



Call for Applications for

"EXCELLENT PAPER IN NEUROSCIENCE" AWARD 2024

Biomedical call with a thematic focus on "Cerebrovascular Diseases"

Submission deadline for applications: October 1st, 2024

For further information:

<http://www.neuron-eranet.eu>

or contact

Mr. Maxime Beaudoin

at:

ERA-NET NEURON EPNA Joint Call Secretariat
Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS)

Email: Maxime.Beaudoin@frq.gouv.qc.ca



1. General call description

The ERA-NET NEURON partner countries are issuing the EXCELLENT PAPER IN NEUROSCIENCE AWARD to recognize the remarkable and outstanding scientific publications by early-career researchers in the field of disease-related, translational, neurosciences. **Sole First Author** of **original research articles** published between **January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023**, and affiliated with the call partner countries listed below are eligible to apply. The deadline for proposal submission is **October 1st, 2024**.

The Excellent Paper in Neuroscience Award 2024 focuses on Cerebrovascular Diseases. The article should contribute progress on important translational research questions related to Cerebrovascular diseases including small vessels disease (CSVD) and the dysfunction of brain barriers.

Research areas may cover a broad range of aspects associated with cerebrovascular disease such as genetic, epigenetic and molecular mechanisms of disease. Neuroinflammatory processes often play an important role in cerebrovascular diseases and are included in the call. The development of preventive, diagnostic or therapeutic approaches including pharmacological studies (e.g. on drug target identification) and technological developments based on pathophysiological mechanisms are within the scope of the call.

The call will accept research papers ranging from understanding basic mechanisms of cerebrovascular disease and brain barriers dysfunctions through proof-of-concept clinical studies in humans¹.

An award of EUR 3 000 will be granted to the best proposal. The winner will be invited as an “Excellent Paper in Neuroscience” special lecturer during the **NEURON Midterm Symposium 14. /15. May 2025**. ERA-NET NEURON will cover the award and travel costs related to the lecture.

Call Partner Countries (24): Australia, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom.

2. Aim of the call

Currently ERA-NET NEURON (the Network of European Funding for Neuroscience Research) links 28 national research funding programs and organizations in the field of disease-related neurosciences in Europe, Israel, Turkey, Taiwan, and Canada. The EXCELLENT PAPER IN NEUROSCIENCE AWARD will emphasize the importance of neuroscience and will contribute to integrating the neuroscience research community. The award is designed as a form of support and encouragement for researchers at the early stage of their career.

3. Eligibility

The application must fulfil the following criteria:

Author:	- The <u>sole first Author</u> in the proposed publication. Shared first authorships is not considered for the award. - The Author must have been affiliated with a call partner country at the time of publication (list of eligible countries above). - Pre-doctoral and postdoctoral early career researchers until a maximum of three years from a PhD or an equivalent degree¹ at the date of publication. - Eligible breaks include parental leaves, long-term illness, and national service. Concerning parental leave, national rules apply, or 12 months per child, whichever is the greatest.
Publication:	- Award period: published between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023. - Affiliation of the <u>sole first Author</u> with a call partner country as stated in the publication. - Articles published in open access or available via open access publication repository is encouraged. - Original research articles published in an international peer review journal. - The topic of the article must be clearly relevant to disease-related bio-medical research, translational, neurosciences and, it must fall into one of the following two categories: a) Fundamental research addressing the pathogenesis, aetiology, progression, treatment, and prevention of cerebrovascular diseases including CSVD as well as basic research to elucidate the role of brain barriers on cerebrovascular diseases. This may include the development of innovative or shared resources and technologies including computational and statistical tools, as considered of relevance in the context of this call. b) Clinical research to develop novel strategies for prevention (including secondary prevention), diagnosis, patient stratification, therapy and/or rehabilitation for cerebrovascular diseases.

The following research areas are excluded from this call:

- Neurodegenerative disorders that are addressed by the EU Joint Programme – Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND)².
- Proposals focussed primarily on cardiological or metabolic causes or comorbidities (i.e. diabetes, obesity, Covid-19/long Covid) to cerebrovascular diseases.

¹ Equivalent degrees to the PhD may vary from a different country. A Medical degree alone is not sufficient. In addition, a minimum formation in research (M.Sc. or Ph.D.) is required or proof of an appointment that requires doctoral equivalency (e.g. post-doctoral fellowship, professorship appointment).

² *Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative dementias, Parkinson's disease (PD) and PD-related disorders, Prion disease, Motor neuron diseases, Huntington's disease, Spinocerebellar ataxia, Spinal muscular atrophy*

4. Application

Eligible early-career researchers may submit a proposal for the EXCELLENT PAPER IN NEUROSCIENCE AWARD – BIOMEDICAL CALL. The proposal must be submitted by [email](#) using the on-line form available through the [NEURON web page](#). Both pre- and postdoctoral early-career researchers working in ERA-NET NEURON partner countries are encouraged to apply.

Applications **are only accepted from the sole first author of an original research article**. The on-line application must include the following information bundled in one single PDF format attachment.

- 1) Introduction (minimum font size 11, Arial/Calibri/Times or comparable) including the following:
 - Application form (of the first author)
 - One-page short biosketch of the author
 - One-page summary addressing the significance of the work
 - A pitch of not more than 250 characters (including spaces) describing the research focus of the article and the applicant's role in it.
- 2) PDF of the original research article (published within the eligible award period)

The deadline for applications is **October 1st, 2024**. Applications must be sent by email to the [ERA-NET NEURON EPNA joint call secretariat](#) (see details in the application form) by 5:00 PM (UTC-GMT). Incomplete or late applications will be automatically rejected.

5. Evaluation

ERA-NET NEURON partners will select the proposals upon consultation of high-level scientists in the neuroscience field. The proposals will be evaluated as a whole, based on the following criteria:

- ✓ theoretical approach and scientific quality
- ✓ novelty and innovativeness of research,
- ✓ scientific and societal impact for the area
- ✓ contribution of the ECR to the research discovery.

The aforementioned criteria should be reflected through the different sections of the proposal.

Based on the evaluation, the highest-ranked proposal will be awarded the prize.

6. Management

The ERA-NET NEURON EPNA Joint Call Secretariat together with the national funding agencies will be responsible for the management of the evaluation process.

The Joint Call Secretariat will inform the applicants about the decisions individually in early 2025.

7. Award Presentation

The winner will be **awarded at the NEURON Midterm Symposium 14. /15. May 2025**. The winner may also be invited to present in ERA-NET NEURON events and contribute to the planning of the future support activities of the early-career researchers (ECR) or other activities within the NEURON network.



8. Call Schedule

• Announcement of the call	Early August
• Deadline for proposal submission	October 1st 2024
• Evaluation of the proposals	October - December 2024
• Decisions and information about the evaluation results	Early 2025
• Award Presentation Ceremony	14./15. May 2025 at the NEURON Mid-Term Symposium (location tbc)

9. National Contact points

For further information, follow the links below or contact your national representative:

Table 1: List of all the eligible countries for this call

Country	Contact person	Contact information
Australia	Dr. Adam Chapman	National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Adam.Chapman@nhmrc.gov.au https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/
Belgium (Flanders)	Dr. Kristien Peeters Mr. Toon Monbaliu	Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO) eranet@fwo.be www.fwo.be
Belgium (French-speaking community)	Dr. Florence Quist	Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique – FNRS (F.R.S.-FNRS) florence.quist@frs-fnrs.be www.frs-fnrs.be
Canada (Québec)	Mr. Maxime Beaudoin	Fonds de recherche du Québec - Santé (FRQS) Maxime.Beaudoin@frq.gouv.qc.ca http://www.frqs.gouv.qc.ca
Croatia	Mr. Mateo Ante Bosnić	Ministarstvo Znanosti I Obrazovanja (MZO) MateoAnte.Bosnic@mzo.hr https://mzo.gov.hr/en
Estonia	Mr. Argo Soon	Eesti Teadusagentuur (Estonian Research Council, ETAG) Argo.Soon@etag.ee www.etag.ee
Finland	Dr. Aki Salo	Academy of Finland (AKA) aki.salo@aka.fi www.aka.fi
France	Dr. Catherine Marquer	National Research Agency (ANR) Health & Biology Department catherine.marquer@agencerecherche.fr www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr
	Prof. Dr. Bernard Poulain	Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) bernard.poulain@cnrs-dir.fr http://www.cnrs.fr/
	Dr. Etienne Hirsch	INSERM etienne.hirsch@inserm.fr www.inserm.fr
Germany	Dr. Christina Müller	German Programme Management Health Research (DLR-PT) chr.mueller@dlr.de www.gesundheitsforschung-bmbf.de
Hungary	Dr. Klára Horváth	National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH) klara.horvath@nkfi.gov.hu nkfi.gov.hu/palyazoknak
Ireland	Dr. Amanda Daly	Health Research Board (HRB) Amanda.Daly@hrb.ie https://www.hrb.ie/

Country	Contact person	Contact information
Israel	Dr. Liron Even-Faitelson	Chief Scientist Office, Ministry of Health (CSO-MOH) liron.ef@moh.gov.il www.health.gov.il
Italy	Dr. Chiara Ciccarelli	Ministero della Salute (IT-MOH) c.ciccarelli@sanita.it www.ministerosalute.it/
Latvia	Dr. Uldis Berkis	Latvian Council of Science (LZP) Uldis.Berkis@viaa.gov.lv www.lza.lv
Lithuania	Dr. Živilė Ruželė	Research Council of Lithuania (LMT) zivile.ruzele@lmt.lt www.lmt.lt/en
Norway	Dr. Alexandra Bjørk-Skaflestad	The Research Council of Norway (RCN) alb@rcn.no or alb@forskningsradet.no www.forskningsradet.no
Poland	Dr. Marcin Chmielewski	National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR) marcin.chmielewski@ncbr.gov.pl www.ncbir.pl
Portugal	Dr. Alexandre Mauricio	Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT) Alexandre.Mauricio@fct.pt www.fct.pt
Romania	Prof. Mihaela Manole	CAROL DAVILA University of Medicine and Pharmacy/Neuroscience (UEFISCDI) Mihaela.manole@uefiscdi.ro www.uefiscdi.gov.ro
Slovakia	Dr. Katarina Bibova	Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS) bibova@up.upsav.sk www.sak.sk
Spain	Mrs. Esther Chacón	Agencia Estatal de Investigación – State Research Agency (AEI) neuron@aei.gob.es http://www.aei.gob.es/
	Mrs. Maria Cristina Nieto Garcia	National Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII) mnieto@isciii.es http://www.isciii.es/
Switzerland	Dr. Francis Parlange	Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF) francis.parlange@snf.ch www.snf.ch
Taiwan	Ms. Ching-Mei Tang	National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) cmtom@nstc.gov.tw https://www.nstc.gov.tw/?l=en



Country	Contact person	Contact information
Turkey	Dr. Recep Emrah Çevik	The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) emrah.cevik@tubitak.gov.tr www.tubitak.gov.tr
UK	Dr. Pip Johnstone	Medical Research Council (MRC) Pip.johnstone@mrc.ukri.org www.mrc.ac.uk