

## GRANT AGREEMENT

This Grant Agreement is entered into between **THE MCKNIGHT BRAIN RESEARCH FOUNDATION** ("Grantor") and **THE AMERICAN FEDERATION FOR AGING RESEARCH** ("Grantee") for the **McKnight Brain Research Foundation Mid-Career Research Awards in Cognitive Aging and Memory Loss**. The amount of the Grant is \$4,615,000, for a duration of five years, as outlined in Attachment 1, and will be paid as outlined in Attachment 2.

### RECITAL

This Grant will be used for the support of the McKnight Brain Research Foundation Mid-Career Research Awards in Cognitive Aging and Memory Loss (hereafter referred to as "Grant Program"). The grant will support the following activities conducted by Grantee as described in the attached proposal submitted by the Grantee (Attachment 3.)

### AGREEMENT

1. **PURPOSE:** Grantee agrees to use the funds only for the purposes described in Appendix A and to so designate the funds in the Grantee's records. Grantee further agrees to use the funds only for charitable purposes as described in Section 170(c)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code"), or any successor provision thereto, and equivalent provisions of applicable state law, and not to use the funds in violation of the provisions of the Code governing grantees of private foundations.
2. **FUND RAISING:** No funds awarded through this grant are to be shared with or used to pay fees or wages for the services of fund raising or consulting firms.
3. **EVALUATION:** Grantor may, at its expense, conduct an evaluation of operations under this grant, which may include visits by representatives of Grantor to observe Grantee's program procedures and operations and to discuss the grant with Grantee's personnel.
4. **ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW:** A complete and accurate record of the funds received and expenses incurred under this grant must be maintained by Grantee and submitted to Grantor in accordance with the Report Schedule described in Paragraph 6 below. Grantor may, at its expense and on reasonable notice to Grantee, audit or have audited the records of Grantee insofar as they relate to the activities funded by this grant.
5. **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT:** By making this grant, Grantor assumes no obligation to provide other or additional support for Grantee. This grant is not to be construed as establishing a precedent for further support of Grantee.
6. **REPORTING:** Grantee shall submit annual narrative and financial reports on the use of the grant to Grantor.

7. **FAILURE TO PERFORM:** Grantee recognizes and agrees that in the event that any of the terms of this agreement were not performed in accordance with their specific terms or were otherwise breached, immediate irreparable injury would be caused. It is accordingly agreed that in the event of a failure by Grantee to perform its obligations hereunder, at its sole election, Grantor will be entitled to either (i) a return of the entire grant amount, or (ii) specific performance through injunctive relief to prevent breaches of the terms of this agreement.
8. **REVERSION OF GRANT:** All or any portion of the amount granted shall be returned to Grantor in the event such portion of the grant is not expended or committed for the purposes authorized by Grantor. By written instrument only, Grantor may, upon written request from Grantee, authorize a modification in the disbursement of funds.
9. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT/MODIFICATION:** This agreement constitutes the entire agreement between Grantor and Grantee. This agreement may be modified only by written agreement of Grantor and Grantee.
10. **APPLICABLE LAW:** The agreement will be construed and governed by the laws of the State of New York.
11. **BINDING AGREEMENT:** This agreement shall be binding and conclusive on the parties and their respective successors in interest and assigns.
12. **COUNTERPARTS:** This agreement may be executed in counterparts. All executed counterparts shall constitute one instrument. Any counterpart that has attached to it separate signature pages, which together contain the signatures of all persons signing this agreement, shall for all purposes be deemed a fully executed instrument.

Executed by or on behalf of Grantor and Grantee as follows:

**GRANTOR:**

McKnight Brain Research Foundation



Michael L. Dockery, MD  
Chair

Date: April 9, 2021

**GRANTEE:**

American Federation for Aging Research



Stephanie Lederman  
Executive Director

Date: April 9, 2021

Address Grantor

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Post Office Box 620005  
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Address Grantee

American Federation for Aging Research  
55 West 39<sup>th</sup> Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10018  
Email: [Stephanie@afar.org](mailto:Stephanie@afar.org)

## Appendix A

**Attachment 1**

**McKnight Brain Research Foundation - AFAR Budget**

**McKnight Brain Research Foundation Mid-Career Research Award in Cognitive Aging and Memory Loss**

<b>Budget</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Total</b>
<u>Mid-Career Research Awards*</u>						
Two three-year grants at \$750,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000			\$1,500,000
Two three-year grants at \$750,000		\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000		\$1,500,000
Two three-year grants at \$750,000			\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$1,500,000
Grant Administration AFAR	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$100,000
Indirect Cost @15% (on admin only )	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$750	\$750	\$15,000
Total	\$534,500	\$1,034,500	\$1,534,500	\$1,005,750	\$505,750	\$4,615,000

\*institutional match 50/50

**Attachment 2**

**McKnight Brain Research Foundation - Payment Schedule**

**McKnight Brain Research Foundation Mid-Career Research Award in Cognitive Aging and Memory Loss**

**Year 1, 2021**

Due April 1 (or execution of contract)	\$34,500
Due November 1	\$500,000

**Year 2, 2022**

Due April 1	\$34,500
Due November 1	\$1,000,000

**Year 3, 2023**

Due April 1	\$34,500
Due November 1	\$1,500,000

**Year 4, 2024**

Due April 1	\$5,750
Due November 1	\$1,000,000

**Year 5, 2025**

Due April 1	\$5,750
Due November 1	\$500,000

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,615,000</b>
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**Proposal by the American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) to the  
McKnight Brain Research Foundation**

**for management of**

**The Mid-Career Research Awards in Cognitive Aging and Memory Loss**

**Submitted**

**April 9, 2021**

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## Introduction and Rationale

There is a great social, medical and economic challenge of historic proportion due to the dramatic increase in life expectancy. This welcome increase in survivorship brings with it a higher probability that multiple and interactive health problems, both chronic and acute, will occur. For most Americans, staying "mentally sharp" as they age is a very high priority. An estimated 5.8 million Americans age 65 and older are living currently with Alzheimer's dementia in 2020. Even those not affected by Alzheimer's disease will likely undergo cognitive changes due to the normal aging process, impacting abilities like processing speed and decision-making and contributing to some types of memory loss. At this point in time, when the older population is rapidly growing in the United States and across the globe, it is important that we build a network of investigators and support their research on cognitive aging and memory loss.

Mid-career investigators are at a highly vulnerable transitional stage in their careers. This situation is even more precarious in the current research environment and is forcing some investigators to take alternative career options. The rationales for supporting such individuals are that 1) they are proven scientists, with a demonstrated commitment to research on cognitive aging and memory loss; 2) with very rare exceptions, they would already have gained peer-review support and have active laboratories; 3) given the above, they are deemed to be particularly receptive to embarking on research that offers significant promise of yielding transforming discoveries.

By providing research funding to these promising investigators as they continue to grow their careers and research portfolios, the MBRF aims to build a cadre of outstanding research scientists across the United States with the potential to lead transformative research in the field of cognitive aging.

The American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) is ideally suited to partner with MBRF on this initiative. Since its inception, AFAR's vision has been to fund and nurture talented scientists and physicians and encourage them to pursue lifelong careers in research focused on aging processes and age-related diseases. AFAR proposes to partner with MBRF to manage the grant review and administration for the MBRF Mid-Career Awards program.

## Proposal

AFAR proposes to manage the MBRF Mid-Career Research Awards in Cognitive Aging and Memory Loss, and that MBRF funds this effort in the amount of \$4,615,000 over a period of five



years, in support of 6 investigators. The investigators' institutions will be required to provide matching funds. MBRF and AFAR will develop criteria for the level and types of matching funds that are acceptable. There will be three grant cycles, in which each year, one award will be made to support studies focusing on clinical translational research and another award toward understanding basic biological mechanisms underlying cognitive aging and age-related memory loss.

## Program Implementation

- **Develop and issue guidelines and application materials**

The application materials will be developed with input from AFAR's scientific leadership, the Selection Committee and MBRF leadership. Once finalized, the materials will be posted on the AFAR website <http://www.afar.org/research/funding/>.

- **Program Announcement Activities**

The program will be promoted through a variety of mailings and e-mail announcements. Through our management of a range of programs in aging research, there are unique opportunities to raise the visibility of the MBRF Mid-Career Awards program. For example, through dissemination channels of our NIA-supported programs, which include websites, twitter feeds and direct communications to more than 100 NIA-supported Centers, we can make opportunities widely known across the NIA aging community. In addition, AFAR has a distribution list that includes more than 8,000 individuals in the aging research community, and beyond. We will also work with several other organizations such as the Health Research Alliance, GSA, IAGG, and NYAS to help promote these programs as well as heads of national research institutes, The Glenn Centers for Research in Aging, the Nathan Shock Centers of Excellence in the Biology of Aging, the Research Centers Collaborative Network, the Clin-STAR Coordinating Center, current and past grantees, and others involved in the aging research community.

- **Review and Selection Process**

AFAR has established nationally respected and scientifically rigorous grant review processes, which ensure that the highest-quality research is supported. AFAR solicits Letters of Intent (LOI), and a small group of key AFAR Scientific Board members and members of AFAR's National Scientific Advisory Committee (NSAC) review the LOIs for program relevance and eligibility. The

NSAC consists of a large network of expert reviewers (about 300 members) with aging-related expertise, and it currently includes about 30 members with specific expertise in cognition and brain aging. A subset of applicants is then invited to submit full applications which are reviewed by a Selection Committee comprised of leading investigators with expertise in brain aging and cognition. The MBRF may designate up to three representatives to serve on the selection committee, provided that they do not represent/have a majority vote on the committee. All applications for MBRF funded Mid-Career Research Awards will be made available to all members of the selection committee. The committee's recommendations will be presented to MBRF and AFAR for final funding decisions.

To be eligible, candidates are to be selected from a national pool of applicants who must meet the following criteria:

- Completed research/clinical training i.e. formal post-doctoral research training post-PhD and/or physicians who have completed post-residency fellowship training.
- a proven track record of research accomplishments in cognitive aging as indicated by their publications in high-impact journals, awards, and other metrics of peer recognition.
- tenure-track faculty in an academic institution in the United States with evidence of long-term institutional support as indicated by commitment of resources including laboratory space, start-up research funds and personnel. Candidates not in a tenure-track position are also eligible and should also demonstrate similar evidence of long-term institutional support and not be in a time-limited appointment.

Candidates are evaluated on the following selection criteria:

- Qualifications of the applicant;
- Quality and promise of the proposed research;
- Excellence of the research environment;
- The commitment by the institution to provide matching funds.

- **Annual Meeting**

Recipients of the MBRF Mid-Career Awards program are invited to the AFAR Annual Grantee Conference, which is one the highlights and key components of our programs. Encouraging scientific exchange and networking among grantees and leadership in aging research is an important aspect of programs that not only supports research, but nurture career development and provide opportunities for collaborations. Grant recipients participate in this Grantee

Conference, which for more than 30 years has provided valuable opportunities to learn from each other and to engage in informative and enriching discussions with peers and senior investigators. Grantees become part of a community, and we support their continued participation in aging research. The meeting is held in Santa Barbara and one day is held jointly with the Glenn Workshop in the Biology of Aging, which provides additional opportunities to interact with leaders in aging research. We propose that the MBRF grantees participate in all the annual grantee conference activities.

- **Dissemination**

AFAR has centralized information on one website, [www.afar.org](http://www.afar.org). The grantees are listed on the Grantee page <https://www.afar.org/grantees/years/2020-recipients/>. Individual profiles will be posted for the MBRF/AFAR grantees. AFAR will also include special announcements in the AFAR newsletter and annual report, on its website, in all press kits, and through other regular AFAR communications vehicles, including social media. We further disseminate information through the [Nathan Shock Centers Coordinating Center](#) which serves the biology of aging community, [Clin-STAR Coordinating Center](#), which provides resources for clinician-investigators in aging research, and the [Research Centers Collaborative Network](#), which aims to stimulate cross-disciplinary research networks and serves more than 100 aging research programs across the United States.

- **Grants Management**

AFAR will issue the award materials and grant payments to the grantees who are required to submit annual reports describing accomplishments, updates on research activities and findings, and the impact the program has had on their career development. In addition to allowing AFAR to monitor progress and provide feedback, these reports educate us about new research developments, their potential impact on the aging field and whether results can be disseminated to a larger audience. Relevant grantee data will also be uploaded to the [Health Research Alliance](#)'s HRA Analyzer, which is a grant database for, with functional similarity to NIH Reporter.

- **Evaluation**

AFAR monitors and tracks the progress of its grantees to measure the impact and success of the programs. Grantees with active grants are required to complete a narrative interim report as well as a final narrative report to inform us about their progress and research findings. We also require financial reporting on the grant. AFAR also surveys past and current grantees to

measure the impact of these awards on expanding the aging field, grantees' research accomplishments and career trajectory. Reliable statistics on the research and career paths help determine whether investments are yielding desired outcomes or whether the programs need to be fine-tuned.

The expected outcomes of the program are:

- Build a core group of outstanding investigators who pursue research and academic careers in cognitive aging and memory loss research.
- Research that yields findings to better understand and alleviate age-related cognitive decline and memory loss, which ultimately will enhance the health and quality of life of older adults.

We collect information on so-called “markers of success”, including indicators that demonstrate career development (promotions, appointments, honors, awards, etc.) and research progress (subsequent research support, publications, collaborations, patents, new hypotheses, changes in protocol, changes in standard practice, etc.)

### **Organizational Capacity**

- **Capacity to conduct the proposed project**

The American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) is a leading national non-profit organization whose mission is to support and advance healthy aging through biomedical research. AFAR is ideally suited to administer this grant program and its staff, advisors and volunteers have the expertise to implement and execute this program. Since its founding in 1981, AFAR has granted approximately \$184 million to more than 4,240 talented researchers and students to help them begin and further careers in aging research and geriatric medicine.

- **Past and current relevant experience**

AFAR has an established national network with most research institutions in the U.S., and we continue to build our networks internationally. We also serve as [Nathan Shock Centers Coordinating Center](#), the [Research Centers Collaborative Network](#), the [Clinician-Scientists in Transdisciplinary Aging Research \(CLIN-STAR\) Coordinating Center](#), and have longstanding partnerships with the [National Institute on Aging](#), [The Glenn Foundation for Medical](#)

[Research](#), and the [Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation](#). These partnerships continue to strengthen our ties to and networks within the aging research community. AFAR is also supported by a large network of leaders in aging who volunteer their time and expertise to advance the field.

**Organization Relevant Experience:**

AFAR's major activities are well-aligned with the goals of the MBRF Mid-Career Research Awards. AFAR focuses its activities on these major initiatives:

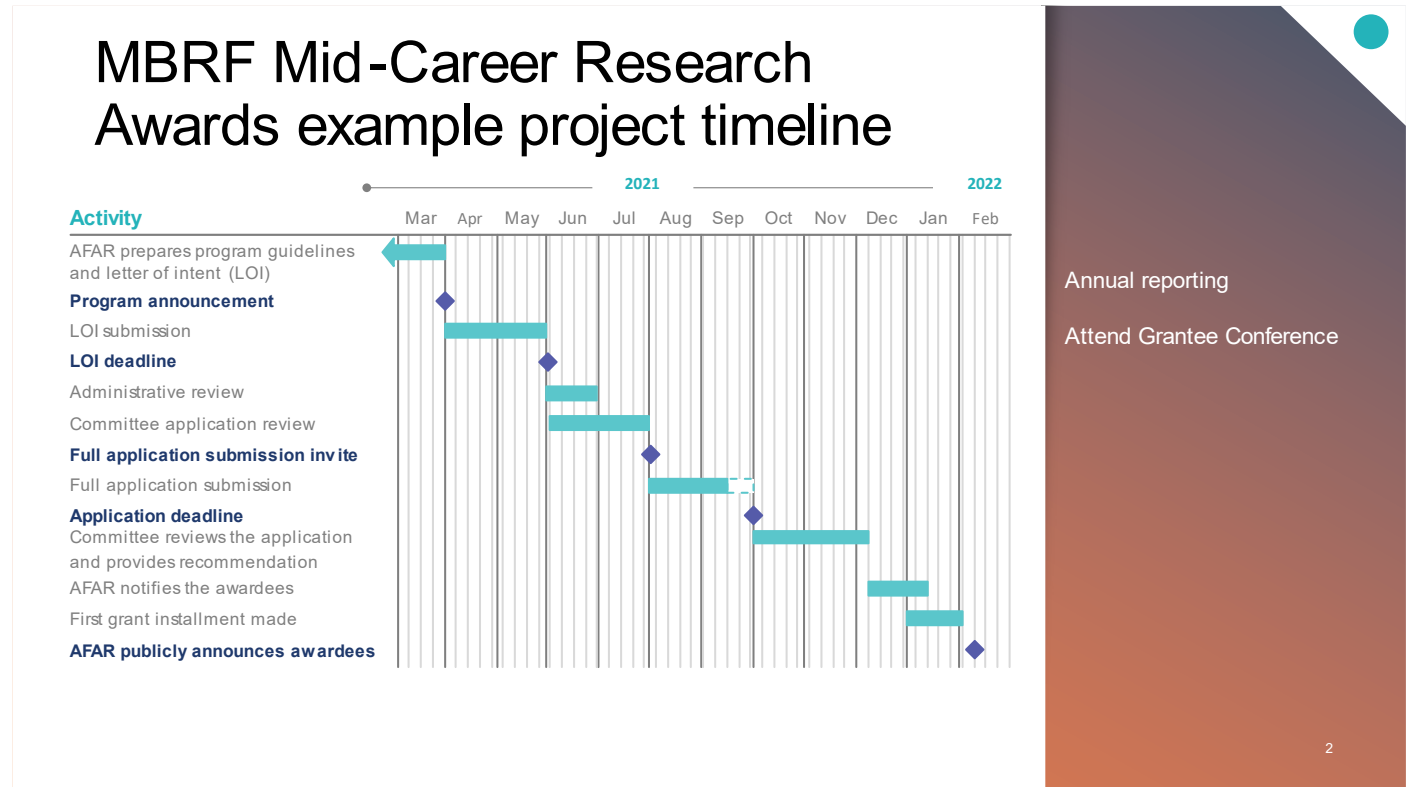
- Identifying and funding a broad range of cutting-edge research most likely to increase knowledge about healthy aging.
- Attracting more physicians to specialize in geriatric medicine to meet the demands of an aging population with expert health care.
- Creating opportunities for scientists and clinicians to share knowledge and exchange ideas to drive innovation in aging research.
- Providing information to the public on new medical findings that can help people live longer lives that are less susceptible to disease and disability.

AFAR offers a range of grant programs, providing grant support to graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, junior faculty and senior faculty in aging and aging-related topics.

- **Key Staff members**

Stephanie Lederman, AFAR's Executive Director, has served in leadership positions in the not-for-profit sector for more than 30 years and has been the Executive Director of AFAR since 1992. Under her leadership AFAR has grown into an organization that has been able to support thousands of new investigators and students conducting biomedical research on the aging process and age-related diseases. Odette van der Willik is the Deputy Executive Director and Director of Grant Programs, and has been with AFAR since 1994. She develops and oversees the organizations' series of grant programs, supporting early and mid-career scientists, physicians, and medical students in the fields of aging research and geriatric medicine. Hattie Herman has been Program Officer at AFAR since 1994 and oversees the day-to-day grant management activities, including scheduling committee reviews, preparing grant agreements, issuing grant payments and organizing annual grantee meetings.

Timeline



Dissemination

AFAR has centralized information on one website, [www.afar.org](http://www.afar.org). The awardees will be listed on the Grantee page <https://www.afar.org/2020-grant-recipients> and there will be a link to the profiles of each individual grantee (example here: <https://www.afar.org/grantee-profiles/frederick-bennett> . AFAR will also issue a press release and share investigator profiles and interviews through social media (example: <https://twitter.com/AFARorg/status/1345007304047996930/photo/1>) and the AFAR website (example: <https://www.afar.org/learn#interviewsandcolumns>)

AFAR also shares research findings and other lessons learned through social media (FaceBook, Twitter, YouTube.) and holds webinars, scientific panel discussions and workshops around specific topics. We also provide travel sponsorships for grantees who want to present their AFAR-supported research findings at national and international scientific meetings.