**Eligibility**

- All applicants must be a biomedical dementia researcher (social or carer-focused researchers are not eligible).
- All applicants must, at the time of application, have between 5-10 years’ post-PhD experience.
- All applicants must be available to present at the ARUK Research Conference, usually in March the following year (see website for details).
- All applicants and all other grant participants must read and understood our Bullying and Harassment policy.

**Award description**

The **David Hague Early Career Investigator of the Year Award** aims to recognise the contribution of an outstanding Early Career Researcher (ECR) in the field of biomedical dementia research. Alzheimer’s Research UK (ARUK) is the UK’s leading research charity aiming to defeat dementia and through this award, we aim to raise the profile of excellence in dementia research.

The winner will receive £25,000 in research expenses and a personal prize of £1,500. In addition, the winner's expenses for attending ARUK’s Annual Research Conference the following year will be covered by the charity.

**Application process**

The Panel are looking for a promising ECR who demonstrates excellence in dementia research through:

- up to three select research outputs
- a 1000-word essay
- a video presentation
- a 1-page letter of recommendation

Applications should account for the fact that excellence is not just limited to a candidate’s academic record. The Panel will also be keen to hear about commitments to raising the profile of dementia research, through engagement and outreach across a wide variety of audiences, and building capacity in the field, by supporting the next generation of dementia researchers.

In 2017, ARUK introduced an Early Career Researcher Framework to encourage ECRs to think about career progression and the skills and training they will need to achieve excellence in dementia research. The framework acknowledges the importance of a strong Research Vision, relevant Research Experience and Personal Development, but also emphasises the importance of developing Leadership skills, Communication and Engagement, and proactively increasing Profile and Influence. Essays should therefore introduce the (up to) three defining research outputs and outline how these outputs have contributed to a candidate’s development across all of the criteria outlined in the ECR Framework.

**Review process**

Applicants will be judged by an external Panel of prominent researchers, who will look for excellence in scientific research and a significant contribution to the field of dementia research as demonstrated through the applicant's defining research outputs and essay.

The review panel will be asked to score each of the following sections, based on the ECR Framework:

- Research vision, experience and potential
- Communications, engagement, profile and influence
- Personal development and leadership

Each section will be weighted equally when calculating the final score. The best scoring candidate will be declared the winner. If the initial round of review fails to identify a clear winner, the top scoring candidates will be submitted for a second round of review where all non-conflicted Panel members will re-rank the applications based on a review of the comments submitted by the Panel. Our normal conflict of interest policy will be applied.

The winner will be notified after the review is complete and will be required to present at ARUK’s Annual Research Conference in the following year.

**GDPR**

Alzheimer’s Research UK will not share any of the information you provide as part of your application with external parties. We’ll keep your information safe and never share, sell or swap it externally. The information and files that you provide will be used by the judging panel to assess your suitability for the award. Your contact details will be used by ARUK staff to notify you of the outcome of your entry.