

# THE RAINWATER PRIZE

## PRIZE PROGRAM DETAILS

### The Rainwater Prizes for Neurodegenerative Research

Richard Rainwater, a renowned investor and visionary philanthropist, understood that the research he was funding may not be able to help him directly, but he knew the work was important, cutting edge and was going to inevitably lead to better treatments for patients like him in the future. He, therefore dedicated funds to develop a prize program that would launch when the progress in science was getting closer to helping patients. Mr. Rainwater passed away in 2015 from complications related to his progressive supranuclear palsy diagnosis, yet his legacy lives on in the fight to end neurodegenerative disease.

The Rainwater Charitable Foundation supports both K-12 education and medical research through its grantmaking. Within its medical research branch, the foundation created the Tau Consortium to help accelerate scientific progress, support high-risk/high-reward translational research and foster a highly collaborative environment. The members of the Tau Consortium are nominated to join the consortium through a scientific advisory committee. The Tau Consortium members work collaboratively, engage strategic partners and establish critical resources needed to accelerate progress towards understanding the underlying causes of neurodegenerative diseases like progressive supranuclear palsy, Alzheimer’s disease and other tauopathies.

The Rainwater Prize Program was designed to promote four prize categories. The objective of all the prize categories is to encourage and accelerate scientific progress toward new treatments for neurodegenerative diseases by; (a) enhancing awareness of the critical gaps in neurodegenerative research, (b) attracting researchers to work on tauopathies and (c) awarding scientific achievements leading to new treatments for PSP.

The prize categories are as follows:

	PRIZE AMOUNT	TIMING
<b>The Rainwater Prize for Outstanding Innovation in Neurodegenerative Research</b>	\$250K	Every Year
<b>The Rainwater Prize for Innovative Early-Career Scientists</b>	\$150K	2020 with potential for expansion to annually
<b>The Rainwater Milestone Prize for Advances in Tauopathy Research</b>	Up to \$2M	When Milestones and eligibility are met
<b>The Rainwater Breakthrough Prize for Effective Treatments in PSP</b>	\$2M to \$10M	When breakthrough treatments are in the clinic and eligibility is met

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## **Section 1 The Rainwater Prize for Outstanding Innovation in Neurodegenerative Research**

This prize recognizes investigator(s) whose work is considered a significant contribution to our understanding of Tau-related diseases. Nominees will be considered through a non-self-nomination process for published, peer-reviewed tau-related research. The nominations are open for all researchers, from all countries, and research institutional affiliations. Awardees will be chosen by a committee of international scientific leaders from a wide range of fields and backgrounds. The awardee will be chosen based on their scientific contributions, leadership, mentorship, and overall contributions to the scientific community.

This award will consist of a \$250K prize provided through a fund started by Richard Rainwater at the North Texas Community Foundation. While it is our hope that the prize money will be used to further the recipient's research in neurodegenerative disease, the prize recipient will only be able to use the funds for non-profit purposes.

The awardee(s) will be honored at an award presentation ceremony in Washington DC, February 2020. All travel expenses for awardee(s) will be covered by the foundation. The awardee will also be invited to present their findings at the 2020 meeting co-hosted by the Rainwater Charitable Foundation.

## **Section 2 The Rainwater Prize for Innovative Early-Career Scientists**

This prize is intended to reward outstanding achievements of a scientist either as a first author or senior author on published neurodegenerative disease research findings. This prize aims to support exceptionally productive scientists who are in the early formative stages of their academic career (within 5 years of PI appointment) and who plan to make a long-term career commitment to research aligned with the mission areas of the Rainwater Charitable Foundation. Nominees will be considered through a non-self-nomination process for published, peer-reviewed neurodegenerative disease research. Awardees will be chosen by a committee of international scientific leaders from a wide range of fields and backgrounds. The awardee will be chosen based on their scientific contributions, leadership, mentorship, and overall contributions to the scientific community.

This award will consist of a \$150K prize provided through a fund started by Richard Rainwater at the North Texas Community Foundation. While it is our hope that the prize money will be used to further the recipient's research in neurodegenerative disease, the prize recipient will only be able to use the funds for non-profit purposes.

After close of nominations, a follow-up email will be sent to finalist nominees to request a 1-2 page summary of their research program aims and strategy. The awardee(s) will be honored at an award presentation ceremony in Washington DC, February 2020. All travel expenses for awardee(s) will be covered by the foundation. The awardee will also be invited to present their findings at the 2020 meeting co-hosted by the Rainwater Charitable Foundation.

## **Section 3 The Rainwater Milestone Prize for Advances in Tauopathy Research**

This prize recognizes investigator(s) whose work is considered a significant contribution to our understanding of Tau-related diseases by addressing critical gaps in technology and disease knowledge that will help the scientific community develop effective treatments. Nominees will be considered through a non-self-nomination process for published, peer-reviewed tau-related research and demonstration of open sharing of data and technology or models. The nominations are open for all researchers, from all countries, and research institutional affiliations. Awardees will be chosen by a committee of international scientific leaders from a wide range of fields and backgrounds. The awardee will be chosen based on their scientific contributions to the specified milestones,

demonstrated willingness to collaborate and share scientific resources, leadership, mentorship, and overall contributions to the scientific community.

This prize will be awarded upon milestone completion and may or may not be awarded each year. This award may be awarded to individuals or teams of scientists.

Current Milestone Prize categories:

*To find a better treatment, we need to better understand the disease –*

**Milestone Prize: Structure, Function, and Disease Mechanisms**

Tau protein modifications and how these function in health and disease

Mechanism of Tau aggregation and transmission (inside and outside cell)

Mechanism of glial and neuronal loss

*For Clinical trials to be more effective we must be able to stratify patients more accurately for clinical trials and detect tauopathies early –*

**Milestone Prize: Risk and Prevention**

Genetic/Epigenetic biomarkers, Polygenic risk assessment

Predictors of Tau normal vs. dysfunction

Progression monitoring

Clinical trial stratification

*To make the discoveries happen, we need better models and technology that can predict human response to treatments –*

**Milestone Prize: Advances in Drug Development Models and Technology**

*In vivo* or other clinically relevant model

Clinical drug efficacy prediction models

Advances in imaging

This award will consist of an up to \$2M prize provided through a fund started by Richard Rainwater at the North Texas Community Foundation. While it is our hope that the prize money will be used to further the recipient's neurodegenerative disease research, the prize recipient will only be able to use the funds for non-profit purposes.

If awarded in this round, the awardee(s) will be honored at an award presentation ceremony in Washington DC, February 2020. All travel expenses for awardee(s) will be covered by the foundation. The awardee will also be invited to present their findings at the 2020 meeting co-hosted by the Rainwater Charitable Foundation.

**Section 4 The Rainwater Breakthrough Prize for Effective Treatments in PSP**

This prize recognizes investigator(s) whose work is considered a significant contribution to the development of effective treatments for PSP. Nominees will be considered through a non-self-nomination process for published, peer-reviewed PSP-related research that led to a treatment that has significant improvement of welfare for patients. The nominations are open for all researchers, from all countries, and research institutional affiliations. Awardees will be chosen by a committee of international scientific leaders from a wide range of fields and backgrounds. The awardee will be chosen based on their scientific contributions that ultimately led to the development of treatments for PSP, demonstrated willingness to collaborate and share scientific resources, leadership, mentorship, and overall contributions to the scientific community.

This prize will be awarded to the basic science, translational research that led to the development and clinical use of a treatment with significant, measurable improvement of life for PSP patients. This prize may or may not be awarded each year and may be awarded to individuals or teams of scientists.

Current 2018/2019 Breakthrough Prize categories:

\$2M – ***FDA approved treatment that meaningfully extends good quality of life for patients***

\$4M – ***FDA approved treatment that cures PSP early in progression***

\$10M – ***FDA approved treatment that prevents PSP and/or reverses disease damage***

This award will consist of an up to \$10M prize provided through a fund started by Richard Rainwater at the North Texas Community Foundation. While it is our hope that the prize money will be used to further the recipient's neurodegenerative disease research, the prize recipient will only be able to use the funds for non-profit purposes.

If awarded in this round, the awardee(s) will be honored at an award presentation ceremony in Washington DC in February 2020. All travel expenses for awardee(s) will be covered by the foundation. The awardee will also be invited to present their findings at the 2020 meeting co-hosted by the Rainwater Charitable Foundation.

## **Section 5 Eligibility of Nominees and Nominators**

Eligible Nominees must:

- Have made significant contributions to research in Tau-related diseases within the scope of the prize for which the nominee is being considered.
- Except for the breakthrough prize, all other prize nominees must have made the discovery within the last 10 years.

The following are not eligible:

- Self-nominations
- Past recipients of the same award

*Anyone can nominate an individual.*

## **Section 6 Application Process**

Anyone is eligible to submit one nomination for an award, and only one nomination per calendar year. Self-nominations are not permitted. Nominations will be submitted through an online nomination form. Nomination will remain open until May 15th, 2019. (EXTENDED)

**Completed applications submitted no later than May 15th, 2019** will be prescreened for continued eligibility and reviewed by the selection committee.

The nominee selected for an award will be contacted in October 2019 to confirm acceptance of the award and the terms of the award. The awardee must be able to accept the award at a ceremony in Washington DC in February 2020 and invited to give a scientific presentation. The awardee must allow for his/her photo, information of award, ceremony details and discovery contributions to be publicly available. If the award is not accepted, or the recipient no longer eligible, the nominee is required to keep all notices around their selection confidential. An awardee that accepts the award must keep all results of the prize competition confidential until the Rainwater Charitable Foundation official award announcement is released.

The Rainwater Charitable Foundation will contact the eligible nominees to request a recent curriculum vitae (CV), and a standard release and background check form.

## **Section 7**      **The Review Process**

Nominations for the 2019 prize cycle will open in November of 2018 and close in May 2019. The initial vetting of nominations by verification of eligibility and scientific literature review will be done by the Rainwater Charitable Foundation staff. The top ranked nominations will receive email communications notifying them of their nomination and requests for updated CV, and a signed release and background check consent. The next round of vetting will confirm that all nominees are eligible for their respective prize categories for which they were nominated.

The selection committee will be responsible for determining recipient(s) of the Rainwater Prize. The selection committee will be composed of 7 to 10 leaders in neuroscience, translational medicine, advocacy and community. The committee will also consist of a non-voting chair who will lead the committee and allow for a fully diverse and balanced conversation between voting members. In June 2019, the prize committee will receive the eligible nominee application materials including a list of other nominees. Members of the selection committee must submit their potential recusals at least 7 days before the voting date. Members of the selection committee will have an in-person meeting at a location TBD in August 2019 to vote on the Rainwater Prize recipient(s).

This is the first year of the prize program with the first prize(s) to be awarded in February 2020. While the Rainwater Prize for Outstanding Innovation in Neurodegenerative Research annual prize will be awarded in 2020, and awarded each year thereafter, the Milestone and Breakthrough prizes may or may not be awarded based on this year's nominations and discoveries. All awards may be awarded to individuals or shared as teams at the discretion of the selection committee.

## **Section 8**      **The Evaluation Criteria**

Nominees who have met all eligibility criteria and preliminary screening will be reviewed by the selection committee.

The following criteria will be used to evaluate the applications for the Rainwater Prize Program:

**Research Discovery** (Weight 70%) – The nominee must have contributed significantly to the discovery for which the award category outlines. The scope of review will involve applicability to award nominated for, quality of peer-reviewed research findings, validation by the scientific community, research citations, significant impact for neurodegenerative disease, applicability to a tauopathy, contribution to development of technology or platform, and has the finding been incorporated into common teaching and across the scientific community.

**Leadership** (weight 30%) – The nominee(s) must be in good standing within their institution and within the scientific community. The nominee(s) are evaluated based on their level of collaboration, data sharing and technology sharing, leadership, mentoring, trainee success, international recognition, their engagement in diversity and equity and their overall contributions to the scientific community through outreach and education. A nominee's general societal contributions will be taken in to account should all other scoring between scientific contributions and leadership among top candidates be considered equal.

## **Section 9**      **Confidentiality**

**For the Selection Committee:** The information passed on to the selection committee regarding the prize program details, details of the nominees, nominators and associated research projects and programs both published and unpublished will remain confidential within the selection committee. Awardees decided by the selection committee will remain confidential until such time that the Rainwater Charitable Foundation makes the decision public. However, the information in the application applicable to the awarding of the Rainwater Prize may be used by the Rainwater Charitable Foundation at any time for publicity or promotional purposes.

**For the Awardee:** Nominees who have been voted to receive one of the Rainwater Prizes will be subject to the above confidentiality as per the selection committee. If the award is not accepted, or the recipient no longer eligible, the nominee is required to keep all notices around their selection confidential. An awardee that accepts the award must keep all results of the prize competition confidential until the Rainwater Charitable Foundation releases the official award announcement.

## **Section 10**      **Conflict of Interest**

All selection committee members must disclose any conflicts of interest no less than 7 days before the date of in-person voting. Any real or perceived conflicts should be reported and discussed with the selection committee Chair. Conflicts of Interests that require recusal include but are not limited to: if the selection committee member is a relative, business partner, active scientific collaborator, recent (within 5 years) co-author, former advisor, or former student of the nominee. If the selection committee member is currently employed by the same institution as the nominee the Chair must be notified, however this is not considered immediate grounds for conflict of interest and recusal. The committee chair will inform the committee members of these relationships.

In addition to conflict of interest, the committee chair will discuss implicit bias with the selection committee. These associations include but are not limited to attitudes or biases an individual brings towards words, names or ideas, conscious hypotheses/stereotypes including those concerning competence that could discourage diversity in the selection process.

## **Section 11**      **Liability and Indemnity**

All nominees and nominators pursuant to the Rainwater Prize Program acknowledge and agrees that in responding to the program announcement that the nominee and the nominator shall have no claim against the Rainwater Charitable Foundation, its respective representatives, related companies or affiliates, should such Program response be unsuccessful for any reason. Each nominee and nominator hereby remise and releases the Rainwater Charitable Foundation and all representatives and affiliates from any cause of action, complaint, or claim in connection with the call for nominations process and its outcome.

The Rainwater Charitable Foundation's role is that of a funder. The Rainwater Charitable Foundation is not the sponsor of funded projects. The Rainwater Charitable Foundation will not assume any liability associated with the funded research projects and each awardee who is selected as a recipient pursuant to the Rainwater Prize Program releases the Rainwater Charitable Foundation from any and all liability with respect thereto and further indemnifies the Rainwater Charitable Foundation, and its respective representatives and affiliates, from any claim or loss whatsoever associated with the applicable award.

## **Section 12    Other**

The Rainwater Charitable Foundation reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications for the Rainwater Prize program. The Rainwater Charitable Foundation reserves the right to negotiate the terms of the specified award agreement with the awardee and his/her research or affiliated institution. The foundation may, at its sole discretion, change the timeline of the nomination and award process, and/or the recipient of the award. The foundation may at its discretion award multiple awards, no awards and/or split awards between two or more individuals.

The submission of a nomination or application does not bind either the foundation, the nominee or the nominee's affiliated institution by any commitment to provide or receive the award, respectively.