



Trainee Professional Development Award Frequently Asked Questions

Award Information Application Eligibility Professional Development Opportunities

Award Information

- **What is the submission open and close timeline?**
SfN will accept Trainee Professional Development Award applications until November 17, 5:00 PM ET.
- **What do Trainee Professional Development Award recipients receive?**
Trainee Professional Development Award recipients are reimbursed for their registration to attend the SfN Global Connectome: A Virtual Event. Additionally, recipients receive year-round access to the TPDA Neuronline Community and professional development resources in the year following their award.
- **When will recipients be notified that they have received a Trainee Professional Development Award?**
Award recipients will be notified of receipt of the award in December.
- **Will all applicants receive notification of their award status?**
Yes, all applicants will be notified of their award status in December.
- **How are recipients selected?**
Awards are distributed based on the merit of the trainee's application.

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Application

- **Do applicants need to be nominated by someone else for consideration?**
No, applicants may nominate themselves for a Trainee Professional Development Award.
- **How do applicants apply?**
Applications are submitted via the online application portal, which can be accessed through SfN.org.
- **What are the required application components?**
To apply, applicants must submit:
 - Draft of the applicant's abstract submission for the upcoming SfN virtual event
 - *While TPDA applications will be accepted in advance of abstract submission, receipt of the award is contingent on submission of an accepted abstract for SfN Global Connectome: A Virtual Event.*

- Applicant's CV, including education, honors/awards, and publications (abstracts and manuscripts).
- Short essay (no more than 500 words) on how attendance at SfN Global Connectome: A Virtual Event will impact your career goals (or, for undergraduates, why you chose the path of neuroscience). Additionally, the essay should speak to a personal experience that has had a broader impact on your career in science. Examples of topics include:
 - A woman scientist who has inspired the applicant
 - The importance of local advocacy and outreach efforts in neuroscience
 - The importance of conducting rigorous science
- One-page letter of recommendation from the applicant's mentor, advisor, chapter representative or program/department chair

Reference letters over one page will void the application

- **Will applications be accepted if components are missing?**

No, applications that are missing one or more of the application components will not be considered.

- **Can applicants submit information in addition to or instead of the application components requested?**

No, applications with materials not requested will not be reviewed.

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Eligibility

- **What are the eligibility requirements needed to apply for a Trainee Professional Development Award?**

To be considered for a Trainee Professional Development Award, applicants must be:

- The presenting author of an abstract to be presented at SfN Global Connectome: A Virtual Event
 - Only one application per abstract is permitted. Multiple applications with the same abstract will be ineligible. Please coordinate with other authors on your abstract submission to avoid ineligibility. For more information, please contact tpda@sfn.org.
- A member of SfN
- Currently enrolled as an undergraduate, graduate, or completing postdoctoral fellowship, or have completed one of these programs in the **same year the award is given (2020)**.

- **Are individuals eligible for a Trainee Professional Development Award if they did not submit an abstract?**

No, to be considered eligible for a Trainee Professional Development Award, applicants must submit an abstract.

- **Do applicants need to be a current SfN member to be considered eligible?**

Yes, only current SfN members are eligible for Trainee Professional Development Awards.

- **Can individuals apply for a Trainee Professional Development Award if they completed or will have completed their current program before recipients are selected?**

Yes, applicants are considered eligible if they are currently enrolled in or completed an undergraduate or graduate program, or a postdoctoral fellowship in the same year the award is given (2020).

- **Can individuals apply for a Trainee Professional Development Award if they received another SfN travel award?**

Yes, in 2020, applicants are ineligible for a Trainee Professional Development Award if they received another SfN travel award in the same or previous year. However, SfN plans to revert to normal eligibility requirements in 2021, which would make SfN travel award recipients ineligible to receive a TPDA in the same year.

- **Does receipt of a Trainee Professional Development Award in 2020 make an individual ineligible to apply in 2021?**

No, considering the impacts and challenges COVID-19 has caused, SfN will allow 2020 TPDA recipients to apply for TPDA in 2021. However, SfN will revert to normal eligibility requirements in 2021, which would make TPDA recipients ineligible to receive the award in back-to-back years.

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Professional Development Opportunities

- **What type of web-based learning will award recipients have access to?**

Award recipients will have access to specialized professional development opportunities on Neuronline, SfN's home for learning and discussion.

- **How often will recipients receive TPDA-related emails throughout the year following their award?**

Award recipients will receive TPDA-related emails on a quarterly basis.

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