

ASTRAZENECA AWARD 2025

RULES

The biennial scientific prize " **AstraZeneca Award in Pulmonology** " worth 12,500 euros will be awarded to an original recent research work related to respiratory diseases. The application form must be returned by e-mail to info@bers.be by Monday 3 November 2025 at the latest.

ART. 1

In order to stimulate research in Belgium in the field of pneumology, the company AstraZeneca NV (0400.165.679), Alfons Gossetlaan 40/201, 1702 Dilbeek, took the initiative in 2015 to support the awarding of a scientific prize every two years called the "**ASTRAZENECA AWARD in Pulmonology**".

ART. 2

The call for projects for the award of this prize is organised by the Belgian Respiratory Society (BeRS asbl-vzw).

ART. 3

The prize amounts to 12,500 euros and was awarded for the first time in the last quarter of 2015.

ART. 4

Candidates must be members of the Belgian Respiratory Society (BeRS). They must be of Belgian or other nationality and provide they have graduated from a Belgian University for more than 5 years or have been affiliated to a Belgian University Service for more than 5 years. They must be doctors or have obtained a doctorate or an aggregate degree in higher education. They must have obtained their first university degree no later than 15 years ago. They must have published at least three times in journals of international repute. The research must be carried out for the most part in Belgium.

ART. 5

Applications must be submitted to the BeRS Office by e-mail to info@bers.be by Monday 3 November 2025 at the latest. Candidates are requested to attach to their application letter (in English) a curriculum vitae (in English) indicating their titles and scientific works as well as a copy of the research project they wish to propose.

ART. 6

The work submitted must be original and be a coherent synthesis (20 to 30 pages) of recently conducted research work ; already published articles may be attached. If it concerns a PhD or an aggregate thesis, it may only be a part of a more extensive research programme. In this case, a copy of the thesis must be enclosed for the Chairman of the jury. It may be a work carried out in collaboration with other researchers. The candidate must be the first or last author of the majority of the publications.

ART. 7

The jury, whose function is to award the best work, is responsible for assessing the admissibility and value of the works. The jury is composed of the members of the BeRS Board, the heads of departments of pulmonary diseases of Belgian universities who do not belong to the BeRS or their representative, and two foreign specialists recognized as being particularly competent in the field of the proposed essays. The Medical Director of AstraZeneca NV or his representative are members of the jury with advisory status. The scientific secretary of the BeRS acts as the Chairman of the jury. The deliberation procedures of the jury are defined in the Internal Regulations.

ART. 8

If two works are deemed equal, the prize may be shared exceptionally. It is not possible to divide the prize between three or more candidates. If, in the opinion of the jury, none of the works reaches a sufficient scientific level, the prize will not be awarded and will be automatically postponed for two years.

ART. 9

The Prize will be officially awarded, in collaboration with the Medical Director of AstraZeneca, or his/her representative, on the occasion of the annual congress "Belgian Pneumology Days" during the Awards session. The scientific secretary should officially communicate the decision of the jury at the latest two weeks before the congress.

ART. 10

AstraZeneca sa/nv has the right to use this project in both internal and external communications. The project itself remains the property of the submitter unless otherwise defined. The winner is free to publish his/her awarded work in a journal of his/her choice and will always clearly mention in his/her communication that the project has been awarded by the "ASTRAZENECA AWARD 2025 in Pulmonology".

INTERNAL RULES FOR THE JURY

ART. 1

In order to establish the admissibility of the applications, the scientific secretary of the BeRS, acts as the Chairman of the jury, must ensure that he/she has sufficient information about the candidates (curriculum vitae, list of publications, etc...). After having contacted the President of the BeRS, he/she will give a report to the members of the jury before sending them the essays.

ART. 2

In order to enlarge the jury, the scientific secretary must consult the Belgian jury members to appoint two foreign experts after the applications have been submitted.

ART. 3

All submitted applications will be treated with the utmost discretion by the jury. The list of candidates must remain secret.

ART. 4

At the invitation of the scientific secretary, the jury meets to deliberate and select the laureate(s) for the award. The following guidelines must be observed :

- 4.1 - The prize is awarded to one (or maximum two) persons who have substantially and personally contributed to research in the field of pneumology. This means that a candidate must be the first or last author of the majority of the publications related to the work presented.
- 4.2 - The jury may not award the prize to one of its members or to a first-degree relative.
- 4.3 - The prize may not be awarded to a work that has already received an award.
- 4.4 - Previous winners of this prize cannot compete for the prize a second time.

ART. 5

The deliberation procedure is as follows :

- 5.1 - Before the deliberation session of the jury, each member of the jury votes for the candidate of his/her choice
- 5.2 - The jury deliberates on the nominated candidates and proceeds to the secret ballot by successive elimination.
- 5.3 - The laureate must obtain at least half of the votes.

ART. 6

The jury members are invited to the meeting during which the prize is awarded.

ART. 7

The "**ASTRAZENECA AWARD in Pulmonology**" is organised by the BeRS with the financial support of AstraZeneca NV (0400.165.679), Alfons Gossetlaan 40 201, 1702 Dilbeek. This financial support includes, besides the prize money, all costs related to the material organisation of the jury deliberation meeting, the fees and the travel expenses of the Belgian and foreign jurors. As organiser, the BeRS is responsible for the administration and payments related to the prize.