



Animal Free Research UK Pioneer Award for Outstanding Achievement 2021

Animal Free Research Pioneer Award Overview

What is our vision for the Award?

Animal Free Research UK is establishing a Pioneer Award to celebrate and promote the achievements of scientists who conduct medical research using non-animal approaches.

Our vision is that this becomes a prestigious annual award that elevates the perception of animal free research and researchers in the scientific community. We hope it will contribute to the cultural shift needed for animal free research to be considered the gold standard.

What can we say about Animal Free Research UK in making this award?

In making this award, Animal Free Research UK is elevating its leadership in the scientific community and in human-relevant research in particular.

We are committing to enabling scientists to use non-animal approaches in medical research by focusing on the positives and celebrating the benefits of animal free research for both people and animals.

Crucially, we are facilitating and promoting role models for the next generation to aspire to.

Why is this important to us?

We want to recognise and reward established researchers who are leading the way in animal free research. They are true pioneers.

We know that the decisions they make to replace animals in their work are right, but we also recognise that it is not an easy choice to break away from the norm - there remain significant challenges to carrying out animal free research.

Yet these forward thinkers are unlocking the answers to the many questions we still have about diseases. Animal Free Research Pioneers' work will ultimately deliver effective treatments for human diseases faster and without animals.

We are also passionate about enabling the next generation of medical researchers to embark on a scientific career entirely free of animal testing. Facilitating and promoting positive role models is a key aspect of investing in young researchers because having role models can influence their actions and motivate them to strive to uncover their true potential and overcome barriers.

Animal Free Research Pioneers give young scientists a standard to strive for.



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How will we achieve it?

We will commission a medal which will be awarded annually to one researcher for their outstanding contribution to pioneering animal free medical research.

Our Scientific Advisory Panel will act as the Nominations Panel and work closely with the Science Director to consider nominations. The Chief Executive will make the final decision.

The recipient will be invited to give the keynote lecture at our annual scientific conference.

What are the criteria for entry?

- The Animal Free Research UK Pioneer Medal awards outstanding contribution to pioneering animal free medical research
- Scientists undertaking animal free research within academia, government, industry or private research institution are eligible for nomination
- Self-nominations will not be considered

Judging criteria

- I. **Quality:** The extent to which the nominee's work is reliable, valid, credible, and scientifically rigorous
- II. **Impact:** The extent to which the nominee's work represents a significant contribution in basic or translational research that has impacted, or has strong potential to impact, human health through the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of disease
- III. **Novelty:** The extent to which the work challenges existing paradigms, employs innovative new methodologies or concepts, and/or pursues an original question
- IV. **Promise:** The extent to which the nominee has made impactful research contributions and future prospects for further significant contributions in the field
- V. **Legacy:** The extent to which the nominee has committed to championing the next generation of animal free researchers through education, teaching and mentoring
- VI. **Values:** The extent to which the nominee has demonstrated a set of ethical values consistent with those that guide Animal Free Research UK

Ranking scale

Score	Criteria
1	No evidence that the nominee meets the criteria
2	Some evidence that the nominee meets the criteria
3	Satisfactory evidence that the nominee meets the criteria
4	Significant evidence that the nominee meets the criteria
5	Outstanding evidence that the nominee meets the criteria



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Nominations process

- Nominators must fill out a form to submit their nominations, including why the person is being nominated and how they align with the criteria, their history, publications and CV.
 - Nomination letters are up to 1000 words.
 - They should contain a one-sentence citation (no more than 200 characters, including spaces), formulating precisely the reason for nominating the candidate, which may be used in public communications about the awards.
 - The body of the nomination letter, which could be several paragraphs, should give a concise history of the nominee's work, with reference to their publications or relevant public documents as applicable.
- One supporting letter for each nominee is requested.
- Nominees must provide their consent to be nominated (and thus have their work / history reviewed in detail by us).
- Similarly, nominators must confirm that to the best of their knowledge, there is no confirmed or potential impediment to the nominee receiving a prize or award related to their professional standing.
- The Scientific Advisory Panel will review the nominations against the criteria, rank and score them, and make a shortlist with the Science Director for the Awards Panel to cast final vote on. The Awards Panel will consist of the Chief Executive and representatives of the Board of Trustees.

Nominators should submit their nomination to science@animalfreeresearchuk.org

Key dates

Call for nominations	24 August 2021
Deadline for Nominations	3 October 2021
Nominations to Scientific Advisory Panel for review	6 October
Nomination Review Deadline	27 October 2021
Final decision	29 October 2021
Decision communicated to recipient	1 November 2021
Animal Free Research Pioneer Lecture	14 December 2021