

## **Application for Accreditation to the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing**

### **The American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR)**

- a. The purpose of the organization
  1. AFAR's Mission:
    - i. The American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to support and advance healthy aging through biomedical research.
  2. AFAR focuses its activities on these major initiatives:
    - i. Identifying and funding a broad range of cutting-edge research most likely to increase knowledge about healthy aging.
    - ii. Attracting more physicians to specialize in geriatric medicine to meet the demands of an aging population with expert health care.
    - iii. Creating opportunities for scientists and clinicians to share knowledge and exchange ideas to drive innovation in aging research.
    - iv. Providing information to the public on new medical findings that can help people live longer lives, less susceptible to disease and disability.
- b. Information as to the programmes and activities of the organization in areas relevant to the human rights of older persons
  1. Grant Programs – AFAR believes the right to healthy aging is a human right.
    - i. Research Grants: AFAR provides up to \$100,000 for a one- to two-year award to junior faculty (M.D.s and Ph.D.s) to conduct research that will serve as the basis for longer term research efforts. AFAR-supported investigators study a broad range of biomedical and clinical topics including the causes of cellular senescence, the role of estrogen in the development of osteoporosis, the genetic factors associated with Alzheimer's disease, the effects of nutrition and exercise on the aging process, and much more. Since 1981, over 680 AFAR Research Grants have been awarded.
    - ii. The New Investigator Awards in Alzheimer's Disease: This partnership program supports junior faculty in the U.S. and Israel who conduct basic biology of aging research on the earliest precursors of Alzheimer's disease. Up to five one- to two-year awards of \$100,000 each will be awarded.
    - iii. Paul Beeson Career Development Awards in Aging Research Program: The National Institute on Aging (NIA), The Atlantic Philanthropies (USA), The John A. Hartford Foundation, the Starr Foundation, the National Institute on Neurological Disorders and Strokes (NINDS) and an anonymous donor are collaborating on this initiative to sustain and promote the research careers of clinically trained individuals who are pursuing research careers in aging
    - iv. The Julie Martin Mid-Career Award in Aging Research: Sponsored by The Ellison Medical Foundation, this program was designed for outstanding mid-career scientists who propose new directions of high importance to biological gerontology. Proposals in areas where NIH awards or other traditional sources are unlikely because the research is high risk, are particularly encouraged if they

have the potential for leading to major new advances in our understanding of basic mechanisms of aging.

Projects investigating age-related diseases are also supported, but only if approached from the point of view of how basic aging processes may lead to these outcomes. Projects concerning mechanisms underlying common geriatric functional disorders are also encouraged, as long as these include connections to fundamental problems in the biology of aging. Projects that deal strictly with clinical problems such as the diagnosis and treatment of disease, health outcomes, or the social context of aging are not eligible.

- v. Glenn/AFAR Breakthroughs in Gerontology Award: The goal of the Glenn/AFAR BIG program is to provide timely support to a pilot research program that may be of relatively high risk but which offers significant promise of yielding transforming discoveries in the fundamental biology of aging. Full-time faculty members at the rank of Assistant Professor or higher who can demonstrate a strong record of independence are eligible. Two two-year grants of up to \$200,000 will be awarded.
  - vi. Ellison Medical Foundation/AFAR Postdoctoral Fellows in Aging Research Program: The program was developed to address the current concerns about an adequate funding base for postdoctoral fellows (both MDs and PhDs) who conduct research in the fundamental mechanisms of aging. Postdoctoral fellows at all levels of training are eligible. Up to fifteen one-year fellowships ranging from \$46,346 to \$60,492 will be awarded.
  - vii. Medical Student Training in Aging Research (MSTAR) Program: To encourage medical students - particularly budding researchers - to consider a career in academic geriatrics, this program awards short-term scholarships. AFAR has partnered with the NIA and several foundations to continue and strengthen the original Hartford/AFAR Medical Student Geriatric Scholars Program.
  - viii. 2011 AFAR-GE Healthcare Junior Investigator Award for Excellence in Imaging and Aging Research: Sponsored by GE Healthcare, this award recognizes the work of postdoctoral fellows using imaging techniques to investigate the basic mechanisms of aging.
2. The Eweson Lecture Series was established to bring the issues of aging to the forefront of medical association conferences.
  3. For more than 25 years, the MetLife Foundation Awards for Medical Research have recognized significant advances in Alzheimer's disease research.
  4. Each year, AFAR honors leaders in science, business, and philanthropy for their contributions to the field of aging.
- c. Confirmation of the activities of the organization at the national, regional or international level
    1. AFAR is a national non-profit organization that identifies and supports researchers, organizes educational events and conducts media briefings. Although the organization is considered to be national, AFAR has grantees in Ireland, Israel and Italy. We are looking to expand internationally.
  - d. Copies of the annual or other reports of the organization with financial statements, and a list of financial sources and contributions, including governmental contributions

1. Please see attached documents.
- e. A list of members of the governing body of the organization and their countries of nationality
  1. AFAR is not a membership organization.
- f. A description of the membership of the organization, indicating the total number of members, the names of organizations that are members and their geographical distribution
- g. A copy of the constitution and/or by-laws of the organization
  1. Please see attached documents.