

The Zenith Fellows Award Program (Zenith)

Competition objectives: The Zenith Fellows award was initiated in 1991 to provide a vehicle for research support for donors with a substantial personal commitment to the advancement of Alzheimer's disease research. The awards are made possible by the generosity of a group of individuals and organizations (Zenith Society) that have each committed \$1 million to the Alzheimer's Association for support of the program.

The objective of the 2016 Zenith Fellows Awards competition is to provide major support for investigators who have:

- 1) Contributed significantly to the field of Alzheimer's disease research,
- 2) Made significant contributions to other areas of science and are now beginning to focus more directly on problems related to Alzheimer's disease, and
- 3) Are likely to make substantial contributions in the future.

The proposed research must be "on the cutting edge" of basic science or biomedical research and thus may not conform to current conventional scientific wisdom or may challenge the prevailing orthodoxy. The proposed research should address fundamental problems related to early detection, etiology, pathogenesis, treatment and/or prevention of Alzheimer's disease.

In addition to the two tier peer-review process described in Section III-vi (Review Procedures), the Zenith Fellows Award includes an additional level of review that engages the Alzheimer's Association Zenith Society to select final award recipients based on project topics in which they are most interested. Many of the Zenith Society members have family and friends affected by Alzheimer's disease and have a deep commitment to advancing the research.

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.

Funding and award period: Each award is limited to \$450,000 (direct and indirect costs) for three years. Requests in any given year may not exceed \$250,000 (direct and indirect costs). Indirect costs are capped at 10 percent (rent for laboratory/office space is expected to be covered by indirect costs paid to the institution).

Eligibility: Only established independent investigators are eligible as evidenced by:

- 1) Academic appointment;
- 2) Major, peer-reviewed, external multi-year grant support on which the applicant is the principal investigator (PI);
- 3) Independent laboratory operation; and
- 4) Quality and independence of publication record.

Only applicants who have already contributed significantly to the field of Alzheimer's disease research or have the clear likelihood of making significant contributions will be seriously considered. **Previous recipients of Zenith Awards, Medical and Scientific Advisory Council members and members of the National Board of the Alzheimer's Association are ineligible to apply.**

Ineligibility: The Alzheimer's Association will not accept new grant applications from currently funded investigators 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.**

Deadlines and award dates: Letters of Intent must be received by **5:00 PM EASTERN STANDARD TIME, April 1, 2016**. Letters of Intent will not be accepted after this date. No exceptions will be made.

Applications must be received by 5:00 PM EASTERN STANDARD TIME, May 10, 2016.

Scientific and technical review will be conducted from May through June 2016.

The second-level review by the Medical and Scientific Advisory Council will be conducted during June 2016. The Zenith Society review will occur in November, 2016. **Funding decisions will be sent no later than November 30, 2016.**

Applications will be reviewed with special attention to:

- Significance of the question being studied
- Applicant information
- Quality of the work plan
- Quality and adequacy of available resources and budget
- Impact-Risk

Mechanism of award, reporting requirements and allowable costs: The mechanism of award is the individual research grant. The maximum duration of award is three years—there is no program for competing continuation applications (3-year) funding as was the case in the early years of the Zenith program. Annual scientific progress and financial reports are required. Continuation of the grant over the awarded duration is contingent upon receipt of scientific progress and financial reports.

Budget: A "budget summary" for the proposed research project is required and must be submitted with the application and within the allowable page limits. However, if the application is to be awarded, a more detailed budget will be required and must be approved before the disbursement of funds. **Your budget must not exceed the maximum amount of the award, \$450,000 or \$250,000 per year.**

Allowable costs under this award:

It is required that most of the funds awarded under this program be used for direct research support.

Other allowable costs include:

- Purchase and care of laboratory animals
- Small pieces of laboratory equipment and laboratory supplies
- Computer software if used strictly for data collection
- Salary for the principal investigator, scientific (including postdoctoral fellows) and technical staff (including laboratory technicians and modest administrative support)
- Support for travel to scientific and professional meetings, not to exceed \$1,000 per year

Direct Costs not allowed under this award include:

- Computer hardware or standard software (e.g., Microsoft Office)
- Construction or renovation costs
- Tuition
- Rent for laboratory/office space

For more information: Contact grantsapp@alz.org or call 1.312.335-5747 or 1.312.335.5862.