

Edward N. and Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation Awards Program in in Alzheimer's Disease Drug Discovery Research

Office Hours Session

Applications Due:

Tuesday, October 13, 2PM ET

ThomeAwards@hria.org

<https://hria.org/grants/thomead/>



**HEALTH
RESOURCES
IN ACTION**

HRiA partners with individuals, organizations, and communities to transform the practices, policies, and systems that improve health and advance equity.



Agenda

- Research Focus
- Program Overview
- Eligibility
- Review Criteria
- Proposal Writing Tips
- Proposals that Generate Excitement
- Common Pitfalls to Avoid
- HRiA Award Manager
- Q & A



The Edward N. & Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation
was created:

“to advance the health of older adults
through the support of direct service
projects and medical research on
diseases and disorders affecting older
adults.”



Research Focus

Advance innovative preclinical and translational drug development for all people with Alzheimer's disease—especially populations with a high disease burden or limited representation.

OUT OF SCOPE Basic research not directly linked to a clinically relevant biomarker or endpoint, and studies meeting the NIH definition of a clinical trial.

Example Areas of Research Focus

01

Representative clinical samples

- Study cohorts that reflect the populations most affected by Alzheimer's disease.

02

Relevant model systems

- Build or use models informed by findings from understudied and highly impacted groups.

03

Women's health

- Determine how women's reproductive history contributes to disease pathogenesis.

04

Genetic basis of disease

- Understand the genetic basis of disease across ancestries to inform drug development

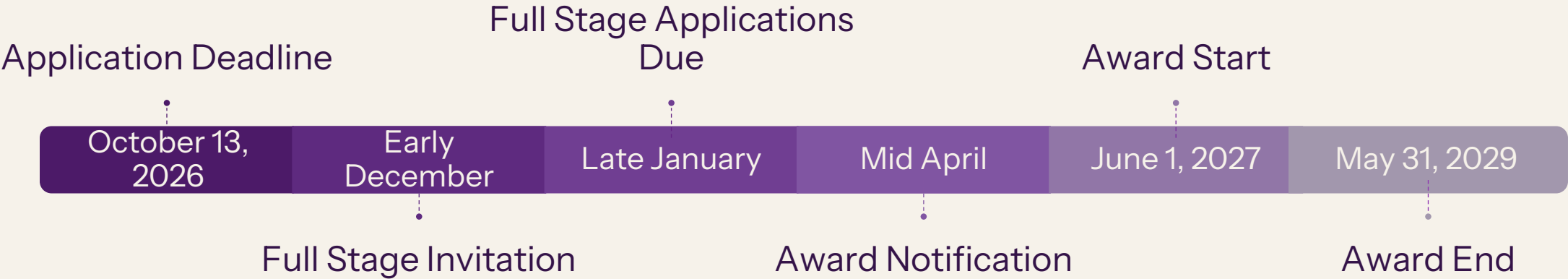
05

Exposome integration

- Integrate the exposome with disease pathogenesis to advance drug discovery.

Program Overview

	Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Award	Early Career Investigator Award
Award Duration	2 years	2 years
Maximum Award Amount	Up to \$125,000	Up to \$275,000 (inclusive of 10% indirect costs)
Eligible Applicants	Senior postdoctoral researchers and mentored clinician-scientists (MD, DO, or equivalent).	Full-time tenure-track or clinician-scientist/investigator track research faculty; received or will receive first independent research faculty appointment on or between June 1, 2024 through June 1, 2027.



Program Overview: Professional Development Activities



Grant Writing



Science Communications



Transition to Independence



Leadership Training

Eligibility: Postdoctoral Fellowship

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Award

- Senior postdoctoral researchers and mentored clinician-scientists (MD, DO, or equivalent).
- Be engaged in a mentored non-independent research position (postdoctoral* or equivalent).
- Have at least 90% protected time for research if they do not have clinical training or have clinical training but do not currently see patients.
- Have at least 70% protected time for research if they have clinical training and currently see patients.
- Anticipate needing 1-2 years of mentored research training and career development to become a competitive candidate for an independent faculty position.

Eligibility: Early Career Investigator

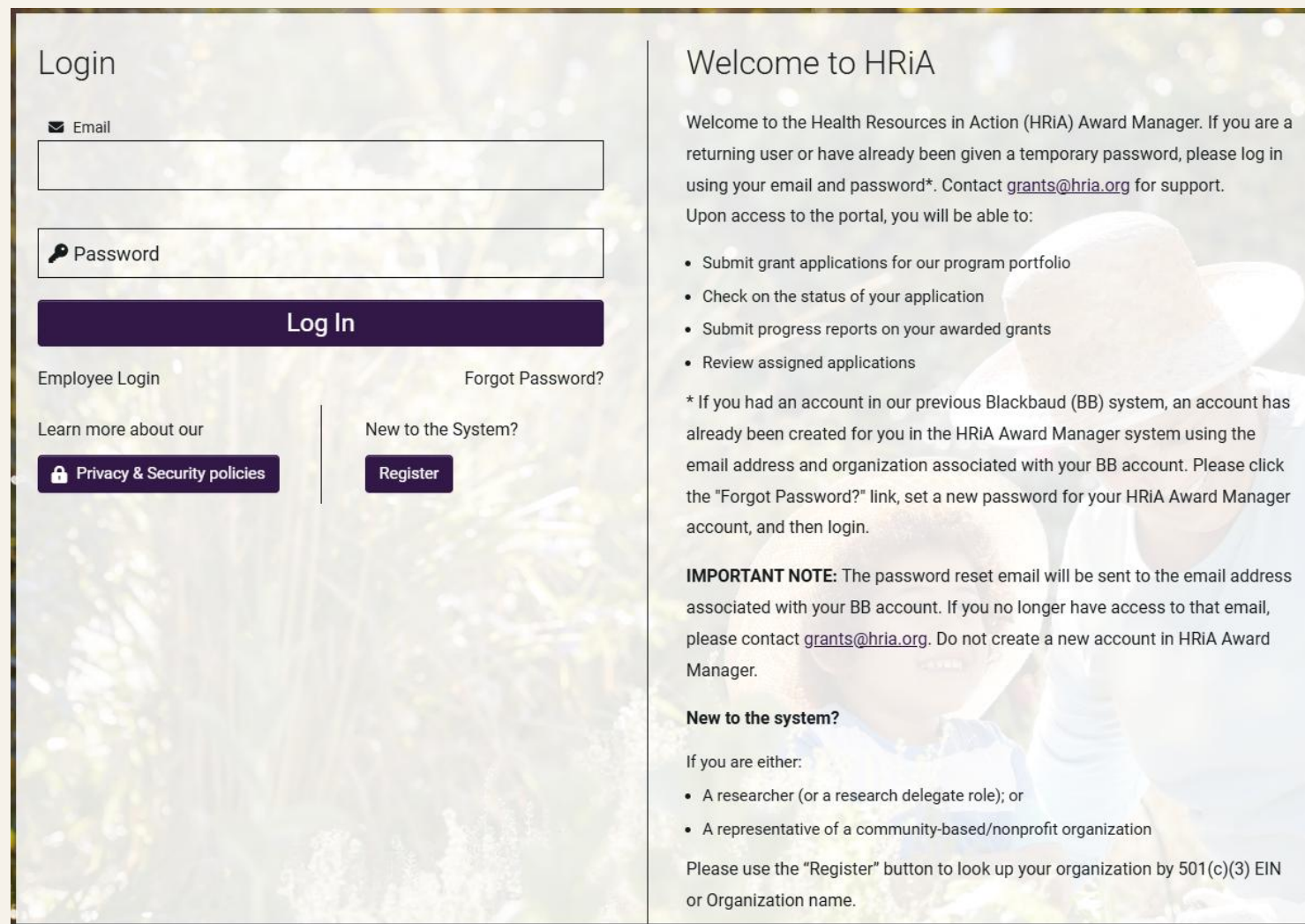
Early Career Investigator Award

- Full-time tenure-track or clinician-scientist/investigator track research faculty; received or will receive first independent research faculty appointment on or between June 1, 2024 through June 1, 2027.
- Hold an Assistant Professor faculty appointment at a non-profit academic, medical, or research institution in the U.S.
- Have at least 80% protected time for research if they do not have clinical training.
- Have at least 70% protected time for research if they have clinical training.

Application Portal - HRiA Award Manager

Accessing the system

<https://hria.us-1.smartsimple.com/>



Login

Email

Password

Log In

Employee Login

Learn more about our

Privacy & Security policies

Forgot Password?

New to the System?

Register

Welcome to HRiA

Welcome to the Health Resources in Action (HRIA) Award Manager. If you are a returning user or have already been given a temporary password, please log in using your email and password*. Contact grants@hria.org for support. Upon access to the portal, you will be able to:

- Submit grant applications for our program portfolio
- Check on the status of your application
- Submit progress reports on your awarded grants
- Review assigned applications

* If you had an account in our previous Blackbaud (BB) system, an account has already been created for you in the HRiA Award Manager system using the email address and organization associated with your BB account. Please click the "Forgot Password?" link, set a new password for your HRiA Award Manager account, and then login.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The password reset email will be sent to the email address associated with your BB account. If you no longer have access to that email, please contact grants@hria.org. Do not create a new account in HRiA Award Manager.

New to the system?

If you are either:

- A researcher (or a research delegate role); or
- A representative of a community-based/nonprofit organization

Please use the "Register" button to look up your organization by 501(c)(3) EIN or Organization name.



Luke Skywalker
Jedi

TWIN SUNS FOUNDATION
LWilliams+TESTLukeSkywalker@hria.org



Funding Opportunities



My Profile

Applications



1

In Progress

0

Revisions Required

2

Submitted & Under
Review

3

Completed

Activities

0

Draft

0

Revisions Required

0

Under Review

0

Completed



PAGE NAVIGATION

- Main
- Invitations

Actions Logs

2026-4135 Test Organization

Instructions

Thome - Alzheimer's Disease

- Please complete the questions in each of the tabs below.
 - Use the **Save Draft** button to save your answers. Please note that there is *no auto-saving feature*.
 - Use the **Invitation** tab on the left to invite required individuals (if applicable).
 - Use the **Submit** button only once you have completed all tabs.
 - Only the Applicant will be able to submit the application.
 - If you are a Collaborator/Multi-PI you will be able to make and save edits, but will not see a submit button.
- Some information is copied directly from your organization and user profiles and will appear in a read-only state within this form. If the information displayed is not current, please update your organization and user profiles prior to completing and submitting this form.
- You can view your responses by clicking on the **PDF of Application** button.

Application Type: Thome - Alzheimer's Disease

* Organization: Test Organization

* Applicant: Test Applicant

Created Date: 07/30/2026 2:38 PM

Created By: Test Applicant

Application Due Date: 01/21/2027 02:00 PM

Submission Number: 4135

PDF of Application

Application Tabs

PRIMARY CONTACT ORGANIZATION INFORMATION KEY PERSONNEL INSTITUTIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION PROJECT INFORMATION ATTACHMENTS CERTIFICATION CLOSEOUT

Update Contact Information

JUMP TO

Save Draft Submit Withdraw

Next >

Application Portal - HRiA Award Manager

Using the Invitations feature

System Role Name	Permissions/Requirements
Authorized Institutional Representative (pre-award)	Required to Certify application but cannot submit application
Collaborator (grant writing staff)	Has edit access but cannot submit application

2025-2145 Test Organization



Authorized Institutional Representative

You are **required** to invite an Authorized Institutional Representative who must "Accept" the invitation and complete the "Certification" tab prior to your submission.

- Biomedical research applicants - The Authorized Institutional Representative is responsible for research oversight and is often in the Office of Sponsored Programs. This person signs off on the application to ensure that you and the Institution have met the eligibility requirements.
- Community-based organization applicants - The Authorized Institutional Representative may be the Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director or other senior leader and signs off on the application to ensure that the lead applicant and project team have met the eligibility requirements.

Collaborator/Multi-PI

Users added as this role will be able to make changes to the application but will not be able to submit.

- Collaborators: Collaborators include anyone who will help you write/edit this grant. This may include grantwriting/pre-award staff and/or project personnel.
- Multi-PI: If you are applying for a biomedical grant, please refer to the Program Guidelines for further information on use of these roles, as some HRiA grant programs do not recognize a multi-PI.

Prefix	First Name	Last Name	Email	Role	Status
				-- Select One --	☒ Draft



1

2

Save

Invite

3

Caution: Check-out error

This record has been checked out (DATE/TIME)

Solution: Communicate with those invited and ask them to log out!

Review Criteria

01

Impact

- Addresses a critical therapeutic roadblock in Alzheimer's disease.
- High potential to improve the lives of all people living with Alzheimer's disease, especially populations that are understudied or experience a high disease burden.

02

Applicant

- Capable of carrying out the research and developing a sound plan.
- Institution and mentor demonstrate appropriate commitment.
- Collaboration is a positive—but optional—factor.

03

Research Project

- Clear question and hypothesis grounded in sound precedent and rationale.
- Feasible study design that answers the proposed questions.
- Fits the literature and work of other investigators.

04

Program Alignment

- Advances preclinical and translational drug development for all people with Alzheimer's disease—especially highly burdened or historically understudied populations.

Proposal Writing Tips



Clear, concise,
logical



Understandable
language



Reflective of
program goals
and review
criteria



All personnel
should be clearly
justified



Be realistic
(budget, work,
timeline)



Seek feedback
from others

Proposals that Generate Excitement

- “The hypothesis and objectives are clearly stated; the approach is reasonable and feasible. The methodology is logical and rigorous, and the potential impact in AD is large”
- “Well described specific aims, including sample sizes/power analyses/statistical analyses”
- “Ambitious amount of work proposed, but all are feasible approaches and even if partially completed will be a contribution towards potential AD therapeutics”

Common Pitfalls to Avoid

Clarity

- "It is unclear what significant innovations will be introduced by this proposal to move beyond the results of previous XXXX research."
- "The aims are clearly stated, but no hypothesis is included. The approach is technically feasible, although many of the experimental details remain opaque"

Research Focus

- "This project is basic science/new target discovery and is outside of the scope of this Program."
- "Premise is that AD is caused by dysregulated neuroinflammation; yet proposed studies do not seek to determine how drug XXXX will target neuroinflammation."

Funding Overlap

- "It is unclear if there is overlap between this application and current/pending funding."

Common Pitfalls to Avoid

Inappropriate/ Unclear Model Systems

- "Typically, one would not progress to primate until all the PK issues had been worked out because if the PK issues cannot be solved then there is no reason to progress to primate."
- "The weakness is that both mouse models are not effective for AD drug development."
- "It is not clear whether more than one isogenic series of iPSC lines will be used."

Insufficient Experimental Details

- "Lack of detail on the pharmacology experimental design (dose finding, therapeutic dose, duration, etc.)."
- "No details regarding sample sizes, blinding strategies, or statistical analysis are currently provided."
- "The applicant mentions preliminary studies that demonstrated xxx, but no data is provided."

Budgetary Constraints

- "XXX and ZZZ are expensive experimental techniques – budget concerns"

Common Pitfalls to Avoid

Inconsistency with Market/Industry Trends

- “Concern over proposed drug choices to evaluate. ... the selected drug choices to achieve this – x,y,z – are quite possibly not the best choices to impact future AD treatment. To this Reviewers knowledge, x was withdrawn from the market by parent company due to increased risk of heart attack and stroke associated with long-term, high-dosage use (it is unclear whether this agent could be resurrected as a treatment for AD).”

Questions?

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