

Guidelines for ASSCR Rising Star Award

The Rising Star Award aims to recognize outstanding contributions of ASSCR members who have demonstrated excellence in research, leadership and advocacy in the early stages of their research career.



Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for a Rising Star Award the applicant must be:

- 0-5 years post-PhD or equivalent of full-time in the case of significant career interruption on the closing date of the year of application.
- a current member of ASSCR and held membership for at least 1 year.
- applicants can either self-nominate or be nominated by a current ASSCR member.

Ineligible Applicants

- Previous ASSCR Rising Star Award winners are not eligible to apply.
- Applications that do not provide all the required information will be ineligible.

Awards

- Up to two awards will be presented each year.
- Each award winner will receive \$5,500 in prize money (inclusive of \$5,000 international travel grant provided by National Stem Cell Foundation) and a certificate.
- The international travel grant should be spent within a year of receiving to attend an international conference, scientific course or workshop and/or laboratory visit and a report submitted to ASSCR/NSCFA within 6 months of attendance.
- Each award winner will be invited to give a scientific presentation and provided with one complementary free registration to be used at an upcoming ASSCR Annual Meeting.
- Applications from past Rising Star Award winners may be provided as a guide to support high-quality submissions from future applicants.
- Applicant details for each awardee will be provided to the NSCFA.

Application Process

- Applicants are required to submit the application form of no more than 3 pages (Times, 12 point font) that addresses the selection criteria and includes:
 - **Research impact** in any area of stem cell research
 - **Top 5 publications** and a description of the key importance
 - **Scientific contributions** to the field that demonstrate leadership
 - **Communication, outreach and advocacy activities**
- Supply evidence of PhD completion date (e.g. letter of degree completion from University)
- Submit application to the Chair of Conference and Awards (ASSCRsubmissions@gmail.com) by **31st July 2026**.

Assessment Information:

- Applications will be assessed by the ASSCR Reviewer Panel supported by the ASSCR Executive Committee.
- Selection panel members will be required to declare any conflict of interest with individuals or institutions and if conflicts are high, will be removed from assessment of the application.
- Applications will be assessed against selection criteria, relative to opportunity.
- Career disruption will be defined according to ARC guidelines.
- It is a policy of ASSCR that the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion are observed in both the composition of the selection committee and awardees.

Selection Criteria	Percentage
Quality and Significance of Research	50
Evidence of Leadership	25
Communication, Outreach and Advocacy	25

Announcement of awards The Rising Star Award recipients will be announced at the annual ASSCR meeting and/or the ASSCR AGM.