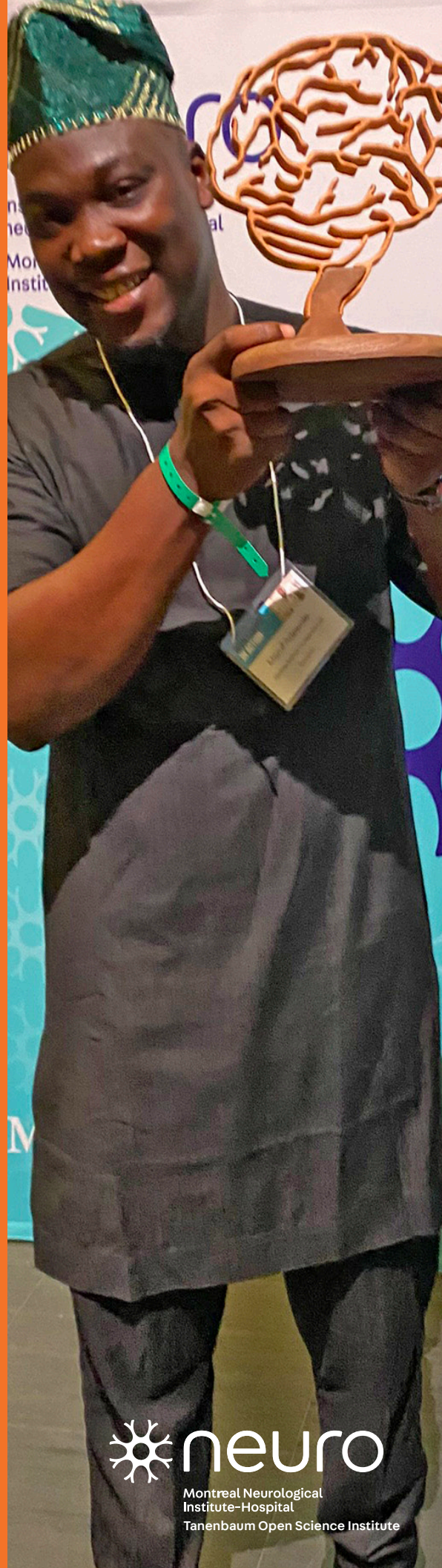


THE NEURO IRV AND HELGA COOPER FOUNDATION OPEN SCIENCE PRIZES 2025

An initiative from the Tanenbaum Open Science Institute

Applicant handbook



ABOUT THE AWARDS

The Neuro - Irv and Helga Cooper Foundation Open Science Prizes, sponsored by the Irv and Helga Cooper Foundation, is an initiative from The Tanenbaum Open Science Institute (TOSI), now in its fifth year.

The Prizes Recognize

Projects, services, tools, and platforms that unlock the power of Open Science in neuroscience to advance research, innovation, and collaboration for the benefit of health and society.

Tanenbaum Open Science Institute

Founded to drive the adoption of Open Science within The Neuro and neuroscience research institutes across Canada.

In addition to promoting Open Science within The Neuro, TOSI engages in strategic collaborations and partnerships through its Open Science Support and Partnership Framework. Through the Framework TOSI supports and guides other institutes in adopting Open Science practices and principles and establishes an alliance of neuroscience research institutes across Canada committed to Open Science.



"The principles of Open Science promote a greater sharing of information, data and materials leading to enhanced understanding of disease biology. These advances will facilitate the development of novel therapeutics to benefit millions of patients around the world suffering from neurological diseases."

- Frank Litvack MD CM,
Irv and Helga Cooper Foundation

INTERNATIONAL PRIZE

Awarded to an individual or a group of up to five individuals working in research organizations or Open Science non-profits around the world who have maintained, valorized, and/or delivered Open Science practices, policies, or tools that have had a demonstrable impact on neuroscience research. The International Prize can be awarded in recognition of a single project, or a series of contributions to Open Science in neuroscience.

International Prize

A group application may be submitted by up to five people. Applicants may be from the same organization or different organizations, and the application may address one or more projects. A single senior leader of the project (or projects) should be designated as the

corresponding applicant. The corresponding applicant must submit all documentation and receive all communications regarding the prize. It is highly recommended that official institutional emails are used for applicants and suggested supporters.

CAN\$80,000

\$55,000 in unrestricted research funds and \$25,000 in salary support *

* In cases where there are multiple applicants, the salary support funds will be split evenly between applicants. For the unrestricted research funds, applicants will be asked to identify one institution to receive and disburse the funds.

The salary support funds will be distributed through the applicant's employing institutions. It is the responsibility of the applicant(s) to account for any taxation implications of receiving salary support funds.

TRAINEE PRIZES

The Trainee Prizes will go to graduate or post-graduate trainees working in academic organizations around the world who have demonstrated, maintained, enhanced, valorized, and/or delivered Open Science practices, policies, and/or tools that have had a demonstrable impact on neuroscience research. The prize can be awarded in recognition of a single project or of a series of contributions to Open Science in neuroscience.

International Trainee Prize

This prize will be awarded to the highest ranked application.

CAN\$10,000

\$5,000 in salary support and
\$5,000 in fellowship funds

Canadian Trainee Prize

This prize will be awarded to the highest ranked application from a trainee working at a Canadian institution. *

CAN\$5,000

In salary support

Runner-Up Trainee Prize

These prizes will be awarded to the top five runners-up.**

CAN\$1,000

In salary support

* If the International Trainee Prize is awarded to an applicant working at a Canadian Institution, the Canadian Trainee Prize will go to the next highest ranked applicant working at a Canadian institution.

** Does not include the recipient of the Canadian Trainee Prize.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Applications must be submitted
through the web portal.

<https://at.theneuro.ca/cooperprizes>

OBLIGATION TO RECEIVE THE PRIZES

The recipients of the International Trainee, Canadian Trainee, and at least one recipient of the International Prize must be willing to travel to Montreal to present their project at the Neuro-Irv and Helga Cooper Foundation Prize Ceremony on November 6, 2025.

TOSI will cover travel and lodging expenses.

2025 KEY DATES

June 2

Application web portal opens

August 15

Deadline: Applications and
reference letters due by noon EDT

September 25

Earliest notification of decisions

November 10

Prize ceremony and prize talks



APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Deadline

Please note that any documents must be uploaded by noon EDT, August 15, 2025

International Prize

Name and affiliation

An application title, the name(s) and affiliation(s) of applicant(s), a short description of the role of each applicant (max. 100 words), the current position or job title of each applicant, and a field where the applicant(s) may choose to identify themselves as a member of an underrepresented group.

Document(s) to provide

A description of the project(s) to be considered, which may contain relevant images, figures, and links
(PDF, max. 1000 words).

It is recommended that the Project(s) Description consist of the following sections: Lay Summary, Rationale, Significance, Approach, Evidence of Impact (external links, including hyperlinks, are permitted) and EDI statement.

Letter of support *

The names, affiliations, and email addresses of up to three referees who have agreed to provide letters of support (PDF, max. 500 words).

Trainee Prizes

Name and affiliation

The name and affiliation of the applicant, and a field where the applicant may choose to identify themselves as a member of an underrepresented group.

Document(s) to provide

A Biosketch of the applicant
(PDF, max. 500 words)

A description of the project(s) to be considered
(PDF, max. 1000 words).

It is recommended that the Project(s) Description consist of the following sections: Lay summary, Rationale, Significance, Approach, Evidence of Impact (external links, including hyperlinks, are permitted) and EDI statement.

Letter of support *

The names, affiliations, and email addresses of up to three referees (one of whom must be the applicant's academic supervisor) who have agreed to provide letters of support
(PDF, max. 500 words).

* Upon submission of the webform, an email will be sent to Applicants including links to upload their Project Description and Biosketch, and an email will be sent to Referees including links to upload their letter of support. To ensure your referees have enough time to upload their letters of support, please start the application process well in advance of the deadline.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Evidence of impact is mandatory, including but not limited to:

- Indicators of access to and use of software tools, data, or code repositories number of downloads
- Evidence of work to increase the usability of open tools
- Evidence of patient/participant outreach or co-development
- Knowledge translation and education activities
- Evidence of work promoting open data standards
- Authoring or co-authoring Open Science guidelines and policies
- Early Career Researcher (ECR) criteria will also play a role in the selection process for International Prize applicants.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

Applicants will be asked to submit an EDI statement that should consider whether sex, gender, race, ethnicity, dis/ability, socioeconomic status, and other socio-cultural factors play a role in the project/initiative. The statement should consider whether these factors impact the team, the environment, the project or initiative itself, or its intended output. And, if relevant, should outline how these factors will be managed and accounted for.

Special notes for McGill applicants

International main prize funds will only be distributed to McGill-affiliated individuals once out of every five years. The last year when McGill-affiliated individuals received prize funds was 2021. McGill-affiliated individuals may still be listed as applicants, but the unrestricted research funds must be sent outside of McGill and the salary-award will be split between non-McGill-affiliated individuals until 2026.



REVIEW PROCESS

The application dossiers will be reviewed by a selection committee consisting of three members of The Neuro's faculty and four external members.

Committee Composition



Roberta La Piana

(Chair), Assistant Professor, McGill
The Neuro



Madeleine Sharp

(Co Chair), Assistant Professor, McGill
The Neuro



Michelle Wang

PhD Candidate, The Neuro, McGill
2024 Canadian Trainee Prize Winner



Annabel Seyller

CEO, TOSI
(non-voting observer)



Cornelis Blauwendraat

Chief Data Strategy Officer
Coalition for Aligning Science
2024 International Prize Winner



Mohamed Abdelhack

Postdoctoral Fellow
Krembil Centre for Neuroinformatics
2024 International Trainee Prize winner



Marcondes C. França Jr.

Associate Professor
University of Campinas (UNICAMP)
Member of the ENIGMA Consortium



Erin McKiernan

Director, Programs & Strategies
Open Research Community Accelerator