

SCIENCE AWARDS FOR ALLERGY:

Call for applications

GUIDELINES 2023

These guidelines provide information for candidates and reviewers for the Stallergenes Greer Foundation Science Awards for Allergy. This guide may be used as a reference by candidates and reviewers.

I. INTRODUCTION

The complexity of allergic diseases is tremendous. Worldwide, the increased prevalence of allergic diseases has been a continuing trend in the industrialized world for more than 50 years¹. Today, they affect an estimated 10 to 30% of the population. It is expected that by 2050, they will affect up to 4 billion people across the globe².

Allergic diseases thus impose a considerable burden on patients, health systems and society. Their management also comes with new challenges related to the emergence of new lifestyle behaviors³ and environmental changes, as climate change affects allergen patterns. Air pollution can also modify the allergenic potential of pollens, especially in the presence of specific weather conditions⁴.

Though we are only beginning to understand how patient profiles and environmental factors uniquely shape allergic diseases, we are now at a tipping point in the history of allergology. In an era of molecular medicine, promoting new tools and innovative methods to further scientific research is expected to advance allergy care and create healthier futures for all.

¹ AAAAI. Allergy Statistics [Last accessed on April 2023]. Available at: <https://www.aaaai.org/About/News/For-Media/Allergy-Statistics>

² World Health Organization. Ambient Air Pollution: Health Impacts [Last accessed on April 2023].

³ Annesi-Maesano I, et al. World Allergy Organ J. 2021 Nov; 14(11): 10059.

⁴ Katelaris CH, et al. (2018). Climate change: allergens and allergic diseases. Intern Med J. 2018 Feb;48(2):129-134. doi: 10.1111/imj.13699.

There still remain significant challenges to bringing about these revolutionary changes in allergology. These include characterizing the underlying molecular mechanisms of disease, evaluating the risks and impact of environmental exposure (the “exposome”) or achieving actionable multidimensional data (“omics”) integration to advance allergy prevention, diagnosis and care⁵.

We strongly believe in the key role scientific research has to play in driving innovation and developed the **Stallergenes Greer Foundation Science Awards for Allergy** to encourage and support outstanding work in the field of allergy led by a young scientist or a mid-career scientist, or outstanding work in the environmental field to advance the prevention and management of allergies.

The Call for Applications of the Stallergenes Greer Foundation Science Awards for Allergy will open July 1st and will end at 11:59pm (Central European Time - CET) on November 29th, 2023.

II. PURPOSE AND FOCUS

The **Stallergenes Greer Foundation Science Awards** aim to:

- Accelerate innovation in allergy through cutting-edge research in the field of respiratory and food allergy (“**Innovation Awards**”),
- Encourage pioneering advances that integrate climate action and environmental protection into research on the prevention and management of allergic diseases (“**Environmental Health Award**”),
- Support talented and highly engaged researchers in the field of allergy, whose work contributes to improving the lives of people with allergy.

The research work should contribute to a better understanding and management of respiratory or food allergic diseases and must fall within the scope of the award (innovation and/or environmental health) and have led to rigorous and innovative results (fundamental, clinical, environmental research, etc.).

Focus: Innovation Awards

Accelerating “**Innovation**” consists in applying multiple levels of patient-specific data (including family history, genetic and molecular data, exposure to risk factors, dietary habits, lifestyle factors, etc.) to prevent the onset and progression of an atopic condition or to develop effective, patient-centered approaches to prevention, diagnosis and care.

Fostering scientific breakthroughs in allergy requires **novel approaches by both fundamental and clinical research** as well as **integration of multi-omics data** to better understand the mechanisms of allergic diseases and to translate these advances into improved care for all.

⁵ Proper SP, et al. Front. Immunol. 2021 Aug ;12. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2021.720746>.

Two **Innovation Awards** will be presented either to encourage and raise the profile of a young scientist (hereinafter "**Rising Talent**" category) or to recognize the outstanding work of a mid-career scientist (hereinafter "**Mid-career Scientist**" category), who are driving innovation in respiratory and food allergy.

Examples of associated keywords: *respiratory and food allergy, endotype, precision medicine, biomarkers, genomics, metabolomics, prevention, prediction, patient, multidimensional data, molecular diagnosis*

Focus: Environmental Health Award

While genetics has a major influence on the development of allergic diseases, **environmental exposures** must be considered and are the subject of extensive research on the interaction between exposome and biology⁶. Assessing this impact, particularly in early childhood, and the link between climate change, air pollution, changes in and loss of biodiversity, alterations in the microbiome and the development of allergic conditions are vast areas that need to be explored⁷.

Understanding the different mechanisms at work and the way they interact is a major health and environmental challenge. This will require **pioneering approaches spanning multiple disciplines**, aiming at preserving and restoring both **natural and built ecosystems** and contributing to advancing the prevention and management of allergies.

The **Environmental Health Award** recognizes the work of a single researcher, or a representative of a research team, who is leading and pioneering research about climate change and environmental protection for the benefit of people with allergies worldwide.

Examples of associated keywords: *allergy, exposome, prevention, climate change, biodiversity, microbiome, environmental health, restore damaged ecosystems, air quality, innovation.*

III. ELIGIBILITY

The Stallergenes Greer Foundation Science Awards are open to physicians, PhDs and Pharm-Ds working in the relevant focus areas (immunology, allergology, pediatrics, pneumology, ENT, environmental research, etc.), affiliated to a research team and working in a non-profit research laboratory.

Candidates must still be actively engaged in allergy research at the time of the Awards selection process, accept the conditions for selection (see hereunder "Organization and application process") and agree with the conditions for promoting the Awards (see hereunder "Promotion of the awards and awardee research").

⁶ Agache I, et al. *Allergy*. 2019 Mar;74(3):449-463. doi: 10.1111/all.13690.

⁷ Sozener ZC, et al. *Allergy*. 2022;77:1418–1449. doi: 10.1111/all.15240.

Specifically for Innovation Awards, the candidates must:

Rising Talent category

- Be less than 40 years old at the time of application, (+ 1 year if parental leave of more than six months, with supporting evidence)
- Have published at least one article in the field of respiratory and/or food allergy

Mid-career Scientist category

- Have conducted research for 10 to 20 years, with at least 3 publications in the field of respiratory and/or food allergy
- Have demonstrated outstanding research achievements, as evidenced by research outputs (e.g., publications), research activities (e.g., organizing networks, being involved in communities) and research impact (e.g., some degree of international recognition from their peers)

Candidates for the Innovation Awards should consider the number of years since completing their PhD and the application deadline when calculating their eligibility.

There are no geographic limitations for candidates. Candidates from all countries are potentially eligible. Applicants should apply in only one category.

IV. AWARDS AMOUNT AND ALLOCATION

As part of the **Stallergenes Greer Foundation Science Awards**, the Foundation will present three awards worth one hundred fifty thousand euros (€150,000) in total. Fifty thousand euros (€50,000) will be given to each of the three Awardees.

The Awards will be paid in full, according to the individual grant agreements to be entered into between the Stallergenes Greer Foundation and the individual Awardees.

The Awards will be paid in full to the Awardee unless the policy of its affiliated research institution states otherwise.

After the Award Ceremony, and upon signature of the grant agreement, the Awardee shall receive the grant provided all conditions are met.

V. ORGANIZATION AND APPLICATION PROCESS

A. Organisation

The Stallergenes Greer Foundation Science Awards shall be awarded using a 3-step process (as detailed in section "**Application process**" below), involving a Selection Committee composed of:

- The Stallergenes Greer Foundation's **Managing Board**,

- The Stallergenes Greer Foundation’s **Scientific Board**, composed of four independent members.

*To learn more about the members of the Selection Committee:
www.stallergenesgreerfoundation.org*

The Selection Committee shall select the Awardees of the 2023 Stallergenes Greer Foundation Science Awards from the shortlist of eligible candidates.

The Selection Committee’s decision shall be made by simple majority vote of all members. The Selection Committee President has a double vote. In the event of a tie, the President will have the casting vote. Decisions of the Selection Committee are final and may not be subject to an appeal from the candidates. The Selection Committee reserves the right to grant more than one award in the same category on account of the number and quality of the applications received.

As per Fondation de France guidelines, funds may be allocated to bodies affiliated to Trustees of the Stallergenes Greer Foundation, in which case the Trustee concerned shall not be entitled to vote and the allocation may only be made on one occasion during their term of office. The Trustee may not submit the project themselves.

b. Timeline

Step	Date & Time
Application period	July 1st, 2023 - November 29th 2023, at 11:59pm (Central European Time - CET) Applications received after the deadline or that are incomplete will not be considered.
Selection of the awardees	End of February 2024 Results will be sent by email to researchers.
Awards Ceremony	During EAACI Congress 2024 Results will be announced publicly.

If there are insufficient applications, or if none of the applications meet the expected level of scientific research, the Foundation reserves the right to amend the timeline.

C. Application process

1) Step 1 – Researchers’ applications

All applications should be in English, and the publications related to the research work should be published in the public domain, in English.

Candidates that meet all researcher eligibility requirements and have relevant research shall submit a proposal containing the following documents:

1. Short CV (3 pages maximum including PhD date, main achievements, membership in committees and associations, appointments if any)
2. Short description of primary research area and motivations (maximum 3000 characters)
3. List of no more than 5 most impactful publications documenting the candidate's past research in allergy, indicating the publication dates and media (e.g., journal, conference, etc.). In the case of multiple authors, the candidate's specific contribution to the publication should be briefly outlined
4. A <1500 characters summary of why this individual's research fits the award's purpose, is innovative and has an impact on the research focus of the award
5. *OPTIONAL*: At least two sponsorship letters, with at least one from a sponsor outside of the candidate's institution, specifically supporting the achievements of the candidate and justifying why the candidate should receive this recognition.
6. *OPTIONAL*: link to a self-filmed video explaining the research work (approximately 2 minutes)
7. *OPTIONAL*: link to an existing short video presentation e.g., website or YouTube channel featuring relevant content or evidence of speaking opportunities

All documents should be uploaded to the dedicated platform www.stallergenesgreer-foundation.org before **November 29th, 2023, at 11:59pm (Central European Time - CET)**.

Applications may only be submitted electronically. All applications sent by post will be rejected.

2) Step 2 – Screening

The Stallergenes Greer Foundation will shortlist applications to ensure requirements are met.

3) Step 3 – Selection & results publication

The Selection Committee will review the applications. **Candidates will be informed by e-mail before the end of February 2024.** The 2023 Stallergenes Greer Foundation Science Awards will be awarded during the Stallergenes Greer Foundation Science Awards Ceremony at EAACI Congress 2024. Participation in the award process implies acceptance of the guidelines put forth in this document and the requirements that follow.

D. Selection criteria

Eligible submissions shall be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- **Background and established scientific achievements of the candidate:**
 - o Advocacy, mobilisation, and commitment to Allergy,

- Recognised leadership skills, capacity for networking and role in the research community (contribution to creating, organizing leading and developing researchers' communities),
- Proven interest in and ability to engage with other audiences to spread their messages.
- **Fit of the research work with the purpose of the awards as stated above:**
 - Contributes to accelerating innovation in respiratory and food allergy,
 - Encourages pioneering advances that integrate environmental approaches into research on allergic diseases.
- **High scientific or clinical quality of research:**
 - Recognition of the research by peers (number of citations, impact factor, etc.),
 - Robustness of data.
- **Innovation:**
 - Originality and innovation of scientific contribution (novel concepts, methodology, transdisciplinary research, collaboration, etc.).
- **Scientific and societal impact of the research work**
 - Practical outcomes and proven benefits to human health (clinical, epidemiological or practice improvement),
 - Recognition beyond national borders.

VI. PROMOTION OF THE AWARDS AND AWARDEE RESEARCH

The Awardee authorises the Stallergenes Greer Foundation to communicate about its support on the Foundation's website and through other means to its scientific communities, within 24 months following the Stallergenes Greer Foundation Science Awards Ceremony.

In the context of the promotion of the Stallergenes Greer Foundation Science Awards, the Foundation may use, in its internal and external communications and subject to prior approval by the candidate, the name, photo, credentials, research work and any other relevant information received during the award process related to the Awardee. This information includes, but is not limited to, the research project content, research project title, award name and award process.

The Awardee may act as an ambassador of the Foundation to promote Innovation and Environment Health in the field of allergic diseases and may:

- Take part in 2 events organized and supported by the Stallergenes Greer Foundation as a speaker or moderator (e.g., round table, webinars, training session, etc.)
- Participate in public relation activities related to the Stallergenes Greer Foundation Science Awards (including, but not exclusively, press relations)

The Awardee will participate in these activities free of charge. Other activities or events may be identified and agreed with the Awardee.

Any communication and related content will be submitted to the Awardee for approval.

VII. AWARDEE OBLIGATIONS

By submitting their application, the Awardee accepts these guidelines and agrees to sign an agreement with the Stallergenes Greer Foundation.

VIII. MORE ABOUT THE STALLERGENES GREER FOUNDATION

Placed under the aegis of Fondation de France, the Stallergenes Greer Foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees which brings together a Managing Board and a Scientific Board. The Stallergenes Greer Foundation acts transparently and respects our ethical commitments to the Fondation de France.



About Fondation de France

Created in 1969, Fondation de France is a private organisation recognised of public interest, whose mission is to support all forms of generosity in order to translate them into effective actions of general interest.

With close to 1,000 hosted foundations, Fondation de France supports more than 10,000 promising and innovative initiatives in France and abroad each year.

Fondation de France is independent and private and operates thanks to the generosity of donors.

To learn more about Fondation de France:

<https://www.fondationdefrance.org/en/who-we-are>

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