

2026 NIA Mentorship Prize Nomination

Privacy Act Statement

Collection of this information is authorized under 42 U.S.C. 241. The primary use of this information is to identify candidates for the NIA Mentorship Prize Program. This information may be disclosed to researchers for research training purposes and in response to Congressional inquiries. Submission of this information is voluntary, however, in order for us to accept your mentor nominee as an NIA Mentorship Prize recipient, you should complete all fields.

Submissions are due by **11:59 pm ET on October 15, 2026**. Please review the full challenge announcement by searching www.nih.gov/challenges for submission rules and instructions. By entering this submission, you are agreeing that you have reviewed the full challenge announcement, and that you agree to the terms and conditions of this Challenge. Do not include any confidential or proprietary information in your submission.

Overview

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) invites nominations for the 2026 NIA Mentorship Prize to recognize and stimulate excellence in aging research mentorship. NIA will award \$100,000 to each of up to six (6) winning mentors, for a total prize pool of up to \$600,000. Up to three (3) prizes will be awarded in the early career mentor category and up to three (3) prizes in the midcareer/established mentor category. The application process will occur in two phases: mentee nominations followed by mentor applications. Mentors who receive two or more nominations from Mentees will be invited to apply for the 2026 NIA Mentorship Prize. Prizes will be awarded directly to the winner's institution in recognition of the mentor's accomplishments.

You MUST ACKNOWLEDGE each of these statements regarding prize competition rules and expectations.

To the best of your knowledge:

- a. The mentor you are nominating must be an early career or midcareer/established faculty member in a tenure-track or equivalent position.
 - Early career is defined as 0–12 years from the start of the first tenure-track or equivalent faculty position.
 - Midcareer/established is defined as 13+ years from the start of the first tenure-track or equivalent faculty position.
- b. The mentor you are nominating must be listed as a PI or MPI on an NIA award active within the last five years (i.e., 10/1/2021 - 9/30/2026).
- c. The mentor you are nominating must not have received an NIH K24 or K07 award.
- d. The mentor you are nominating must not be a prior NINDS Landis Award recipient.

- e. Your nomination was not solicited by your mentor or their institution.
- f. The mentor you are nominating is free of any unresolved research-misconduct finding, federal funding debarment, or retraction for cause.

Detailed eligibility and participation rules for the prize competition are available by searching www.nih.gov/challenges.

Section 1 – Mentor’s Information

Please provide information about your current or former mentor as follows:

- First name
- Last name
- Email address
- Job title
- Institution or company name
- PI of active NIA grant within the last five years (select one)
 - Yes
 - No
- NIA grant number
- Type of mentoring relationship (select all that apply)
 - Research
 - Career development
 - Leadership
 - Clinical
 - Administrative
 - Cross-disciplinary
 - Other (specify)
- Current career stage (select one)
 - Early career
 - Mid/Established career

Section 2 – Your Information

Please provide your name and contact information as follows:

- First name
- Last name
- Email address
- Current job title/role
- Current institution or company name

- Position when mentored
- Mentored from date (month/year)
- Mentored to date (month/year)

Section 3 – Basis of the Nomination

Your description should address:

- Why the mentor is exceptional
- Specific examples of the mentor's dedication to mentorship
- How the mentor is committed to trainee development in aging research
- Specific activities performed by your mentor that influenced your growth as an aging researcher