

ANNUAL AWARD OF THE BELGIAN PAIN SOCIETY

Application for the year 2026: Clinical science

1. The Belgian Pain Society has installed the “Annual BPS Award” to recognize and foster the scientific work of a junior researcher in the field of pain. The topic of the Award will alternate yearly between basic science and clinical science.
2. Eligibility requirements :
 - the candidate must be a junior researcher or health practitioner not yet holding a permanent position within a university or medical institution, or finished a PhD at the latest 6 years earlier. The prize is intended for junior researchers, with a maximum age of 45 years in 2026.
 - the submission must be an original research work in the field of pain (physiology, epidemiology, diagnosis, management, economical or psychosocial aspects, ...), that was conducted in Belgium by the candidate, and has not been awarded by or submitted for another prize. As such, the text should not have been published yet.

Basic science are considered focusing on fundamental or mechanistic research, animal research,...

Clinical science projects can have direct applicability or implications for daily clinical work. In case of ambiguity, the jury will decide in which category the submitted study belongs.

Scientific work that was presented as a poster at a scientific conference is acceptable. The applicant's supervisor adds a formal statement that the work was conducted in Belgium and primarily by the candidate.

 - the text of the original research work will be composed in English submitted according to the *Instructions to Authors* of the journal *PAIN*, and be limited to maximum 25 pages (A4, double spaced), including figures and references.
 - the application must include a short CV (maximum 2 pages)
 - the candidate can submit only one application per year
 - the application should be submitted by email as a **single PDF file**.
3. As the topic of the award alternates between basic science and clinical science, the BPS has setup two evaluation committees: a committee to evaluate basic science projects, and a committee to evaluate clinical research projects. Each committee will be called to evaluate applications once every two years, and is composed of 7 members: 6 members with expertise in basic science or clinical science, and the president of the BPS ex officio. Members of each committee are approved by the BPS board; for a maximum of two consecutive 3-year appointments. The BPS aims to include members from each Belgian university.
4. The committee will rank all received applications as follows. Each application will be assigned two readers selected among the members of the evaluation committee based on their expertise. The readers will be requested to evaluate the application and propose a numerical score based on (1) the clarity, validity and relevance of the stated research question, (2) the adequacy and validity of the proposed methodology, (3) the accuracy of the reported results, and (4) the quality of the scientific discussion.
 - Applications will be eligible if and only if they adhere to common ethical guidelines and are relevant for the field of pain.
5. The Award will be presented on the occasion of the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Belgian Pain Society on 6th June 2026. The winner agrees to present his/her work during the plenary session.
6. The Board of the Belgian Pain Society will determine the amount of the prize each year. In case of *ex aequo*, the prize may be split in two. It is possible that the Award will not be granted in case none of the submissions reaches the desired level. The decisions of the jury are final and not debatable.
7. For the year 2026, the Award focuses on **clinical science** and will be accompanied by 3500Euro.
8. Submissions should be sent before or latest by **4th April 2026 to :**
BPS Office c/o Conny Goethals via email info@belgianpainsociety.org or
UZ Leuven, Belgian Pain Society, Weligerveld 1, 3212 Pellenberg