

SCIENTIFIC AWARD ASTRAZENECA FOUNDATION 2025

Harnessing stem cell models and organoids for disease discovery and therapeutics

REGULATIONS



- Art. 1. On the initiative of AstraZeneca Foundation, the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) and Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique-FNRS (F.R.S.-FNRS) will grant in 2025 the **Scientific Award AstraZeneca Foundation in Harnessing stem cell models and organoids for disease discovery and therapeutics**, which amounts to 25.000 EURO. Half of this amount will be attributed to the laureate for personal use, the other half of the amount will be paid to the host lab of the laureate to further research in the domain of innovative approaches to stem cell models and organoids for disease discovery and therapeutics.
- Art. 2. The **Scientific Award AstraZeneca Foundation – Harnessing stem cell models and organoids for disease discovery and therapeutics 2025** rewards any research in the context of use of stem cell technologies and organoids to advance our understanding of diseases and develop novel treatments. Research that explores how these biological models can simulate human disease conditions, enabling discoveries in disease mechanisms and facilitating the development of effective therapies.
It intends to reward an established investigator on the basis of his/her previous work, with a perspective of future development in the same field.
- Art. 3. The applicant should be active in the above-mentioned field of research, with both ongoing work related to the focus of the Award and future prospects. The research outline should specify the past and ongoing work of the applicant in the field of research (description of four (4) pages at most), followed by one (1) page in which the candidate elaborates on his/her further plans to continue the research, detailing e.g. the future prospects of the obtained achievements and the results which clinical or experimental study might generate in the following three years.
- Art. 4. The Award will be granted on the basis of the recommendations of a jury of experts, appointed jointly by FWO and F.R.S.-FNRS according to the applicable rules of FWO and F.R.S.-FNRS. If no suitable candidate can be identified, the Award will not be granted. In this case, the AstraZeneca Foundation will, in close consultation with both FWO and F.R.S.-FNRS, attribute the complete amount of the Award to a scientific goal within the core business of FWO and F.R.S.-FNRS.
- Art. 5. The Award cannot be divided amongst several researchers.

- Art. 6. The Award can only be given to an **individual scientist from postdoctoral level onwards** who is **affiliated to a Belgian university or university hospital at the deadline of the call**. Prior to the submission deadline, the applicant must have held a research position in Belgium for at least five years (in a consecutive or cumulated period). **The applicant must have obtained the first PhD degree maximum 15 years before the date of the submission deadline** (possibly extended in case of eligible career breaks). For each continuous period of 365 days between the date of the PhD degree and the application, maximum one extension of one year of the abovementioned seniority limit may be granted, if during this period continuous periods of at least 3 months, regardless of the number, have occurred because of maternity leave, full-time parental leave, full-time sickness leave or military service/compulsory civilian service in the country of which they are citizen.
- Art. 7. Personnel of the AstraZeneca Foundation or affiliated to the AstraZeneca Foundation are not eligible for the Award.
- Art. 8. Applicants **may not have received an Award for the work submitted** with the same amount (or higher) in the last 3 years (at the deadline of the call).
- Art. 9. Applicants for the **Scientific Award AstraZeneca Foundation – Harnessing stem cell models and organoids for disease discovery and therapeutics 2025** cannot apply for any other Award granted by the AstraZeneca Foundation in the same year.
- Art. 10. Applications have to be submitted electronically using the appropriate form at the latest on **9 June 2025 by midnight CEST**. The form is available on the website www.frs-fnrs.be and has to be sent by e-mail to prix@frs-fnrs.be. The form has to be completed in English.
- Art. 11. Any problems or disputes arising from the eligibility of submitted applications or from granting the Award will be settled by the F.R.S.-FNRS and the FWO, whose decision in these respects will be final.
- Art. 12. The scientific outline, presentations and evaluation reports generated in the framework of this Scientific Award will be treated confidentially.

April 2025.

