



SCHWEIZERISCHE HIRNLIGA
LIGUE SUISSE POUR LE CERVEAU
LEGA SVIZZERA PER IL CERVELLO

Prize regulations

Swiss Brain League research prize

1. In 2026, the Swiss Brain League will award a sponsorship prize of CHF 40,000 for outstanding scientific achievement in the field of brain research. When evaluating the winning project, the jury will ensure that, over the years, there is as balanced a mix as possible between clinical and basic research, without restricting the selection of truly exceptional projects. The prize will generally be given to the working group *as a whole* that contributes to a scientific achievement, and the prize money is to be ploughed back into their research.

2. The following conditions must be met for the awarding of the prize:

The scientific work must have been published as an individual publication in the two years preceding the call for entries or have been accepted for publication by an internationally recognised journal.

Most of the work must have been carried out at Swiss hospitals and/or Swiss institutes.

There is no provision for splitting the prize. Only one Swiss research group can apply for the prize. If a work has been produced in collaboration with different institutes or hospitals in Switzerland and/or abroad, the candidate research group must be significantly represented by authorship (lead author and/or last author or corresponding author) in the submitted publication. In addition, the heads of the other research groups must confirm their agreement with the candidacy in writing.

3. A call for entries for the prize is published in the *Schweizerische Ärztezeitung*, in the bulletins of the Swiss Society for Neuroscience (SSN) and in *Life Sciences Switzerland* no later than six months before the award is conferred.



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The prize can also be awarded on the recommendation of a member of the Board of Directors. In this case, the entrant must provide the necessary documentation.

All participating authors must sign their support for the application. When entering, the intended use of the prize money for research purposes must be declared (for the benefit of the institution, purchase of equipment, personnel costs, etc.).

The prize recipient is the working group consisting of the participating authors who work or have worked at the relevant institute/hospital. Co-authors of the respective thesis who are not working at the institute or the hospital are not considered recipients of the prize, but will be mentioned in the press release in any case.

Several Swiss institutes/hospitals can enter together in relation to a collaborative work if all the authors involved give their written consent.

If several working groups of equal quality enter, the issue of promoting young, less recognised or less established teams should be taken into account.

4. Evaluation and selection are carried out by the Board of Directors of the Swiss Brain League. Consideration is given to originality, methodology, relevance to brain disorders and/or the physiology of the central nervous system, and didactic presentation. Members of the Board of Directors with a conflict of interest (members of the relevant working group, supervisors of an institute, those with close family relationships to the entrants) will recuse themselves.

A brief record is kept of the evaluation process, which can be carried out by means of (electronic/letter) correspondence.

5. The decisions of the Board of Directors are final. There is no right of appeal to the Swiss Brain League.
The Board of Directors generally does not give reasons for a negative decision. Nor will any correspondence will be entered into.



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6. If no applications are received after the call for entries or if no work worthy of the award is submitted, the prize for the year in question will not be awarded.

7. The Swiss Brain League will support the award ceremony with media work, together with exponents of the prize-winning group. The award ceremony is to take place in a dignified and high-profile setting. The setting should preferably be as close as possible to the workplace of the research group, and the award conferred during International Brain Week. Alternatively, the prize could be awarded at a similar healthcare-related event or at a Swiss neuroscientific, psychiatric or neurological conference. An exponent of the prize-winning group gives a short didactically appropriate presentation (which should be generally understandable to a lay audience), explaining the group's research.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Brain League on 24 March 2024

Prof Jürg Kesselring, Chairman

Bern, March 2025