

The logo for the American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) features the lowercase letters 'afar' in a stylized, orange, cursive font.

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AFAR Grant Programs Overview

Boston University, October 19, 2023

Odette van der Willik, Deputy Executive Director and Director Grant Programs, AFAR



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About AFAR

- Founded in 1981
- Mission: To support and advance healthy aging through biomedical research
- 2023 Programs
 - Focus primarily on basic, translational and clinically-relevant research
 - 8 funding mechanisms
 - > 60 investigators – from undergraduate students to full professors
 - > \$12 million
 - 3 NIA-funded networks



Review Process

- Most AFAR programs have a two-tiered review process
- **First stage is Letter of Intent**
 - Administrative review for eligibility and completeness
 - LOIs are reviewed by three members of AFAR's National Scientific Advisory Council (about 300 members)
 - No feedback is provided
- **Second Stage is Full Application**
 - A subset of applicants is invited to submit a full application
 - Review by a Selection Committee; members represent a broad range of expertise
 - Recommendations from Selection Committee go to AFAR Board (and sometimes also program sponsor for final funding decisions)
 - No feedback is provided



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Glenn Foundation and AFAR Junior Faculty Grants

- Who is eligible: Independent Junior Faculty, no more than 10 years beyond start of postdoc training. US-based investigators only.
- Research Area: Biology of Aging
- Award: \$150,000 for up to 2 years
- Up to 15 awards
- Deadline LOI: December 18, 2023
- Funding Success rate in 2023: ~ 16%



Sagol Network Geromics Award for Junior Faculty

- Who is eligible: Independent Junior Faculty, no more than 10 years beyond start of postdoc training. US-based investigators only.
- Research Area: Omics-related aging research
- Award: \$150,000 for up to 2 years
- 1 award
- Deadline LOI: December 18, 2023
- Funding Success Rate in 2023: ~ 11% (we will consider competitive Sagol applications for the regular AFAR award)



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Hevolution/AFAR New Investigator Awards in Aging Biology and Geroscience Research

- Who is eligible: Independent Junior Faculty, with at least 3 years of independent research. No more than 12 years beyond start of postdoc training. US- and Canada-based investigators only
- Research Area: Biology of Aging and Geroscience
- Award: \$375,000 for 3 years
- Up to 18 awards
- Deadline LOI: 2024 deadline to be determined. Likely in Spring/Summer 2024
- Funding Success Rate in 2022: ~23%



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Glenn Foundation Discovery Awards

- Who is eligible: Full time Faculty at the rank of Assistant Professor or higher, especially those who have not previously worked in aging research
- Research Area: Biology of Aging
- Award: \$525,000 for 3 years
- Up to 2 awards
- Deadline LOI: January 15, 2024
- Funding Success Rate in 2023: ~ 2%



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Glenn Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowships in Aging Research

- Who is eligible: Postdoctoral Fellows
- Research Area: Biology of Aging and translational aging research
- Award: \$75,000 for 1 year
- Up to 10 awards
- Deadline LOI: January 15, 2024
- Funding Success Rate in 2023: ~ 7%



Diana Jacobs Kalman/AFAR Scholarship for Research in the Biology of Aging

- Who is eligible: graduate students (MD, DO, PhD or combined degree) who have completed at least two years by the start date of the award
- Research Area: Biology of Aging
- Award: \$5,000 for 3- to 6-month research project
- Up to 10 awards
- Deadline LOI: April 14, 2024
- Funding Success Rate in 2023: 40%



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NIA-funded Initiatives

- Clin-STAR Coordinating Center – pilot awards and travel awards
- Research Centers Collaborative Network – pilot awards and travel awards
- Nathan Shock Centers Coordinating Center – pilot awards offered directly by each of the Nathan Shock Centers



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Travel and Conference Awards

- **Dorothy Dillon Eweson Lecture Series:** travel awards to present aging-related research at meetings where aging is not the primary focus. No deadline.
- **Hevolution Foundation Scientific Conferences Fund:** up to \$10,000 per meeting. Meetings and organizations must be in US, Canada or Mexico. Four deadlines per year (Jan 31, April 30, July 31 and October 31)



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Check the AFAR website – www.afar.org regularly for updates.

- McKnight Brain Research Foundation Innovator Awards Program is under review



Before you apply

- Understand the mission of the organization and the goals of the program
- Eligibility Criteria
- Evaluation Criteria
- Not sure? Ask!



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Some Tips

- **Plan ahead!** Leave yourself ample time to prepare.
- **Make a good first impression** in your abstract and specific aims.
- **Be ambitious, but realistic** - is your project feasible?
- **Write to be understood** - use clear language and avoid jargon.
- **Anticipate project setbacks** - what is your contingency plan?
- **Aging research** – pay attention to the model, sex and age groups you use. Also, studying something because it occurs in older adults is not sufficient.



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Thank you!

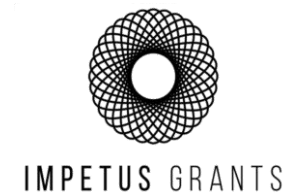
Odette van der Willik

Odette@afar.org

Funding Opportunities

Viviana Perez
v.perez@hevolution.com

Hevolution deploys
its initiatives
through partnerships



In collaboration with AFAR:

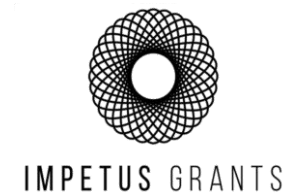
HF-AFAR New Investigators: An initiative for a 3-year grant for young investigators (less than 10 years after obtaining their degree) Total cost/3 years: \$375,000).

Conference Awards

Hevolution Foundation Scientific Conferences Fund: up to \$10,000 per meeting.

Funding Opportunities

Hevolution deploys
its initiatives
through partnerships



In collaboration with Impetus Grants
(<https://impetusgrants.org>)

HF-Impetus Grants: Offers grants of up to \$500k, with decisions made within 3 weeks

- In 2022, Hevolution supported this initiative with \$2M (a total of 14 projects were awarded).
- In 2023, Hevolution Foundation supported this initiative with \$5M. The Call just closed. The winners will be announced soon.

Funding Opportunities

Grants Initiatives deployed by Hevolution

- **Currently active or to be launched in 2023**

2022 HF-AGE: For applications close to the funding line of NIA/NIH.

2023 HF-GRO: Grant support to support research in Aging Biology or Geroscience

2023 HF-KSA: Grants to promote research on aging biology and geroscience in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

2024 HF-DGO: Grant support to promote drug optimization **TBD**

- **Planning to launch next year**

HF-ALA: Grants to promote research on Aging Biology and Geroscience in Africa and Latin America

HF-AOC: Grants to promote research on Aging Biology and Geroscience in Asia and Oceania

KSA-Postdoc Fellowship: To train the new generation of KSA investigators in the area of aging biology and geroscience.

Process & Criteria Selection

In General:
Hevolution pays
Indirect Costs up to 25%

Process:

Most of the initiatives* use a 2-step approach:

1- First submission of a short Letter of Intent (LOI).

2- Applicants whose ideas are deemed meritorious by a peer review panel will be notified and advised to submit a full proposal.

At both stages we have a peer review process, and special emphasis will be placed on innovation and creativity, as well as alignment with Hevolution's mission and goals.

Eligibility:

- Geography
- Applicant Credentials (Ph.D., MD/Ph.D., or equivalent)
- Applicant independence (space, skills, and publications)
- Research proposal must be in the basic biology of aging or geroscience.
- Institutional: Academic, government-funded research organizations, or non-profit institutions.

Selection Criteria: Based on the merit of an application

- Quality of the proposed research
- Alignment of the research topic with Hevolution's mission and goals
- Innovation and creativity of the approach
- Qualifications and track record of the applicant
- Excellence of the research environment; including the availability of all tools and platforms needed to perform the proposed work

Grants Initiatives deployed by Hevolution

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HF-GRO (Hevolution Foundation - Geroscience Research Opportunities)

Who is eligible: Investigators in the US, Canada, and Europe

Research Area: Aging Biology and Geroscience

Award: \$300-400K Canada and Europe (Aging Biology-Geroscience)
\$400-500K USA (Aging Biology-Geroscience)

How many: 40-60 projects

Award Length: 4-5 years

Total allocated funds: USD 25.2M year 1. 114.8M total.

Announcement: May 2023

Deadline: LOI: June 15, 2023

Full proposal: October 5, 2023

Review: December 13-14, 2023.

Awards disbursement: February 2024.

HF-AGE (Hevolution Foundation -Advancing Geroscience Efforts)

Who is eligible: Investigators whose applications (R01, R21, R03, K99) have been peer-reviewed and received a score within 10 percentile (or 10 points if not percentiled) of the NIA general funding line for the mechanism used for FY: 2022-2023.

Research Area: Aging Biology and Geroscience

Award: Established by NIA mechanisms

How many: 8-10 projects

Award Length: 2-5 years

Total allocated funds: USD 5M year 1. \$20M total

Announcement: October 13 2023

Deadline: November 24, 2023

Awards disbursement: February 2024.

Thank you