



**INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT
JUNE 2020 PROGRAM (February 2020 – August 2020)**

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INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT JUNE 2020 PROGRAM (February 2020 – August 2020)

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

I. BACKGROUND: ASSOCIATION MISSION AND SCIENTIFIC AGENDA

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

As the world's leading nonprofit funder of Alzheimer's and all dementia research, the Association is currently investing over \$170 million in more than 500 projects in 27 countries. Since 1982, the Association has invested over \$475 million in over 3,000 scientific investigations in 37 countries. The Association made its largest-ever research investment in FY19, granting more than \$42 million.

The Association supplements its own funding efforts with public policy initiatives directed toward increasing Alzheimer's and all dementia research funding at the federal level. The Association's International Research Grant Program has served historically as an incubator for novel ideas, complementing the programs of the National Institute on Aging and the other institutes of the National Institutes of Health as well as other federal agencies around the world. As our funding initiative has grown and matured, grant categories have expanded to support researchers at every stage in their careers. Funded projects now explore the broadest possible spectrum of biological approaches to understanding, preventing and treating Alzheimer's and all 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 FOR THE 2020 INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM

Areas of focus are high-priority research areas in which the Association actively seeks proposals. The areas are defined broadly, and the examples cited are not intended to

preclude or constrain other projects or proposals. Potential applicants are strongly 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.

i. Research in Diverse Populations: Closing the Gap

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

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

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

To fill these gaps in knowledge, projects must address the following issues:

Socioeconomic status: What is the effect of high or low socioeconomic status on Alzheimer's and all other dementia and its meaning in diverse populations? How can services for people with Alzheimer's and all other dementia and their families be developed to most effectively reach a large range of socioeconomic levels and people from minority-groups? What is the best method to convey information about Alzheimer's and all other dementia to specific diverse groups?

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

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

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

Interactions among factors: How do socioeconomic status, values and beliefs, the role of the family, and geographical and regional differences interact to influence care and service delivery to people with Alzheimer's and all other dementia and their families?

Incidence, prevalence and risk factors—key facts about the epidemiology of Alzheimer's and all other dementia—remain unknown in many defined ethnic and cultural groups. To better quantify the public health implications of Alzheimer's and all other dementia and support the development of necessary programs and services, reliable and valid data on the distribution of the disease in the U.S. population must be obtained.

Acquiring meaningful epidemiological data for diverse groups will require the ability to accurately detect and monitor Alzheimer's and all other dementia in the target population. In most cases, adequate tools for detection and monitoring do not exist. These research instrument deficits inhibit epidemiological investigations and limit the conduct of behavioral, social and clinical studies.

The following points outline some of the tools, instruments and strategies needed to address these deficiencies. Although very large population studies fall outside the funding scope of the Alzheimer's Association, smaller, well-designed studies can effectively address a number of the information and instrument gaps that must be filled. This list is not exhaustive but is intended to highlight the types of research needed:

Assessment instruments that are valid and reliable for specific age, gender, cultural, language, and ethnic groups, as well as for different levels of education and literacy, are needed as soon as possible. Expansion of epidemiological, behavioral, social and clinical research is hampered by the lack of these instruments.

Test norms standardized for age and gender for specific ethnic groups are also needed urgently. These norms must take into account language, education level, and literacy as well as educational equivalency between cultures and countries of origin. Norms derived from majority group data are often applied to minority groups and can result in misleading interpretations. This misapplication is especially serious for people with little or no formal education.

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

Cross validation: Programs that are successful in the recruitment, enrollment, and retention of cultural group members must be cross-validated with other cultural groups and in different geographic areas to determine their broad-based usefulness in research.

Contacts: The differences in the effectiveness of recruitment approaches for clinical studies, and the mechanisms underlying these differences, must be explored. For example, under what circumstances are individual or local community-rooted approaches more effective than large mass media or marketing approaches? How do specific, clearly defined cultural groups differ from one another in the acceptability of various approaches and methods of contact?

Culturally competent investigators or investigators who are members of the cultural group: What difference does the cultural identity of the investigator make in successful identification, recruitment, enrollment and retention of specific cultural group members in clinical studies? Does it enhance long-term successful retention to have investigators who are of the same cultural group as the people to be recruited? Or, is it adequate that the investigator be culturally competent? And what, precisely, does it mean to be culturally competent for the purposes of Alzheimer's research?

Community barriers: What are the real and perceived barriers to participation in Alzheimer's and all other dementia research in specific cultural groups? How can these barriers be overcome?

ii. Social/Behavioral and Cognitive/Functional Focus: Evaluating Interventions and Translating Knowledge into Practice

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

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

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

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

(1) Person with dementia: Over time, we have been able to gain an understanding of the experience of the person with dementia. This can be attributed to such things as people in the early stages speaking and writing about their experiences and the development of individualized approaches to care. Some questions include, but are not limited to:

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

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

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

(3) Family and household: The family of a person with dementia often plays a critical role in providing care and navigating the health and long-term care systems. Although caregiving has been studied intensively, there is still a need to understand how best to support the families that provide care and enhance (or ameliorate) the impact on the family. Research in this area may include, but is not limited to:

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

(4) Identification and evaluation of services and interventions: Researchers and care providers together must identify and evaluate the broad range of factors that can affect programmatic interventions. Examples include:

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

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

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

(6) Behavioral modifications to help maintain cognitive function: Growing evidence suggests that lifestyle factors and behaviors interact with biological mechanisms in maintaining cognitive function. It is important to find ways to effectively share information about prevention and about the potential benefits of changing behaviors.

(7) Implementation and dissemination of knowledge: 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.

- What strategies are effective for getting the science of prevention and treatment out to the general public?
- How can we measure and evaluate public response to (or acceptance of) such information?

- How can we measure and evaluate people's use of the information to change important behaviors? What help do people need to support important lifestyle changes?
- How can the effect of these strategies be measured in relation to their impact on cognitive decline?

(8) Cognitive/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:

1. Identification of cognitive/functional profiles:
 - Differentiation of cognitive/functional profiles in different forms of dementia
 - Identification of earliest cognitive/functional changes
2. Development and validation of better measures for diagnosis, testing, clinical trials
3. Identification of neural/biological correlates of cognition/function:
 - Identification of underpinnings of cognitive change
 - Correlation of imaging measures such as brain volume, cortical thickness, white matter hyperintensities, regional cerebral blood flow, brain amyloid with cognitive and functional changes
 - Correlation of biological measures from blood or CSF with cognitive and functional changes
4. Investigation of how cognitive and functional changes impact medical, legal, and day-to-day issues:
 - Relation of cognitive changes to the ability to consent
 - Exploring the impact of disease on medical or financial decision-making
 - Exploring metacognition, the recognition of deficit
5. Use the cognitive neuroscience approach to better understand and characterize cognitive/functional changes:
 - Use measures to help identify functional brain changes underlying cognitive/functional change

iii. Biological Focus: Causes, Early Detection, Treatment, Models, Prevention and Risk Factors

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:

Cause(s) of the Disease: How and why do specific sets of neurons in select brain structures become dysfunctional? Why is there selective neuronal death in specific brain regions and not in others? What initiates these processes? What is the key step in the cascade of events leading to cell death? How do genetic factors interact with other factors to influence these processes?

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

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

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

Early and Accurate Detection and Diagnosis: What are the most sensitive, specific and cost-effective diagnostic procedures? What are the most sensitive, specific and cost-effective procedures for assessing change through the course of the disease?

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. The precise duration of the preclinical period and the details of the early molecular events are not known. This uncertainty about symptom-free early stages of the disease stems from the lack of well-validated tools or technologies for detection.

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 noninvasive 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.

Any effective biomarker must not only detect a fundamental biological process in the disease, but should also be validated in an adequately powered study with neuropathologically confirmed cases. Testing for the marker should be reliable, reproducible, non-invasive, simple to perform and inexpensive. In addition, a putative biomarker should have confirmation by at least two independent studies conducted by qualified investigators. Currently, none of the putative biochemical markers have been validated in adequately powered investigations.

Well-tested biological markers for Alzheimer's and all other dementia are not the only critical need—investigators are 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.

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. The primary scientific dispute revolves around theories concerning the precise cause or source of these destructive processes. Currently, the field of Alzheimer's therapy has a rich array of promising leads as therapeutic targets. If such potential treatments, using a variety of approaches, could be validated by well-powered clinical trials, they will have a profound effect on addressing the disease process. The eventual utility/efficacy of any intervention can only be evaluated through clinical trials, which are expensive.

Until recently, strategies for developing interventions focused primarily on symptomatic treatments for middle and late stages of the disease. It is anticipated that as new therapeutic targets are discovered, it will be possible to improve the quality of signal transduction and the ability of nerve cells to communicate. As even more is learned about the neurobiology of Alzheimer's and all other dementia, there will be greater reliance on techniques to design specific molecules aimed at correcting a particular cellular dysfunction. Some important therapeutic approaches should involve the discovery of interventions aimed at preventing premature cell death and restoring or prolonging the function of surviving damaged nerve cells.

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

Reduced Risk and Prevention: What are the prospects and strategies for reduced risk or prevention?

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

The most convincing argument, however, is the humanitarian one—effective prevention can spare future generations from one of the most feared and disabling infirmities associated with advancing age.

Research into basic disease mechanisms can have immense benefit for development of strategies for reducing risk or 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.

In general, it makes sense that intervening early in the process that causes a disease is easier and more effective than intervening at later stages when the disease has already taken its toll and has gained momentum. Extensive efforts have been launched to change this situation.

Risk Factors: What are the characteristics, either genetic or acquired, that increase the risk of Alzheimer's and all other dementia or offer protection against or delay the onset? How do the risk factors vary among specific diverse populations? Are any risk factors modifiable?

Epidemiological studies reveal growing evidence that most cases of Alzheimer's and all other dementia likely involve a combination of genetic and environmental risk factors. Identifying and validating these risk factors remains one of the most critical scientific challenges. The main risk factors so far validated for late-onset disease are age, family history and certain susceptibility genes.

The potential link between cerebral blood vessel disease and Alzheimer's, for instance, is one promising area of research. Vascular disease in the aged appears to have strong implications for neurodegeneration leading to dementia. Preliminary studies indicate that a broad spectrum of cerebrovascular lesions could lead to a decline in cognitive function. In addition, recent epidemiological studies have begun to implicate vascular conditions outside the central nervous system—such as heart disease and high blood pressure—as potential risk factors for dementia. The broader implication is the hypothesis that systemic vascular factors are risk factors for developing Alzheimer's and all other dementia. This risk encompasses different forms of cardiovascular disease, including coronary artery disease, carotid atherosclerosis, history of hypertension or high cholesterol, Type II diabetes and stroke or transient ischemic attacks.

The e4 allele of the apolipoprotein E gene (apoe4)—which has been associated with increased risk of cardiovascular disease—is the best-validated susceptibility gene to date,

with more widespread effects than any other genetic factor implicated in the late-onset, sporadic form of Alzheimer's. Several mechanisms have been identified by which apoe4 could increase the risk of developing Alzheimer's and all other dementia; most of them involve detrimental effects on brain cells rather than effects on the cardiovascular system.

III. International Research Grant Program - Program Summary and Key Dates

JUNE 2020 PROGRAM

Grant Competition	Alzheimer's Association Research Grant (AARG)	Alzheimer's Association Research Grant to Promote Diversity (AARG-D)	Alzheimer's Association Research Grant – New to the Field (AARG-NTF)	Alzheimer's Association Research Grant to Promote Diversity – New to the Field (AARG-D-NTF)	Alzheimer's Association Research Fellowship (AARF) *	Alzheimer's Association Research Fellowship to Promote Diversity (AARF-D) *	Alzheimer's Association Clinician Scientist Fellowship (AACSF) *	Alzheimer's Association Clinician Scientist Fellowship to Promote Diversity (AACSF-D) *	Zenith Fellows Award (ZENITH)
Letter of Intent:	Open Receipt Date: February 2020 LOI Deadline Date: March 19, 2020 5:00 PM EST								
Application Deadline Date:	May 6, 2020, 5:00 PM EST								
Review Process:	May – June 2020								
Award Announcement	August 30, 2020								
Request per year (in any given year) may not exceed:	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$250,000
Maximum per award:	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$155,000*	\$155,000*	\$155,000*	\$155,000*	\$450,000
Maximum number of years:	2 to 3 years	2 to 3 years	2 to 3 years	2 to 3 years	2 to 3 years	2 to 3 years	2 to 3 years	2 to 3 years	2 to 3 years

*These programs, in addition to the award total listed, also include \$10,000 research stipends for both the awardee and the primary mentor. These research stipends are awarded upon successful conclusion of the award and provided that specific milestones are met (total \$20,000). These research stipends are not to be factored into the billable budget grant total (max \$155,000) and are to be used for continuing research purposes after completion of the grant.

Scientists from underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply.

The Alzheimer's Association Research Grant Programs share the preceding areas of focus for fiscal year 2020, covered in Section II. Section IV of this program announcement provides complete details about each individual competition, including areas of focus for other specified programs, program objectives, funding and award period, eligibility, receipt and award dates, mechanism of award, reporting requirements and allowable costs.

Procedures and processes common to all of the grant competitions are discussed here.

i. Scientific Categories of Proposals

Each proposal must be submitted to a specific grant competition. In addition, all applicants in every competition are asked to classify their proposals according to five broad categories of scientific inquiry: (1) social and behavioral research, (2) clinical investigations, (3) basic biology, (4) adaptive technology, and (5) cognitive/functional. During second-level review, these categories help the Alzheimer's Association Medical and Scientific Advisory Council ensure a balanced, well-distributed award portfolio.

Topics that would fall into the five cross-competition categories for Alzheimer's and all other dementia might include, but are not limited to:

1. Social and behavioral research (relevant to all competitions except ZENITH): research in diverse populations; assessment of novel approaches to care and support diagnosed individuals and caregivers; special needs of early-stage and early-onset individuals; analysis of the impact of the physical and social environment; evaluation of services and interventions; quality of life; ethical issues; and health policy.

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

3. Basic biology (relevant to all competitions.): these are bench science projects involving *in vitro* or animal work pertaining to the causes of dementia; early and accurate detection and diagnosis; animal models; treatments; and prevention. Please note that *in vitro* work involving human samples falls into this category.

4. Adaptive technology (relevant to all competitions except ZENITH): research focusing on the use of emerging technologies and their clinical and social implications, including mobile computing, high-bandwidth sensing, "smart" environments, robotics, imaging, face recognition, natural language processing and behavioral monitoring for early detection.

5. Cognitive/ functional (relevant to all competitions except ZENITH): research focusing on identification of cognitive/functional profiles, development of better measures for diagnosis, testing, clinical trials, 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.

Please note: There are a few cases in which certain scientific categories do not apply to specific grant competitions. Applicability of categories to competitions is summarized in the table below. An empty box indicates the category does not apply.

Scientific Category	AARG, AARG-D, AARG-NTF and AARG-D-NTF	AARF and AARF-D	AACSF and AACSF-D	ZENITH
Social/Behavioral	✓	✓	✓	
Clinical investigations	✓	✓	✓	✓
Basic biology	✓	✓	✓	✓
Adaptive technology	✓	✓	✓	
Cognitive/Functional	✓	✓	✓	

IV. SPECIFIC GRANT COMPETITIONS

i. Alzheimer's Association Research Grant (AARG) Program

Competition objectives: The Alzheimer's Association Research Grant award aims to fund investigators who are less than **15 years** past their doctoral or post residency (MD or DO). The purpose of this program is to provide newly independent investigators with funding that will allow them to develop preliminary or pilot data, to test procedures and to develop hypotheses. The intent is to support early-career development that will lay the groundwork for future research grant applications to federal or other funding entities, like the National Institutes of Health, including future proposals to the Alzheimer's Association. The 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.

Funding and award period: Each **AARG** total award is limited to \$150,000 (direct and indirect costs) for up to three years (minimum 2 years). Requests may not exceed \$60,000 in any given year (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), this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.

Eligibility: Applicants must be Assistant Professors or above at their respective institution. For individuals who are at non-academic institutions, please contact the Alzheimer's Association at grantsapp@alz.org to verify your eligibility.

Eligibility to apply for this grant competition is restricted to investigators who have less than 15 years of research experience after receipt of their terminal degree (doctorate or post residency (MD or DO)). The 15-year period applies to the date of submission of the grant application. Adjustments for career interruptions can be made. These can include (but are not limited to): 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.

Applicants must contact the Alzheimer's Association at grantsapp@alz.org regarding any possible exception prior to submitting an LOI due to review process; no exceptions will be made after the LOI deadline has passed.

Applications to the Alzheimer's Association Research Grant (AARG) program will be accepted from postdoctoral fellows and other junior faculty members (for example: Instructor, Research Associate Scientist, Lecturer etc.) who can provide a letter of employment verification indicating they will have a full-time faculty position of an Assistant Professor or above by the award date should the proposal be in funding range and funded.

If applicable, the letter of employment must be uploaded with the application and dated within 3 months from application submission date, printed on the hiring institution letterhead, signed by an authorized institutional official (i.e. Grants and Contracts officer) and must indicate that the position will be activated by the grant award date. If the anticipated position is not activated by the award date for any reason, any offer of funding will be withdrawn. There will be no exceptions. In the event your application is funded, you will be required to provide an

official letter on organizational letterhead, signed by an institutional signing official, stating you have a full-time faculty position of an Assistant Professor and above.

Please note: 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.

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, March 19, 2020**. Letters of Intent will not be accepted after this date. No exceptions will be made. Hard copies or emails will not be accepted.

All applicants must include an ORCID ID, it is a required field, you will not be able to submit your LOI without this information.

Applications must be received by 5:00 PM EASTERN STANDARD TIME, May 6, 2020.

Scientific and technical review will be conducted from **May – June 2020**. The Alzheimer's Association will lead a second-tier panel review with leading research experts to evaluate each program during **June 2020**. **Funding will be announced by August 30, 2020.**

Create and submit your LOI online at <http://proposalcentral.com>

LOI Review Procedures:

Proposals are triaged at the LOI stage by an Alzheimer's Association expert review panel with special 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
- Evidence of methodological rigor that address the research question(s) being proposed

Note: Specific feedback and reviewer comments are not provided at the LOI stage for LOIs that are not invited to submit a full application.

Invited Application Review Procedures:

All Applications will be evaluated with special attention to the following:

- 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; projects that involve humans subjects will be evaluated on planned recruitment efforts
- Quality and adequacy of available resources and budget
- Impact-Risk of the proposal and how it will add to the field's overall knowledge and advancement
- Resubmissions will have the opportunity to provide a response to prior review

Mechanism of Award, Reporting Requirements and Allowable Costs: The mechanism of the award is the individual research grant. The maximum allowable duration is three years (minimum 2 years). Annual scientific progress and financial reports are required.

Continuation of the grant over the awarded duration is contingent upon the timely 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 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. **Your budget must not exceed the maximum amount of the award, \$150,000 or \$60,000 in any given year for up to three years (minimum 2 years – award cannot be for only one year).** **Note:** If you only request the award for two years the max amount you can request is \$120,000 or \$60,000 in any given year.

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 award may be included as indirect costs, this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.**

Allowable costs under this award 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 (**require prior approval**)
- Salary for the principal investigator, scientific (including postdoctoral fellows) and technical staff (including laboratory technicians and administrative support directly related to the funded grant)
- Support for travel to **scientific and professional meetings** not to exceed \$3,000 in any given year; additional support for travel expenses necessary to carry out research planned not to exceed \$1,000 in any given year – this may include site visits. **Total travel cost should not exceed \$5,000 for the duration of the award.**

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
- Salary and/or compensation for Alzheimer's Association Staff or current members of the Alzheimer's Association Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG) and the

International Research Grant Program (IRGP) Council. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be found on our website.

For more information: Contact grantsapp@alz.org.

ii. **Alzheimer's Association Research Grant to Promote Diversity (AARG-D) Program**

Competition objectives: The Alzheimer's Association Research Grant to Promote Diversity award is up to three years (minimum 2 years) to increase the number of scientists from underrepresented groups at academic institutions in Alzheimer's or all dementias research. The AARG-D aims to fund investigators who are less than **15 years** past their doctoral or post residency (MD or DO).

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

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

Funding and award period: Each AARG-D award is limited to \$150,000 (direct and indirect costs) for up to three years (minimum 2 years). Requests may not exceed \$60,000 in any given year (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), this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.

Eligibility: Applicants must be Assistant Professors or above at their respective institution. For individuals who are at non-academic institutions, please contact the Alzheimer's Association at grantsapp@alz.org to verify your eligibility.

Eligibility to apply for this grant competition is restricted to investigators who have less than 15 years of research experience after receipt of their terminal degree. The 15-year period applies to the date of submission of the grant application. Adjustments for career interruptions can be made. These would include, but are not limited to, 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. **Applicants must contact the Alzheimer's Association at grantsapp@alz.org regarding any possible exception prior to submitting an LOI due to the review process; no exceptions will be made after the LOI deadline has passed.**

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

documentation to support the faculty member's underrepresented status at their institution. Applicants from the United States submitting to the Alzheimer's Association will be subject to the definitions as stated by the National Institutes of Health: NIH-designated U.S health disparity populations include Blacks/ African Americans, Hispanics/ Latinos, American Indians/ Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, underserved rural populations, persons with disabilities, and sexual and gender minorities.

Applicants must submit a Letter of Assurance printed on the hiring institution letterhead, signed by an authorized institutional official (i.e. Grants and Contracts officer) that states you have been determined by your institution to be underrepresented in the above areas at the time of Letter of Intent (LOI) for verification. The Alzheimer's Association reserves the right to require additional documentation to help confirm the applicant's eligibility. **Non-US Applicants in addition to the letter must provide official documentation from their institutional materials, such as, website, manual or other legal documentation that indicates their eligibility for this program.**

Applications to the Alzheimer's Association Research Grant to Promote Diversity (AARG-D) program 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 you will have a full-time faculty position of an Assistant Professor or above by the award date should the proposal be in funding range and funded.

If applicable, 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 will have a full-time faculty position of an Assistant Professor and above.

Please note: If the applicant 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.

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, **March 19, 2020**. Letters of Intent will not be accepted after this date. No exceptions will be made. Hard copies or emails will not be accepted.

All applicants must include an ORCID ID, it is a required field, you will not be able to submit your LOI without this information.

**Applications must be received by 5:00 PM EASTERN STANDARD TIME,
May 6, 2020.**

Scientific and technical review will be conducted from **May – June 2020**. The Alzheimer's Association will lead a second-tier review with leading research experts to evaluate each program during **June 2020**. **Funding will be announced by August 30, 2020.**

Create and submit your LOI online at <http://proposalcentral.com>

LOI Review Procedures:

Proposals are triaged at the LOI stage by the Alzheimer's Association expert review panel with special 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
- Evidence of methodological rigor that address the research question(s) being proposed

Note: Specific feedback and reviewer comments are not provided at the LOI stage for LOIs that are not invited to submit a full application.

Invited Application Review Procedures:

All Applications will be evaluated with special attention to the following:

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

Mechanism of award, reporting requirements and allowable costs: The mechanism of the award is the individual research grant. The maximum allowable duration is three years (minimum 2 years). Annual scientific progress and financial reports are required.

Continuation of the grant over the awarded duration is contingent upon the timely 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 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. **Your budget must not exceed the maximum amount of**

the award, \$150,000 or \$60,000 in any given year for up to three years (minimum 2 years – award cannot be for only one year). Note: If you only request the award for two years the max amount you can request is \$120,000 or \$60,000 in any given year.

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 award may be included as indirect costs, this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.**

Allowable costs under this award 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 equipment if used strictly for data collection (**require prior approval**)
- Support for travel to **scientific and professional** meetings not to exceed \$3,000 in any given year; additional support for travel expenses necessary to carry our research planned not to exceed \$1,000 in any given year – this may include site visits. **Total travel cost should not exceed \$5,000 for the duration of the award.**
- Salary for the principal investigator, scientific (including post-doctoral fellows) and technical staff (including laboratory technicians and administrative support related directly to the funded project)

Direct Costs not allowed under this award include:

- Tuition
- Computer hardware or software for investigators
- Rent for laboratory/office space
- Construction or renovation costs
- Salary and/or compensation for Alzheimer's Association Staff or current members of the Alzheimer's Association Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG) and the International Research Grant Program (IRGP) Council. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be found on our website.

For more information: Contact grantsapp@alz.org.

iii. **Alzheimer's Association Research Grant – New to the Field (AARG-NTF) Program**

Competition objectives: The Alzheimer's Association Research Grant – New to the Field award aims to fund investigators who are new to Alzheimer's and all dementia field of research. The purpose of this program is to provide independent investigators with unique expertise and apply their knowledge to Alzheimer's and all dementias. This program aims to provide these investigators with funding to establish a research path in Alzheimer's and all dementias, to develop preliminary or pilot data, to test procedures and to develop hypotheses. Individuals who are new to the field of neuroscience or neurodegeneration (Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Lewy body dementia, etc) will be considered for this program. The intent is to support research that will lay the groundwork for future research grant applications to federal or other funding entities, like the National Institutes of Health, including future proposals to the Alzheimer's Association. The Alzheimer's Association recognizes the need to increase the number of scientists from underrepresented groups in the research enterprise. This program is not intended for investigators that have and/or are working in neurodegeneration-related research; this program is intended for investigators from other disciplines applying their expertise to Alzheimer's and all dementia research. The goal of the New to the Field program is to provide an opportunity for investigators with expertise outside neurodegenerative research to apply their expertise to advance and accelerate Alzheimer's and all other dementia. Competitive applications to this program emphasize how the specific expertise/approach will advance research.

Funding and award period: Each AARG-NTF total award is limited to \$150,000 (direct and indirect costs) for up to three years (minimum 2 years). Requests may not exceed \$60,000 in any given year (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), this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.

Eligibility: Applicants must be Assistant Professors or above at their respective institution. For individuals who are at non-academic institutions, please contact the Alzheimer's Association at grantsapp@alz.org to verify your eligibility.

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 **and will need to contact the Association at grantsapp@alz.org to receive an exception prior to submitting an LOI.** **Important Note: If you submit an LOI without an approved exception, your LOI will be rejected.**

Note, investigators that have published and/or have been funded in neurodegeneration will not be eligible for this program.

Please note: 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.

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, March 19, 2020**. Letters of Intent will not be accepted after this date. No exceptions will be made. Hard copies or emails will not be accepted.

NEW REQUIREMENT – All applicants must include an ORCID ID, it is a required field, you will not be able to submit your LOI without this information.

Applications must be received by 5:00 PM EASTERN STANDARD TIME, May 6, 2020.

Scientific and technical review will be conducted from **May – June 2020**. The Alzheimer's Association will lead a second-tier review with leading research experts to evaluate each program during **June 2020**. **Funding will be announced by August 30, 2020.**

Create and submit your LOI online at <http://proposalcentral.com>

LOI Review Procedures:

Proposals are triaged at the LOI stage by the Alzheimer's Association expert review panel with special attention to:

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

Note: Specific feedback and reviewer comments are not provided at the LOI stage for LOIs that are not invited to submit a full application.

Invited Application Review Procedures:

All Applications will be evaluated with special attention to the following:

- Significance of the question being studied
- Applicant information – including the training of the PI insofar as it enables them to perform the work proposed and qualifications of the collaborators and the expertise they bring to the project. Review will pay special consideration to applicant description of how applying their expertise and transitioning to the field will elevate Alzheimer's and all dementia research
- Quality of the work plan – including novelty and innovation of the proposed project;

additionally, projects that involve humans subjects will be evaluated on planned recruitment efforts

- Quality and adequacy of available resources and budget
- Impact-Risk of the proposal and how it will add to the field's overall knowledge and advancement
- Resubmissions will have the opportunity to provide a response to prior review

Mechanism of Award, Reporting Requirements and Allowable Costs: The mechanism of the award is the individual research grant. The maximum allowable duration is three years (minimum 2 years). Annual scientific progress and financial reports are required.

Continuation of the grant over the awarded duration is contingent upon the timely 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 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. **Your budget must not exceed the maximum amount of the award, \$150,000 or \$60,000 in any given year for up to three years (minimum 2 years – award cannot be for only one year).** **Note:** If you only request the award for two years the max amount you can request is \$120,000 or \$60,000 in any given year.

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 award may be included as indirect costs, this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.**

Allowable costs under this award 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, (**require prior approval**)
- Salary for the principal investigator, scientific (including postdoctoral fellows) and technical staff (including laboratory technicians and administrative support directly related to the funded grant)
- Support for travel to **scientific and professional meetings** not to exceed \$3,000 in any given year; additional support for travel expenses necessary to carry out research planned not to exceed \$1,000 in any given year – this may include site visits. **Total travel cost should not exceed \$5,000 for the duration of the award.**

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
- Salary and/or compensation for Alzheimer's Association Staff or current members of the Alzheimer's Association Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG) and the International Research Grant Program (IRGP) Council. A complete list of MSAG and

IRGP Council members can be found on our website.

For more information: Contact grantsapp@alz.org.

iv. **Alzheimer's Association Research Grant to Promote Diversity- New to the Field (AARG-D-NTF) Program**

Competition objectives: The Alzheimer's Association Research Grant to Promote Diversity- New to the Field award is up to three years (minimum 2 years) to increase the number of scientists from underrepresented groups at academic institutions in Alzheimer's and all dementia research. The AARG-D-NTF aims to fund investigators that are new to Alzheimer's and all dementia field of research. Individuals who are new to the field of neuroscience or neurodegeneration (Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Lewy body dementia, etc) will be considered for this program. **Individuals who are new to the field of Neuroscience/Alzheimer's will need to contact the Association at grantsapp@alz.org to receive an exception prior to submitting an LOI.** Individuals who are new to the field of neuroscience or neurodegeneration (Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Lewy body dementia, etc.) will be considered. The goal of the New to the Field program is to provide an opportunity for investigators with expertise outside neurodegenerative research to apply their expertise to advance and accelerate Alzheimer's and all other dementia research. Competitive applications to this program emphasize how the specific expertise/approach will advance research.

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

Funding and award period: Each AARG-D-NTF award is limited to \$150,000 (direct and indirect costs) for up to three years (minimum 2 years). Requests may not exceed \$60,000 in any given year (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), this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.

Eligibility: Applicants must be Assistant Professors or above at their respective institution. For individuals who are at non-academic institutions, please contact the Alzheimer's Association at grantsapp@alz.org to verify your eligibility.

Eligibility to apply for this grant competition is restricted to investigators who are new to Alzheimer's and all dementias field of research. **Individuals who are new to the field as defined above will need to contact the Association at grantsapp@alz.org to receive an exception prior to submitting an LOI.** Important Note: If you submit an LOI without an approved exception, your LOI will be rejected.

Note, investigators that have published and/or have been funded in neurodegeneration will not be eligible for this program.

Specific for the AARG-D-NTF program, eligible applicants are faculty members who have been determined to be underrepresented faculty in biomedical and behavioral research on a national, international or institutional basis. The Alzheimer's Association will require documentation to support the faculty member's underrepresented status at their institution. Applicants from the United States submitting to the Alzheimer's Association will be subject to the definitions as stated by the National Institutes of Health: NIH-designated U.S health disparity populations include Blacks/ African Americans, Hispanics/ Latinos, American Indians/ Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, underserved rural populations, persons with disabilities, and sexual and gender minorities.

Applicants must submit a Letter of Assurance printed on the hiring institution letterhead, signed by an authorized institutional official (i.e. Grants and Contracts officer) that states you have been determined by your institution to be underrepresented in the above areas at the time of Letter of Intent (LOI) for verification. The Alzheimer's Association reserves the right to require additional documentation to help confirm the applicant's eligibility. **Non-US Applicants in addition to the letter must provide official documentation from their institutional materials, such as, website, manual or other legal documentation that indicates their eligibility for this program.**

Please note: If the applicant 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.

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, **March 19, 2020.** Letters of Intent will not be accepted after this date. No exceptions will be made. Hard copies or emails will not be accepted.

NEW REQUIREMENT – All applicants must include an ORCID ID, it is a required field, you will not be able to submit your LOI without this information.

Applications must be received by 5:00 PM EASTERN STANDARD TIME, May 6, 2020.

Scientific and technical review will be conducted from **May – June 2020.** The Alzheimer's Association will lead a second-tier review with leading research experts to evaluate each program during **June 2020.** **Funding will be announced by August 30, 2020.**

Create and submit your LOI online at <http://proposalcentral.com>

LOI Review Procedures:

Proposals are triaged at the LOI stage by the Alzheimer's Association expert review panel with special attention to:

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

Note: Specific feedback and reviewer comments are not provided at the LOI stage for LOIs that are not invited to submit a full application.

Invited Application Review Procedures:

All Applications will be evaluated with special attention to the following:

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

Mechanism of award, reporting requirements and allowable costs: The mechanism of the award is the individual research grant. The maximum allowable duration is three years (minimum 2 years). Annual scientific progress and financial reports are required.

Continuation of the grant over the awarded duration is contingent upon the timely 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 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. **Your budget must not exceed the maximum amount of the award, \$150,000 or \$60,000 in any given year for up to three years (minimum 2 years – award cannot be for only one year).** **Note:** If you only request the award for two years the max amount you can request is \$120,000 or \$60,000 in any given year.

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 award may be included as indirect costs, this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.**

Allowable costs under this award 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 equipment if used strictly for data collection (**require prior approval**)
- Support for travel to **scientific and professional** meetings not to exceed \$3,000 in any given year; additional support for travel expenses necessary to carry our research planned not to exceed \$1,000 per year – this may include site visits. **Total travel cost should not exceed \$5,000 for the duration of the award.**
- Salary for the principal investigator, scientific (including post-doctoral fellows) and technical staff (including laboratory technicians and administrative support related directly to the funded project)

Direct Costs not allowed under this award include:

- Tuition
- Computer hardware or software for investigators
- Rent for laboratory/office space
- Construction or renovation costs
- Salary and/or compensation for Alzheimer's Association Staff or current members of the Alzheimer's Association Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG) and the International Research Grant Program (IRGP) Council. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be found on our website.

For more information: Contact grantsapp@alz.org.

v. **Alzheimer's Association Research Fellowship (AARF) Program**

Competition objectives: The Alzheimer's Association Research Fellowship award is up to three years (minimum 2 years) intended to support exceptional researchers who are engaged in their post-graduate work (i.e. postdoctoral fellows) and before they have their first independent faculty positions (i.e. Assistant Professor) and working in diverse areas of research, including basic, translational, clinical, functional and social-behavioral research.

Please note, individuals applying to the program will be accepted from postdoctoral fellows with full time positions at their respective institution who have less than 10 years of research experience after receipt of their doctorate or other terminal degree.

Individuals who have a position of an Assistant Professorship or above are not eligible. Investigators doing clinically-focused research without clinical practice are encouraged to apply to the AARF program. The Alzheimer's Association feels strongly that the mentoring and involvement of researchers from diverse backgrounds and perspectives is essential to engaging cutting edge ideas and thinking in addressing scientific gaps for Alzheimer's and all dementias.

Funding and award period: Each AARF award is limited to \$175,000. A total of **\$155,000** will be awarded for costs related to the proposed research for up to three years (minimum 2 years) for direct and indirect costs. Requests in any given year may not exceed \$60,000 (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), this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts. The Principal Investigator must commit to a 50 percent effort toward the proposed project **each** funding year.

The remaining funds, \$10,000 to the applicant and \$10,000 to the primary mentor, will be awarded upon successful completion of the three year (minimum 2 years). These additional funds are to be applied to sustaining ongoing research in the Alzheimer's field and will be awarded through the applicant's and mentor's institutions. Successful completion of the program includes, but is not limited to, reaching all of the demonstrable benchmarks listed.

Please note regarding travel funds: A total of \$5,000 over a three year period may be requested for travel purposes and is not to exceed \$3,000 in any given year. 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. If you request the full \$5,000 for 2 years of travel and are requesting a 3 year award you will not be able to request travel funds for one of those years.

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

mentors can be listed as key personnel.

Mentoring selections may include 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. Specific benchmarks are outlined below and considered by the Alzheimer's Association as critical for the development of early-career investigators. A successful mentorship plan should include some of these benchmarks but should not be limited to these alone.

REQUIRED benchmarks:

- Attendance at an Association-sponsored event for new investigators at the Alzheimer's Association's International Conference (AAIC)
- Acceptance of an abstract at AAIC
- Mandatory documentation of hours spent on face-to-face mentoring
- Citation of specific exercises of mentorship such as supervision of manuscript writing and submission or grant writing and submission
- Supervision of grant application reviews (not limited to the Alzheimer's Association review process but reviewing for other granting mechanisms are encouraged if possible; Alzheimer's Association staff will coordinate supervised reviews for the Association)
- Specific instances of the facilitation of networking, introductions to colleagues and/or inclusion in discussions at scientific meetings
- 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.

SUGGESTED benchmark (not 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.

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

For individuals who are at non-academic institutions, please contact the Alzheimer's Association at grantsapp@alz.org to verify your eligibility.

Ineligibility: 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, **March 19, 2020.** Letters of Intent will not be accepted after this date. No

exceptions will be made. Hard copies or emails will not be accepted.

NEW REQUIREMENT – All applicants must include an ORCID ID, it is a required field, you will not be able to submit your LOI without this information.

Applications must be received by 5:00 PM EASTERN STANDARD TIME, May 6, 2020.

Scientific and technical review will be conducted from **May – June 2020**. The Alzheimer's Association will lead a second-tier review with leading research experts to evaluate each program during **June 2020**. **Funding will be announced by August 30, 2020.**

Create and submit your LOI online at <http://proposalcentral.com>

Applications will be reviewed with special attention to:

- 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 percent)
- Quality and emphasis of applicant and originality of the research plan (40 percent)
- Significance of the question being studied, quality of the work plan and the impact-risk of the proposal (30 percent)
- Resubmissions will have the opportunity to provide a response to prior review

Mechanism of award, reporting requirements and allowable costs: The mechanism of the award is an individual research grant; this award is made to the individual and managed by their institution. Significant emphasis will be on the mentor and letters of reference provided in the application. The mentor is expected to contribute a statement regarding commitment to the applicant. The maximum allowable duration is three years (minimum 2 years). Please note that due to the nature of this grant being awarded to a Fellow, only in extreme circumstances will a transfer of PI be allowed; it is expected that the Fellow will transfer their funding to their future institution. Annual scientific progress and financial reports are required from both the applicant and the mentor throughout the award period.

Continuation of the grant over the awarded duration is contingent upon the timely receipt of scientific progress and financial reports as well as a mentor's report outlining progress toward meeting required benchmarks.

Budget: A "budget summary" for the proposed research project is required and must be submitted with the application and within the allowable two-page limit. However, if the application is to be awarded, a more detailed budget will be required and must be approved before the disbursement of funds. **Your budget must not exceed the maximum amount of the award, \$155,000 (\$150K for direct research and \$5K for travel) and may not exceed \$60,000 in any given year (direct and indirect costs).** A total of \$5,000 over a three year period not to exceed \$3,000 in any given year must be allocated to support registration and travel to the annual Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC), a condition of the award. *Note: if you request the full \$5,000 for 2 years of travel and are requesting a 3 year award you will not be able to request travel funds for one of those years.* Indirect costs are capped at no more than ten percent (10%). The remaining funds, \$10,000 to the applicant and \$10,000 to the primary mentor, will be awarded upon successful completion of

the three year (**minimum 2 years** – an award cannot be for only one year) program and should not be included in your overall budget. These research stipends are paid to the institution(s) following successful completion of the grant and must go towards continued research endeavors.

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 award may be included as indirect costs, this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.**

Allowable costs under this award 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 equipment if used strictly for data collection (**require prior approval**)
- Travel (up to \$5,000 max over 2-3yr award to travel to the annual Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC), a condition of the award)
- Salary for the principal investigator, scientific (including post-doctoral fellows) and technical staff (including laboratory technicians and administrative support related directly to the funded project)

Direct Costs not allowed under this award include:

- Tuition
- Computer hardware or software for investigators
- Rent for laboratory/office space (should be included in the indirect costs)
- Construction or renovation costs
- Facilities fee
- Salary and/or compensation for Alzheimer's Association Staff or current members of the Alzheimer's Association Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG) and the International Research Grant Program (IRGP) Council. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be found on our website.

For more information: Contact grantsapp@alz.org.

iv. Alzheimer's Association Research Fellowship to Promote Diversity (AARF-D) Program

Competition objectives: The Alzheimer's Association Research Fellowship to Promote Diversity award is up to three years (minimum 2 years) intended to support exceptional scientist from underrepresented groups working in Alzheimer's or all dementias research and who are engaged in their post-graduate work (i.e. postdoctoral fellows) and before they have their first independent faculty positions (i.e. Assistant Professor) and working in diverse areas of research, including basic, translational, clinical, functional and social-behavioral research. **Please note, individuals applying to the program will be accepted from postdoctoral fellows with full time positions at their respective institution who have less than 10 years of research experience after receipt of their terminal degree. Individuals who have a position of an Assistant Professorship or above are not eligible.** Investigators doing clinically-focused research without clinical practice are encouraged to apply to the AARF-D program. The objective of this award is to increase the number of highly trained investigators from diverse backgrounds whose basic, clinical and social/behavioral research interests are grounded in the advanced methods and experimental approaches needed to solve problems related to Alzheimer's and all dementias in general and in health disparities populations. The Alzheimer's Association recognizes the need to increase the number of scientists from underrepresented groups participating in biomedical and behavioral research. The Association anticipates that by providing these research opportunities, the number of scientists from underrepresented groups entering and remaining in biomedical research careers in Alzheimer's and all other dementia will increase.

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

Funding and award period: Each AARF-D award is limited to \$175,000. A total of **\$155,000** will be awarded for costs related to the proposed research for up to three years (minimum 2 years) for direct and indirect costs. Requests in any given year may not exceed \$60,000 (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), this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts. The Principal Investigator must commit to a 50 percent effort toward the proposed project **each** funding year.

The remaining funds, \$10,000 to the applicant and \$10,000 to the primary mentor, will be awarded upon successful completion of the three year (minimum 2 years). These additional funds are to be applied to sustaining ongoing research in the neurodegenerative field and will be awarded through the applicant's and mentor's institutions. Successful completion of the program includes, but is not limited to, reaching all of the demonstrable benchmarks listed.

Please note regarding travel funds: A total of \$5,000 over a three year (minimum two year) period may be requested for travel purposes and is not to exceed \$3,000 in any given year. 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. If you request the full \$5,000 for 2 years of travel and are requesting a 3 year award you will not be able to request travel funds for one of those years.

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

Mentoring selections may include early-career researchers and/or mid-career scientists who choose to shift into Alzheimer's and other 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. Specific benchmarks are outlined below and considered by the Alzheimer's Association as critical for the development of early-career investigators. A successful mentorship plan should include some of these benchmarks but should not be limited to these alone.

REQUIRED benchmarks:

- Attendance at an Association-sponsored event for new investigators at the Alzheimer's Association's International Conference (AAIC)
- Acceptance of an abstract at AAIC
- Mandatory documentation of hours spent on face-to-face mentoring
- Citation of specific exercises of mentorship such as supervision of manuscript writing and submission or grant writing and submission
- Supervision of grant application reviews (not limited to the Alzheimer's Association review process but reviewing for other granting mechanisms are encouraged if possible; Alzheimer's Association staff will coordinate supervised reviews for the Association)
- Specific instances of the facilitation of networking, introductions to colleagues and/or inclusion in discussions at scientific meetings
- 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.

SUGGESTED benchmark (not 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.

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

For individuals who are at non-academic institutions, please contact the Alzheimer's Association at grantsapp@alz.org to verify your eligibility.

Specific for the AARF-D program, eligible applicants are faculty members who have been determined to be underrepresented faculty in biomedical and behavioral research on a national, international or institutional basis. The Alzheimer's Association will require documentation to support the faculty member's underrepresented status at their institution. Applicants from the United States submitting to the Alzheimer's Association will be subject to the definitions as stated by the National Institutes of Health: NIH-designated U.S health disparity populations include Blacks/ African Americans, Hispanics/ Latinos, American Indians/ Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, underserved rural populations, persons with disabilities, and sexual and gender minorities.

Applicants must submit a Letter of Assurance letter printed on the hiring institution letterhead with the current date, signed by an authorized institutional official (i.e. Grants and Contracts officer) that states you have been determined by your institution to be underrepresented in the above areas at the time of Letter of Intent (LOI) for verification. The Alzheimer's Association reserves the right to require additional documentation to help confirm the applicant's eligibility. **Non-US Applicants in addition to the letter must provide official documentation from their institutional materials, such as, website, manual or other legal documentation that indicates their eligibility for this program.**

Ineligibility: 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, March 19, 2020**. Letters of Intent will not be accepted after this date. No exceptions will be made. Hard copies or emails will not be accepted.

NEW REQUIREMENT – All applicants must include an ORCID ID, it is a required field, you will not be able to submit your LOI without this information.

Applications must be received by 5:00 PM EASTERN STANDARD TIME, May 6, 2020.

Scientific and technical review will be conducted from **May – June 2020**. The Alzheimer's Association will lead a second-tier review with leading research experts to evaluate each program during **June 2020**. **Funding will be announced by August 30, 2020.**

Create and submit your LOI online at <http://proposalcentral.com>.

Applications will be reviewed with special attention to:

- 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 percent)
- Quality and emphasis of applicant and originality of the research plan (40 percent)
- Significance of the question being studied, quality of the work plan and the impact-risk

- of the proposal (30 percent)
- Resubmissions will have the opportunity to provide a response to prior review

Mechanism of award, reporting requirements and allowable costs: The mechanism of the award is an individual research grant; this award is made to the individual and managed by their institution. Significant emphasis will be on the mentor and letters of reference provided in the application. The mentor is expected to contribute a statement regarding commitment to the applicant. The maximum allowable duration is three years (minimum 2 years). Please note that due to the nature of this grant being awarded to a Fellow, only in extreme circumstances will a transfer of PI be allowed; it is expected that the Fellow will transfer their funding to their future institution. Annual scientific progress and financial reports are required from both the applicant and the mentor throughout the award period.

Continuation of the grant over the awarded duration is contingent upon the timely receipt of scientific progress and financial reports as well as a mentor's report outlining progress toward meeting required benchmarks.

Budget: A "budget summary" for the proposed research project is required and must be submitted with the application and within the allowable two-page limit. However, if the application is to be awarded, a more detailed budget will be required and must be approved before the disbursement of funds. **Your budget must not exceed the maximum amount of the award, \$155,000 (\$150K for direct research and \$5K for travel) and may not exceed \$60,000 in any given year (direct and indirect costs).** A total of \$5,000 over a three year period not to exceed \$3,000 in any given year must be allocated to support registration and travel to the annual Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC), a condition of the award. *Note: if you request the full \$5,000 for 2 years of travel and are requesting a 3 year award you will not be able to request travel funds for one of those years.* Indirect costs are capped at no more than ten percent (10%). The remaining funds, \$10,000 to the applicant and \$10,000 to the primary mentor, will be awarded upon successful completion of the three year **(minimum 2 years – an award cannot be for only one year)** program and should not be included in your overall budget. These research stipends are paid to the institution(s) following successful completion of the grant and must go towards continued research endeavors.

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 award may be included as indirect costs, this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.**

Allowable costs under this award 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 equipment if used strictly for data collection **(require prior approval)**
- Travel (up to \$5,000 max over 2-3yr award to travel to the annual Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC), a condition of the award)
- Salary for the principal investigator, scientific (including post-doctoral fellows) and technical staff (including laboratory technicians and administrative support related directly to the funded project)

Direct Costs not allowed under this award include:

- Tuition
- Computer hardware or software for investigators
- Rent for laboratory/office space (should be included in the indirect costs)
- Construction or renovation costs
- Facilities fee
- Salary and/or compensation for Alzheimer's Association Staff or current members of the Alzheimer's Association Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG) and the International Research Grant Program (IRGP) Council. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be found on our website.

For more information: Contact grantsapp@alz.org.

v. Alzheimer's Association Clinician Scientist Fellowship (AACSF) Program

Competition Objectives: The Alzheimer's Association recognizes the need to support the training of clinician scientists in Alzheimer's and all dementias. For the purpose of this program, a clinician scientist is defined as an individual already trained, licensed and practicing in a clinical field that includes patient contact (e.g., neurology, psychiatry, geriatrics, psychology) or patient-related diagnostic studies (e.g., neuropathology and radiology). Applicants who hold an M.D. or D.O. degree or applicants with a Ph.D. who have licensure for clinical practice are eligible. **Please note, individuals applying to the program will be accepted from individuals with full time positions at their respective institution who are within 10 years of receiving their M.D., D.O. or Ph.D. (or equivalent), including postdoctoral fellows through Assistant Professors. 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.

Funding and award period: Each AACSF award is limited to \$175,000. A total of **\$155,000** will be awarded for costs related to the proposed research for up to three years (minimum 2 years) for direct and indirect costs. Requests in any given year may not exceed \$60,000 (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, this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts. **The Principal Investigator must commit up to an average of 2 protected days per week (40%) effort toward their research efforts during each funding year.**

The remaining funds, \$10,000 to the applicant and \$10,000 to the primary mentor, will be awarded upon successful completion of the three year (minimum 2 years). These additional funds are to be applied to sustaining ongoing research in the Alzheimer's field and will be awarded through the applicant's and mentor's institutions. Successful completion of the program includes, but is not limited to, reaching all of the demonstrable benchmarks listed.

Please note regarding travel funds: A total of \$5,000 over a three year (2 year minimum) period may be requested for travel purposes and is not to exceed \$3,000 in one given year. 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. If you request the full \$5,000 for 2 years of travel and are requesting a 3 year award you will not be able to request travel funds for one of those years.

Eligibility: Applicant must be a clinician who is interested in an academic career in research and has completed residency for an M.D. or D.O. (i.e. any degree that allows the applicant to achieve licensure to practice medicine) or a post-doctoral fellowship (Ph.D.) in a clinical practice field or both within the past five years. **Please note, individuals applying to the**

program will be accepted from individuals with full time positions at their respective institution who are within 10 years of receiving their M.D., D.O. or Ph.D. (or equivalent) , including postdoctoral fellows through Assistant Professors. Positions higher than Assistant Professor will not be considered. Individuals who are early in their clinician scientist careers will be given priority. Proposals are strongly encouraged from individuals training in specialties of behavioral neurology and neuropathology, geriatrics with focus on dementia/cognitive disorders, geriatric psychiatry with focus on dementia/cognitive disorders or neuropsychology with focus on dementia/cognitive disorders.

The applicant must be at a recognized academic institution. The Alzheimer's Association reserves the right to request additional information to confirm that the institution meets not-for-profit requirements of the Association. **For questions as to whether an applicant or organization is eligible, 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.

Ineligibility: Applications from currently funded investigators (including the mentor) who are delinquent in submitting required reports and other deliverables on active grants are ineligible. Investigators (or mentors) that have previous Alzheimer's Association awards closed as 'Incomplete' are not eligible to apply. **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, March 19, 2020.** Letters of Intent will not be accepted after this date. No exceptions will be made. Hard copies or emails will not be accepted.

All applicants must include an ORCID ID, it is a required field, you will not be able to submit your LOI without this information.

Applications must be received by 5:00 PM EASTERN STANDARD TIME, May 6, 2020.

Scientific and technical review will be conducted from **May – June 2020.** The Alzheimer's Association will lead a second-tier review with leading research experts to evaluate each program during **June 2020.** **Funding will be announced by August 30, 2020.**

Create and submit your LOI online at <http://proposalcentral.com>.

Applications will be reviewed with special attention to:

- Applicant's ability and promise as a clinician scientist based on prior record of achievement and career plan, letters of reference, and curriculum vitae (30 percent)
- 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 percent)
- Quality and originality of the research plan (40 percent)
- Resubmissions will have the opportunity to provide a response to prior review

Mechanism of award, reporting requirements and allowable costs: The mechanism of the award is an individual research grant; this award is made to the individual and managed by their institution. Significant emphasis will be on the mentor and letters of reference provided in the application. The mentor is expected to contribute a statement regarding commitment to the applicant. The maximum allowable duration is three years (minimum 2 years). Please note that due to the nature of this grant being awarded to a Fellow, only in extreme circumstances will a transfer of PI be allowed; it is expected that the Fellow will transfer their funding to their future institution. Annual scientific progress and financial reports are required from both the applicant and the mentor throughout the award period.

Continuation of the grant over the awarded duration is contingent upon the timely receipt of scientific progress and financial reports as well as a mentor's report outlining progress toward meeting required benchmarks.

Application: The mentor should be experienced in conducting Alzheimer's and other dementia research and in mentoring junior investigators. The application must include a 2-3 page statement from the selected mentor that includes information on his/her research qualifications and experience as a research supervisor, 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. 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. Only one primary mentor can be included. Additional team members who might function as mentors can be listed as key personnel.

Mentoring selections may include early-career researchers and/or mid-career scientists who choose to shift into Alzheimer's and other 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. Specific benchmarks are outlined below and considered by the Alzheimer's Association as critical for the development of early-career investigators. A successful mentorship plan should include some of these benchmarks but should not be limited to these alone.

REQUIRED benchmarks:

- Attendance at an Association-sponsored event for new investigators at the Alzheimer's Association's International Conference (AAIC)
- Acceptance of an abstract at AAIC
- Mandatory documentation of hours spent on face-to-face mentoring
- Citation of specific exercises of mentorship such as supervision of manuscript writing and submission or grant writing and submission
- Supervision of grant application reviews (not limited to the Alzheimer's Association review process but reviewing for other granting mechanisms are encouraged if possible; Alzheimer's Association staff will coordinate supervised reviews for the Association)
- Specific instances of the facilitation of networking, introductions to colleagues and/or inclusion in discussions at scientific meetings
- 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.

SUGGESTED benchmark (not 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.

Budget: A "budget summary" for the proposed research project is required and must be submitted with the application and within the allowable two-page limit. However, if the application is to be awarded, a more detailed budget will be required and must be approved before the disbursement of funds. **Your budget must not exceed the maximum amount of the award, \$155,000 (\$150K for direct research and \$5K for travel) and may not exceed \$60,000 in one given year (direct and indirect costs).** A total of \$5,000 over a three year (minimum 2 year) period not to exceed \$3,000 in any given year must be allocated to support registration and travel to the annual Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC), a condition of the award. **Note:** *if you request the full \$5,000 for 2 years of travel and are requesting a 3 year award you will not be able to request travel funds for one of those years.* Indirect costs are capped at no more than ten percent (10%). The remaining funds, \$10,000 to the applicant and \$10,000 to the primary mentor, will be awarded upon successful completion of the three year (**minimum 2 years** – an award cannot be for only one year) program and should not be included in your overall budget. These research stipends are paid to the institution(s) following successful completion of the grant and must go towards continued research endeavors.

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 award may be included as indirect costs, this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.**

Allowable costs under this award 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, (**require 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)
- Travel (up to \$5,000 max over 2-3yr award to travel to the annual Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC), a condition of the award)

Direct Costs not allowed under this award include:

- Computer hardware or standard software (e.g. Microsoft Office)
- Construction or renovation costs
- Rent for laboratory/office space
- Salary and/or compensation for Alzheimer's Association Staff or current members of the Alzheimer's Association Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG) and the International Research Grant Program (IRGP) Council. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be found on our website.

For more information: Contact grantsapp@alz.org.

vi. **Alzheimer's Association Clinician Scientist Fellowship to Promote Diversity (AACSF-D) Program**

Competition Objectives: The Alzheimer's Association Clinician Scientist Fellowship to Promote Diversity award is up to three years (minimum 2 years) and is intended to support exceptional clinician scientists who are currently underrepresented at academic institutions in clinical research training in Alzheimer's and all dementias. Applicants who hold an M.D. or D.O. degree or applicants with a Ph.D. who have licensure for clinical practice are eligible. For the purpose of this fellowship, clinical research is defined as patient-oriented research conducted with human subjects, or translational research specifically designed to develop treatments or enhance diagnosis of neurological disease. These 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 studies not directly involving humans or human tissue are also encouraged if the primary goal is the development of therapies, diagnostic tests, or other tools to prevent or mitigate neurological diseases. The Alzheimer's Association recognizes the need to increase the number of underrepresented clinicians participating in clinical research. The Association anticipates that by providing this funding opportunity, the number of underrepresented physicians entering and remaining in clinical careers in Alzheimer's and all other dementia will increase. **Please note, individuals applying to the program will be accepted from individuals with full time positions at their respective institution who are within 10 years of receiving their M.D., D.O. or Ph.D. (or equivalent), including postdoctoral fellows through Assistant Professors. Positions higher than Assistant Professor will not be considered.**

Funding and award period: Each Alzheimer's Association Clinician Scientist Fellowship to Promote Diversity award is limited to \$175,000. A total of **\$155,000** will be awarded for costs related to the proposed research for up to three years (minimum 2 years) for direct and indirect costs. Requests in any given year may not exceed \$60,000 (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), this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts. **The Principal Investigator must commit up to an average of 2 protected days per week (40%) effort toward their research efforts during each funding year.**

The remaining funds, \$10,000 to the applicant and \$10,000 to the primary mentor, will be awarded upon successful completion of the three year (minimum 2 years). These additional funds are to be applied to sustaining ongoing research in the Alzheimer's field and will be awarded through the applicant's and mentor's institutions. Successful completion of the program includes, but is not limited to, reaching all of the demonstrable benchmarks listed.

Please note regarding travel funds: A total of \$5,000 over a three year (minimum 2 year) period may be requested for travel purposes and is not to exceed \$3,000 in any given year. 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.

Eligibility: Applicant must be a clinician who is interested in an academic career in research and has completed residency for an M.D. or D.O. (i.e. any degree that allows the applicant to achieve licensure to practice medicine) or a post-doctoral fellowship (Ph.D.) in a clinical practice field or both within the past five years. **Please note, individuals applying to the program will be accepted from individuals with full time positions at their respective institution who are within 10 years of receiving their M.D., D.O. or Ph.D. (or equivalent), including postdoctoral fellows through Assistant Professors. Positions higher than Assistant Professor will not be considered.** Individuals who are early in their clinician scientist careers will be given priority. Proposals are strongly encouraged from individuals training in specialties of behavioral neurology and neuropathology, geriatrics with focus on dementia/cognitive disorders, geriatric psychiatry with focus on dementia/cognitive disorders or neuropsychology with focus on dementia/cognitive disorders.

Specific for the AACSF-D program, eligible applicants are faculty members who have been determined to be underrepresented faculty in biomedical and behavioral research on a national, international or institutional basis. The Alzheimer's Association will require documentation to support the faculty member's underrepresented status at their institution. Applicants from the United States submitting to the Alzheimer's Association will be subject to the definitions as stated by the National Institutes of Health: NIH-designated U.S health disparity populations include Blacks/ African Americans, Hispanics/ Latinos, American Indians/ Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, underserved rural populations, persons with disabilities, and sexual and gender minorities.

Applicants must submit a Letter of Assurance letter printed on the hiring institution letterhead with the current date, signed by an authorized institutional official (i.e. Grants and Contracts officer) that states you have been determined by your institution to be underrepresented in the above areas at the time of Letter of Intent (LOI) for verification. The Alzheimer's Association reserves the right to require additional documentation to help confirm the applicant's eligibility. **Non-US Applicants in addition to the letter must provide official documentation from their institutional materials, such as, website, manual or other legal documentation that indicates their eligibility for this program.**

The applicant must be at a recognized academic institution. The Alzheimer's Association reserves the right to request additional information to confirm that the institution meets not-for-profit requirements of the Association. **For questions as to whether an applicant or organization is eligible, 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.**

Ineligibility: Applications from currently funded investigators (including the mentor) who are delinquent in submitting required reports and other deliverables on active grants are ineligible. Investigators (or mentors) that have previous Alzheimer's Association awards closed as 'Incomplete' are not eligible to apply. **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, **March 19, 2020.** Letters of Intent will not be accepted after this date. No exceptions will be made. Hard copies or emails will not be accepted.

All applicants must include an ORCID ID, it is a required field, you will not be able to submit your LOI without this information.

Applications must be received by 5:00 PM EASTERN STANDARD TIME, May 6, 2020.

Scientific and technical review will be conducted from **May – June 2020**. The Alzheimer's Association will lead a second-tier review with leading research experts to evaluate each program during **June 2020**. **Funding will be announced by August 30.**

Create and submit your LOI online at <http://proposalcentral.com>.

Applications will be reviewed with special attention to:

- Applicant's ability and promise as a clinician-scientist based on prior record of achievement and career plan, letters of reference, and curriculum vitae (30 percent)
- 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 percent)
- Quality and originality of the research plan (40 percent)
- Resubmissions will have the opportunity to provide a response to prior review

Mechanism of award, reporting requirements and allowable costs: The mechanism of the award is an individual research grant; this award is made to the individual and managed by their institution. Significant emphasis will be on the mentor and letters of reference provided in the application. The mentor is expected to contribute a statement regarding commitment to the applicant. The maximum allowable duration is three years (minimum 2 years). Please note that due to the nature of this grant being awarded to a Fellow, only in extreme circumstances will a transfer of PI be allowed; it is expected that the Fellow will transfer their funding to their future institution. Annual scientific progress and financial reports are required from both the applicant and the mentor throughout the award period.

Continuation of the grant over the awarded duration is contingent upon the timely receipt of scientific progress and financial reports as well as a mentor's report outlining progress toward meeting required benchmarks.

Application: The mentor should be experienced in conducting Alzheimer's and other dementia research and in mentoring junior investigators. The application must include a 2-3 page statement from the selected mentor that includes information on his/her research qualifications and experience as a research supervisor, 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. 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. Only one primary mentor can be included. Additional team members who might function as mentors can be listed as key personnel.

Mentoring selections may include early-career researchers and/or mid-career scientists who choose to shift into Alzheimer's and other 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. Specific benchmarks are outlined below and considered by the Alzheimer's Association as critical for the development of early-career investigators. A successful mentorship plan should include some of these benchmarks but should not be limited to these alone.

REQUIRED benchmarks:

- Attendance at an Association-sponsored event for new investigators at the Alzheimer's Association's International Conference (AAIC)
- Acceptance of an abstract at AAIC
- Mandatory documentation of hours spent on face-to-face mentoring
- Citation of specific exercises of mentorship such as supervision of manuscript writing and submission or grant writing and submission
- Supervision of grant application reviews (not limited to the Alzheimer's Association review process but reviewing for other granting mechanisms are encouraged if possible; Alzheimer's Association staff will coordinate supervised reviews for the Association)
- Specific instances of the facilitation of networking, introductions to colleagues and/or inclusion in discussions at scientific meetings
- 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.

SUGGESTED benchmark (not 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.

Budget: A "budget summary" for the proposed research project is required and must be submitted with the application and within the allowable two-page limit. However, if the application is to be awarded, a more detailed budget will be required and must be approved before the disbursement of funds. **Your budget must not exceed the maximum amount of the award, \$155,000 (\$150K for direct research and \$5K for travel) and may not exceed \$60,000 in one given year (direct and indirect costs).** A total of \$5,000 over a three year period not to exceed \$3,000 in any given year must be allocated to support registration and travel to the annual Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC), a condition of the award. *Note: if you request the full \$5,000 for 2 years of travel and are requesting a 3 year award you will not be able to request travel funds for one of those years.* Indirect costs are capped at no more than ten percent (10%). The remaining funds, \$10,000 to the applicant and \$10,000 to the primary mentor, will be awarded upon successful completion of the three year **(minimum 2 years – an award cannot be for only one year)** program and should not be included in your overall budget. These research stipends are paid to the institution(s) following successful completion of the grant and must go towards continued research endeavors.

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 award may be included as indirect costs, this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.**

Allowable costs under this award 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, (**require 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)
- Travel (up to \$5,000 max over 2-3yr award to travel to the annual Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC), a condition of the award)

Direct Costs not allowed under this award include:

- Computer hardware or standard software (e.g. Microsoft Office)
- Construction or renovation costs
- Rent for laboratory/office space
- Salary and/or compensation for Alzheimer's Association Staff or current members of the Alzheimer's Association Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG) and the International Research Grant Program (IRGP) Council. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be found on our website.
- **For more information:** Contact grantsapp@alz.org.

vii. 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 and all other dementia 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 2020 Zenith Fellows Awards competition is to provide major support for investigators who have:

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

The proposed research should address fundamental problems related to early detection, etiology, pathogenesis, treatment and/or prevention of Alzheimer's and all other dementia. 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.

In addition to the two tier peer-review process, 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 and all other dementia 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: We anticipate funding up to three Zenith Fellow Awards. Each award is limited to \$450,000 (direct and indirect costs) for up to 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), this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.**

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 and all other dementia research or have the clear likelihood of making significant contributions will be

seriously considered. **Previous recipients of Zenith Awards are ineligible. Current members of the Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG), the International Research Grant Program Council (IRGP Council), and the Alzheimer's Association Board of Directors are ineligible to apply; past members of these groups are eligible.**

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, March 19, 2020**. Letters of Intent will not be accepted after this date. No exceptions will be made. No exceptions will be made. Hard copies or emails will not be accepted.

All applicants must include an ORCID ID, it is a required field, you will not be able to submit your LOI without this information.

Applications must be received by 5:00 PM EASTERN STANDARD TIME, May 6, 2020.

The Alzheimer's Association will lead a second tier scientific and technical review with leading research experts, including past Zenith Fellow Awardees; this review will be conducted from **May – June 2020**. The second-level review will be conducted during **June 2020. Funding will be announced by August 30, 2020.**

Please note: LOI Review Procedures

All LOIs will be evaluated prior to invitation to submit a full application. Only LOIs that meet program specific guidelines will be invited to submit full applications. LOIs will also be reviewed by the Alzheimer's Association and a select panel of experts with special 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
- Evidence of methodological rigor that address the research question(s) being proposed
- Past and potential future contributions of the investigator to advance Alzheimer's and all other dementia research

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 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

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 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. **Your budget must not exceed the maximum amount of the award, \$450,000 or \$250,000 in any given year.** You cannot request the award for one year (**minimum 2 years** – award cannot be for only one year).

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 award may be included as indirect costs, this is inclusive of indirect costs for the implementing institution as well as any to subcontracts.**

Allowable costs under this award 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
- 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 in any given 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
- Salary and/or compensation for Alzheimer's Association Staff or current members of the Alzheimer's Association Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG) and the International Research Grant Program (IRGP) Council. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be found on our website.

For more information: Contact grantsapp@alz.org

V. INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM - GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

i. Eligibility, Ineligibility and Nondiscrimination Statement

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.

Eligibility

In general, public, private, domestic and foreign research laboratories, medical centers, hospitals and universities are eligible to apply. State and federal government-appropriated laboratories in the U.S. and abroad and for-profit organizations are prohibited from serving as the applicant institution. However, state and federal government scientists can participate as collaborating scientists with research teams from other eligible applicant institutions. For the Letter of Intent (LOI), you will be required to upload proof of your organization's not-for-profit status, provide a W9 signed and dated by the signing official for US entities. For non-US entities provide a W8 signed and dated by the signing official. Your LOI will not be accepted without this document (IRS Letter of Determination is no longer accepted). 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.

Ineligibility

This section describes general exclusion criteria. Specific requirements and additional exclusions to eligibility are noted in some detailed competition descriptions.

1.) Overlapping funding of more than one Alzheimer's Association grant **is not allowed.**

Investigators who currently have an active Association grant may apply for another award in the last year of their grant if that last year concludes by June 30th before the start of the new funding year on July 1.

2.) Investigators delinquent in reporting: 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.**

3.) Current members of the Association's Medical and Scientific Advisory Group

(MSAG) and the International Research Grant Program (IRGP) Council are ineligible to compete for any research grant. In addition, current MSAG and IRGP Council members are ineligible to be included as co-investigator or to receive any financial benefit from an application.

4.) Checks are awarded to the institution, not to the individual principal investigator. The principal investigator or a first degree relative cannot be listed as the signing official or financial officer, or have checks sent to their attention if awarded. **Fellowship awards are expected to transition with the investigator and are not eligible for PI transfer.**

5.) The Alzheimer's Association reserves the right to request additional documentation and/or materials to verify an applicant's status should any of the eligibility requirements be unconfirmed.

Nondiscrimination statement

The Alzheimer's Association values diversity and seeks applicants from diverse backgrounds. The Alzheimer's Association does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, religion, color, nationality or ethnic origin, age, disability, or status as a Vietnam Era Veteran or disabled veteran, in the administration of educational policies, programs or activities.

Harassment Statement

The Alzheimer's Association is committed to providing an environment free from harassment and discrimination. The Alzheimer's Association strictly prohibits harassment and discrimination based on race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin, ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, genetic predisposition, a physical or mental disability, veteran status, marital status or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local law. This applies to all persons (employees, applicants, volunteers (including reviewers), visitors, guests, vendors, etc.) and is intended to protect people from unlawful harassment and discrimination by anyone in connection with the performance of their job or volunteer role for the Association.

ii. Application Procedures

Submitting a Letter of Intent online via proposalCENTRAL

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>. Applications will not be accepted without an approved LOI. First-time users **must** register and fill out a Professional Profile to begin the LOI/application process. The Alzheimer's Association requires that all applicants must be registered as a reviewer with the Association 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. **Additionally, it is required that you review at least one grant proposal within your area of expertise, outside the grant competition to which you are applying.**

The application materials, including the application format, templates, and instructions, will be available online through proposalCENTRAL after your LOI has been approved.

The LOI and completed application must be submitted by a single Principal Investigator (PI). Applicants must submit an LOI for the current active cycle that they are interested in, NO EXCEPTIONS. All LOIs must be approved or rejected in the current grant cycle. Hard copies or emails of the LOI will not be accepted. The purpose of the LOI is

to ensure that all applicants are eligible for the competition they are applying to and to assist Association staff in planning for peer reviews. **LOIs will not be accepted after the deadline date. No exceptions will be made.** 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 Letter of Intent (LOI) is completed through the online interactive system, you do not have to physically upload a letter, you will need to complete the required tabs and upload any required documents. Some of the fields you will need to complete are described below: (All LOIs must be submitted online though proposalCENTRAL no hardcopies or emails will be accepted)

- Name of the principal investigator
- Contact information for the principal investigator
- Lead Institution – applicant must be a full-time employee at time of submission (***institution/organization name must be in English***)
- List your **current** academic rank/position at the time of submission, do not list pending promotions)
- Proposal Title
- Area of focus of the submission, such as diverse populations, social and behavioral or biological, as outlined in Section II
- Brief project description, including methodology, specific aims of the project, innovation/novelty of the project, and the impact of Alzheimer's and all other dementia field are required. **Each section is limited to 1,000 characters, including spaces** and ***it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure space limit is adhered.***
- Employer (institution) Identification Number (EIN), *must match the EIN on the non-profit documentation*
- **All applicants must include an ORCID ID, it is a required field, you will not be able to submit your LOI without this information.**
- Provide a W9 signed and dated by the Signing Official for US entities. For non-US entities provide a W8 signed and dated by the signing official. **This document should not contain the applicant's information.**
- Biosketch (**only** the primary applicant and, if applicable, the mentor at the LOI stage. Additional bios can be included in the full application stage.
- Letter of Assurance (AARG-D, AARG-D-NTF, AARF-D and AACSF-D) programs only.
- **AARG-NTF and AARG-D-NTF ONLY: - 1 page** - Applicant must relay 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
- Budget details are not required at the LOI stage
- Additional attachments other than what is required is not allowed and will be removed

Note: Specific feedback and reviewer comments are not provided at the LOI stage for LOIs that are not invited to submit a full application.

All LOIs will be evaluated prior to invitation to submit a full application. Only LOIs that meet program specific guidelines will be invited to submit full applications. LOIs will also be reviewed by the Alzheimer's Association Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG) and the International Research Grant Program (IRGP) Council with special 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
- Evidence of methodological rigor that address the research question(s) being proposed

Full Grant Application via proposalCENTRAL

Once the online LOI is approved and invited to submit a full proposal, an email notification will be sent from **proposalCENTRAL** granting access to the online application. **The online system must be used to submit the grant application**—hard copies or email copies of the application will not be accepted.

The full grant application for AARG, AARG-D, AARG-NTF, AARG-D-NTF and ZENITH consists of the following (Templates and instructions are located under the WorkPlan and Other Attachments section)

1. Problem Statement – 1 page
2. Work Plan – 5 pages
3. Recruitment Plan – 1 page (If applicable)
4. Available Resources & Budget Justification – 2 pages
5. Biosketch (PI/Co-PI/Key personnel)
6. W9 signed and dated by the signing official for US entities. For non-US entities W8 signed and dated by the signing official.
7. Plan for Data Sharing – 1 page
8. Resubmission – 1 page - All resubmissions have the opportunity, if they wish, to provide a one-page summary addressing comments raised by reviewers in a prior review cycle(s).
9. References – 1 page – use the reference style that is most common in the major journal(s) discipline, specialty or sub- specialty.
10. **AARG-NTF and AARG-D-NTF ONLY:** Applicant must relay 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 – 1 page

The full grant application for the AARF, AARF-D, AACSF and AACSF-D programs

consists of the following: (Templates and instructions are located under the WorkPlan and Other Attachments section)

1. Statement of Mentorship – 2-3 pages (written by mentor to outline plan for the individual’s training)
2. Statement of Commitment – 3 pages (written by applicant to highlight their interest in Alzheimer’s and other dementia research)
3. Area of Research – 3 pages (summary of the area of research applicant is pursuing; written by mentor and applicant)
4. Recruitment Plan – 1 page (If applicable)

4. Available Resources & Budget Justification – 2 pages
5. Biosketch –, bio for the applicant and the mentor must be included.
6. Letters of reference are limited to 3 letters and no more than 3 pages each.
- 7 W9 signed and dated by the signing official for US entities. For non-US entities W8 signed and dated by the signing official.
8. Plan for Data Sharing – 1 page
9. Resubmission – 1 page - All resubmissions have the opportunity, if they wish, to provide a one-page summary addressing comments raised by reviewers in a prior review cycle(s).
10. References – 1 page – use the reference style that is most common in the major journal(s) discipline, specialty or sub- specialty.

The application materials, including the application format, templates, and instructions, will be available online at proposalCENTRAL after your LOI has been approved.

The PI who submits the LOI must be the same PI who submits the application. LOIs submitted on behalf of other applicants or administrators will result in a rejected LOI. Once the applicant enters the application system, on-screen instructions will be provided to complete the application process. The application does not need to be completed in one session; a partially completed application can be saved and completed at any time before the deadline. **(Important Note: 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).**

For AARF, AARF-D, AACSF and AACSF-D, the PI is the applicant and the co-PI is the mentor.

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

(1) 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. Please note: 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.**

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

(3) Revisions, additional materials, letters of collaboration/support and/or reference, manuscripts, appendices, etc., are not allowed and if attached, will be removed from your application. **Letters of references will be accepted for those applying to the AARF, AARF-D, AACSF and AACSF-D programs only, see sections iii, iv, v and vi for details.**

iii. Multiple and Overlapping Submissions

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

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

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

iv. Review Procedures

All proposals are subject to a multiple stage peer-review process carried out with an online system. Certain grant programs have an additional review process as described. In the first stage, applications are reviewed and rated by a minimum of three peer scientists with expertise in the proposed area of research. Applicants may include recommended reviewers or may exclude specific reviewers from evaluating their application. **Conflict of Interest includes:**

- (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 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) to share with the Alzheimer's Association for final approval. Members of the IRGP are internationally recognized experts with distinguished careers in Alzheimer's and all dementias.

This two-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.

Applicants Please Note: During peer-review, we are not able to contact reviewers with additional information to update, change or adjust your application such as recent

publication, published manuscripts, new data etc.

General Reviewer Requirements

- You must be a recognized authority in your field.
- You must be dedicated to conducting high-quality, fair reviews.
- You must be able to articulate your views succinctly, engage in productive exchanges and actively participate in the online discussion of applications.

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

If an applicant believes an extraordinary circumstance has contributed to failure to receive funding, the principal investigator may send as a Word document, a two-page, double-spaced formal letter of appeal to grantsappeals@alz.org – supporting documents must be submitted in PDF. **Appeals must be submitted within two weeks from the date your application outcome notification is sent to be considered by the Alzheimer's Association.**

Notification of action on the appeal will be made via email, usually within 90 days of the appeal deadline.

vi. Animal and Human Subject Assurances, and/or rDNA Certification

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

vii. Reporting Requirements

Interim and final scientific progress reports: Investigators receiving Alzheimer's Association research grants are required to file annual progress reports.

- An Interim Scientific Progress Report must be filed at the end of each reporting period as long as the grant remains active.
- A Final Scientific Progress Report **must** be filed within 90 days of the grant's end date.

- **For some programs, six-month milestones and updates may be requested (see specific program details)**

Financial progress report

Annual financial progress reports must be filed at the end of each reporting period while the grant remains active and within 90 days after the grant ends. These reports must be submitted **ELECTRONICALLY** by the signing official or someone else with financial authority in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs at the recipient's institution.

For questions about reporting requirements or these forms, please contact Mary Grilli, (mgrilli@alz.org) or Rita Freeman (rfreeman@alz.org), the Alzheimer's Association Post-Award Grant Specialists.

Publications, Presentation and Abstracts

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

viii. Contact Information

This program announcement is posted on the website of the Alzheimer's Association at alz.org/grants. For additional information, send inquiries to grantsapp@alz.org.