same requirements as the AARF program, but are an underrepresented faculty in biomedical and behavioral research on a national, international or institutional basis.

Applicants must submit a **Diversity Self Statement (1 paragraph max)** during the letter of intent stage outlining the applicant's status and eligibility for this program. Additional details regarding what may be defined as underrepresented include:

- 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

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disadvantaged populations, underserved rural populations, persons with disabilities (defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as a person with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities), minoritized sexual and gender populations, and Individuals from [economically developing nations of Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean](#).

- Applicants born in any of the economically developing nations of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean are eligible granted that all other criteria regarding career stage are met. The Alzheimer's Association will not require proof of American citizenship or a Permanent Resident Status.
- Applicants employed by a university that is located in an economically developing nation of Africa, Asia and Latin America, are eligible granted that all other criteria regarding career stage are met.

**ANY QUESTIONS RELATED TO ELIGIBILITY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION AT [GRANTSAPP@ALZ.ORG](mailto:GRANTSAPP@ALZ.ORG) PRIOR TO SUBMITTING AN LOI. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE AFTER THE LOI DEADLINE HAS PASSED.** The Alzheimer's Association reserves the right to require additional documentation if necessary.

The self-statement will be validated by the Alzheimer's Association and removed from the LOI. The self-statement will not be included in the information shared with reviewers and will only be used by Alzheimer's Association staff to confirm eligibility to this program.

#### *iv. Ineligibility*

- Individuals who have a position of an **Assistant Professorship or above are not eligible.**
- Individuals currently enrolled in a Doctoral Program are not eligible, regardless of prior degree status
- 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: **September 6, 2023 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 October 2, 2023**  
***NOTE: DUE TO THE HIGH VOLUME OF SUBMISSIONS, SPECIFIC FEEDBACK AND REVIEWER COMMENTS ARE NOT PROVIDED AT THE LOI STAGE.***
- **Application deadline: November 8, 2023 5:00 PM EST**

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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, impact on the advancement of diverse science **(30 %)**
  - Resubmissions will have the opportunity to provide a response to prior review
- **Award notifications: Prior to February 28, 2024**

#### *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 their 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**

- Attend at least on one Association-sponsored networking event at the Alzheimer's Association's International Conference (AAIC) **REQUIRED**
- Acceptance of an abstract at AAIC **REQUIRED**

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- 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 organizations, 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**

#### *vii. Budget*

A budget justification 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); there is no salary cap
- Membership to scientific association
- Professional development / communication training
- Training costs to visit and perform research related to the awarded project on another laboratory/facility (this is not to be included in the travel costs)
- Support for **travel to scientific and professional meetings** not to exceed \$5,000 in any given year; additional support for travel expenses necessary to carry out research planned not to exceed \$2,000 in any given year – this may include site visits. **Total travel cost should not exceed \$7,500 for the duration of the award and must include attendance to the annual Alzheimer's Association International Conference**

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- Participant travel expenses for projects involving human participants is not included in the travel and is allowable expenses that can be captured under other expenses (itemized) in the budget.
- As part of Alzheimer's Association ongoing efforts to develop programs that support family-friendly research environments, Alzheimer's Association Research Fellowship can request up to \$2,500 per budget period for childcare costs provided by a licensed childcare provider

**b. Direct Costs not allowed under this award include:**

- Computer hardware or standard software (e.g. Microsoft Office, mouse monitor, computer parts)
- Laboratory equipment such as freezers, ultracentrifuges, RT-PCR, Microscopy/imaging equipment
- Service contract fees of equipment
- Construction or renovation costs
- Tuition
- Rent for laboratory/office space
- Expenses such as Data Network Recharges and Computing and communication device support services. However, data sharing and/or data storage for imaging, sequencing and other study data is allowed
- General liability insurances, such as GAEL
- Wire and currency exchange fees
- The Alzheimer's Association [Medical and Scientific Advisory Group \(MSAG\)](#), the [International Research Grant Program \(IRGP\) Council members](#) and current employees of the Alzheimer's Association are allowed to be key personnel or collaborators on projects, however they are NOT ALLOWED to receive any salary or compensation. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be found on our website [alz.org/grants](http://alz.org/grants)
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*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)
- 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

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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 inquiries or additional information, please contact a member of the Alzheimer's Association Grants staff at [grantsapp@alz.org](mailto:grantsapp@alz.org).***

**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 related dementia. 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 18 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, mapping disease features or spread 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 related dementia.

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 **\$250,000**. Component parts of the award include:

- A total of **\$230,000** (including direct and indirect costs) will be awarded for costs related to the proposed research for up to three years (**Award should be a**

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minimum 2 years. For a 2 year award the total is limited to \$200,000 with direct and indirect costs). Requests in any given year may not exceed \$100,000 (direct and indirect costs). Indirect costs are capped at 10 percent of total direct costs and are inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.

- **A total of \$7,500 over a three year period may be requested for travel purposes and is not to exceed \$5,000 in any given year.** If you request the full \$7,500 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. **Total travel cost should not exceed \$7,500 for the duration of the award and must include attendance to the annual Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC).**

**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, as well as professional development of the Fellow and Mentor, including but not limited to training fees, membership fees, open access publication fees and will be paid to the applicant's and mentor's respective institutions at the time of release. No additional financial reporting is required for these funds.

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

### *iii. Eligibility*

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

- Full-time positions
- Less than 18 years of research experience after receipt of their terminal degree (Ph.D, MD/DO or Residency) **and**
- Licensure for clinical practice.
- The Alzheimer's Association will make exceptions to the terminal degree requirement when the individual applicant has a full-time faculty position of Assistant Professor (or equivalent) or Associate Professor and is expert in the area of public health, social work, neuropsychology, legal, bioethics or a related area of psychosocial research

### *iv. Ineligibility*

- Individuals who have a position **above Assistant Professorship are not eligible.**

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- Individuals currently enrolled in a Doctoral Program are not eligible, regardless of prior degree status
- 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: September 6, 2023 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 related dementia research
- Evidence of methodological rigor that address the research question(s) being proposed
- **Letter of Intent notifications: Week of October 2, 2023**  
*NOTE: DUE TO THE HIGH VOLUME OF SUBMISSIONS, SPECIFIC FEEDBACK AND REVIEWER COMMENTS ARE NOT PROVIDED AT THE LOI STAGE.*
- **Application deadline: November 8, 2023 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 support, 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, impact on advancement of diverse science **(30 %)**
  - Resubmissions will have the opportunity to provide a response to prior review
- **Award notifications: Prior to February 28, 2024**

#### *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 their 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.**

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Mentors can be early-career researchers and/or mid-career scientists who choose to shift into Alzheimer's and related 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**

- Attend at least on one 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 organizations, 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**

### ***vii. Budget***

A budget justification 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:

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- 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); there is no salary cap
- Membership to scientific association
- Professional development / communication training
- Training costs to visit and perform research related to the awarded project on another laboratory/facility (this is not to be included in the travel costs)
- Support for **travel to scientific and professional meetings** not to exceed \$5,000 in any given year; additional support for travel expenses necessary to carry out research planned not to exceed \$2,000 in any given year – this may include site visits. **Total travel cost should not exceed \$7,500 for the duration of the award and must include attendance to the annual Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC)**
- **Participant travel expenses for projects involving human participants is not included in the travel and is allowable expenses that can be captured under other expenses (itemized) in the budget.**
- **As part of Alzheimer's Association ongoing efforts to develop programs that support family-friendly research environments, Alzheimer's Association Clinician Scientist Fellowship can request up to \$2,500 per budget period for childcare costs provided by a licensed childcare provider**

**b. Direct Costs not allowed under this award include:**

- Computer hardware or standard software (e.g. Microsoft Office, mouse monitor, computer parts, AppleCare)
- Laboratory equipment such as freezers, ultracentrifuges, RT-PCR, Microscopy/imaging equipment
- Service contract fees of equipment
- Construction or renovation costs
- Tuition
- Rent for laboratory/office space
- Expenses such as Data Network Recharges and Computing and communication device support services. However, data sharing and/or data storage for imaging, sequencing and other study data is allowed
- General liability insurances, such as GAEL
- Wire and currency exchange fees
- The Alzheimer's Association [Medical and Scientific Advisory Group \(MSAG\)](#), the [International Research Grant Program \(IRGP\) Council members](#) and current employees of the Alzheimer's Association are allowed to be key personnel or collaborators on projects, however they are NOT ALLOWED to receive any salary or compensation. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be

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found on our website [alz.org/grants](http://alz.org/grants)

*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.

The Alzheimer's Association is pleased to partner with the Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation on this program. Based on the review process, one AACSF/AACSF-D awardee each cycle will be identified as the Alzheimer's Association Fred A. Erb Clinical Research Science Fellowship. This Alzheimer's Association Fred A. Erb Clinical Research Science Fellowship will include a small amount of additional funding over the course of the grant as well.

*x. Contact Information*

**For any inquiries or additional information, please contact a member of the Alzheimer's Association Grants staff at [grantsapp@alz.org](mailto:grantsapp@alz.org).**

**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 related dementia. 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).

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Applicants who are within 18 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 related 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 **\$250,000**. Component parts of the award include:

- A total of **\$230,000** (including direct and indirect costs) will be awarded for costs related to the proposed research for up to three years (**Award should be a minimum 2 years. For a 2 year award the total is limited to \$200,000 with direct and indirect costs**). **Requests in any given year may not exceed \$100,000 (direct and indirect costs)**. Indirect costs are capped at 10 percent of total direct costs and are inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.
- **A total of \$7,500 over a three-year period may be requested for travel purposes and is not to exceed \$5,000 in any given year.** If you request the full \$7,500 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

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be applied to sustaining ongoing research in the Alzheimer's field, as well as professional development of the Fellow and Mentor, including but not limited to training fees, membership fees, publication fees and will be paid to the applicant's and mentor's respective institutions at the time of release. No financial reporting is required for these funds.

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

### *iii. Eligibility*

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

- Full-time positions
- Less than 18 years of research experience after receipt of their terminal degree **and**
- Licensure for clinical practice.
- The Alzheimer's Association will make exceptions to the terminal degree requirement when the individual applicant has a full-time faculty position of Assistant Professor (or equivalent) or Associate Professor and is expert in the area of public health, social work, neuropsychology, legal, bioethics or a related area of psychosocial research

**Specific for the AACSF-D program**, eligible applicants have the same requirements as the AACSF program, but are an underrepresented faculty in biomedical and behavioral research on a national, international or institutional basis.

Applicants must submit a **Diversity Self Statement (1 paragraph max)** during the letter of intent stage outlining the applicant's status and eligibility for this program. *This statement will only be accessible to the applicant and the Alzheimer's Association through their ProposalCentral Account (if the applicant gives others access to the LOI, they will be able to view all attachments).* Additional details regarding what may be defined as underrepresented include:

- 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 (defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as a person with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities), minoritized sexual and gender populations, and Individuals from [economically developing nations of Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean](#).
- Applicants born in any of the economically developing nations of Africa, Asia, Latin

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America and the Caribbean are eligible granted that all other criteria regarding career stage are met. The Alzheimer's Association will not require proof of American citizenship or a Permanent Resident Status.

- Applicants employed by a university that is located in an economically developing nation of Africa, Asia and Latin America, are eligible granted that all other criteria regarding career stage are met.

**ANY QUESTIONS RELATED TO ELIGIBILITY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION AT GRANTSAPP@ALZ.ORG PRIOR TO SUBMITTING AN LOI. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE AFTER THE LOI DEADLINE HAS PASSED.** The Alzheimer's Association reserves the right to require additional documentation if necessary.

The self-statement will be validated by the Alzheimer's Association and removed from the application. The self-statement will not be included in the information shared with reviewers and will only be used to confirm eligibility to this program.

#### *iv. Ineligibility*

- Individuals who have a position **above Assistant Professorship are not eligible.**
- Individuals currently enrolled in a Doctoral Program are not eligible, regardless of prior degree status
- 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: September 6, 2023 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 October 2, 2023**  
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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 support, 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, impact on advancement of diverse science **(30 %)**
  - Resubmissions will have the opportunity to provide a response to prior review

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- **Award notifications: Prior to February 28, 2024**

#### *vi. Mentoring plans and Fellowship Benchmarks*

Each Fellowship award must identify a primary mentor. The mentor should be experienced in conducting Alzheimer's and related dementia research and in mentoring junior investigators. The application must include a 2-3 page statement from the selected mentor that includes information on their 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 they 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**

- Attend at least on one 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...

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### **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 justification 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**
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- Salary for the principal investigator, scientific (including postdoctoral fellows) and technical staff (including laboratory technicians and administrative support directly related to the funded grant); there is no salary cap
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**b. Direct Costs not allowed under this award include:**

- Computer hardware or standard software (e.g. Microsoft Office, mouse monitor, computer parts)
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- The Alzheimer's Association [Medical and Scientific Advisory Group \(MSAG\)](#), the [International Research Grant Program \(IRGP\) Council members](#) and current employees of the Alzheimer's Association are allowed to be key personnel or collaborators on projects, however they are NOT ALLOWED to receive any salary or compensation. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be found on our website [alz.org/grants](http://alz.org/grants)

*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.

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