

To: School of Medicine Faculty
From: Katherine L. Nathanson, MD and Matthew D. Weitzman, PhD
Co-Chairs, PSOM Limited Applications Selection Committee
Re: FY26 Blavatnik National Awards for Young Scientists
<http://blavatnikawards.org/awards/national-awards/>

The University has been invited to submit nominations for the Blavatnik National Awards for Young Scientists, a program that recognizes promising faculty-rank researchers in three disciplinary categories: Life Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering, and Chemistry.

The University is permitted to nominate **one faculty member for each of the three disciplinary categories**. The Office of the Vice Provost for Research is coordinating the review and candidate selection process for the University. **Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) is also an invited institution and faculty based at CHOP should apply through CHOP and may not apply through both CHOP and PSOM.**

Please note that the Blavatnik Awards are more like prizes than awards to support research. The funds go directly to the awardees and not the institution.

- Blavatnik guidelines: <http://blavatnikawards.org/awards/national-awards/nomination-guidelines/>
- FAQs: <http://blavatnikawards.org/awards/national-awards/faq/>
- National finalists from previous years: <http://blavatnikawards.org/honorees/national-finalists/>

Blavatnik Award Details:

- One Blavatnik National Awards Laureate in each disciplinary category will receive \$250,000 in unrestricted funds.
- The award money is given directly to the Laureate; indirect costs are not applied to the award.

Eligibility

- Have been born in or after 1984.
- Hold a doctorate degree (PhD, DPhil, MD, DDS, DVM, etc.).
- Currently hold a tenured or tenure-track academic faculty position (or equivalent) at any stage and with any other current funding.
- Currently conducting research as a Principal Investigator in one of the three disciplinary categories: Life Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering, or Chemistry.
- For any sponsored research projects, the applicant must be eligible to serve as Principal Investigator for the project, unless otherwise noted in the LSO. Please see [Penn's PI Eligibility requirements](#) to ensure you are eligible.

PSOM Review and Selection Process

Each candidate must submit the following:

- **Cover page** with the candidate's project title, name, academic rank, track, department, email address, phone number, campus address, date of appointment (month and year), and birth year.
- **Research Statement** (maximum 2 pages, not including references; single-spaced, 12-point font with one inch margins): Describe up to five of the candidate's most significant scientific contributions and research accomplishments from their independent career. Key results, their impact on the candidate's field of study, and the candidate's specific role in the described work should be included. Information about the candidate's positions, awards, and service activities should be excluded.

- Note: Please craft the research statement in a manner that is easily understood by a broad scientific audience.
- **CV or Biosketch**, including current, past, and pending funding with award amounts (direct dollars per year).
- **Candidate's Statement on Professional Service and DEI Statement** (maximum of 1 page): An open ended statement describing their outreach activities and/or professional service, with particular focus on activities and service related to increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the scientific community. Topics to discuss include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Teaching and Mentoring: Commitment to teaching and mentoring students, especially those of broadly diverse demographics and/or social backgrounds;
 - Collaboration and Leadership: Involvement or leadership in committees, task force groups, professional societies, and organizations;
 - Service, Engagement, and/or Outreach: A record of community engagement or outreach activities (e.g. volunteer activities, communicating science to the public, etc.).
 - Research: Current and/or planned research relevant to underserved populations or inequalities, or issues relevant to DEI, such as race, gender, sexuality, health disparities, human rights, educational access, ability, etc.
- **Prior Submission Update**: If you have submitted for this funding mechanism in the past, please provide on a separate page a brief explanation (1-5 sentences) explaining how the current application differs from prior submissions, highlighting any significant updates or changes to the proposal or your circumstances.

Materials must be submitted by email **in a single pdf file** to Kaitlyn Hagarty at kaitlyn.hagarty@pennmedicine.upenn.edu by **12pm on Wednesday, October 22, 2025**.

Subject line of email should be Blavatnik_Discipline of Nomination_nominee's surname_nominee's first name (e.g., Blavatnik_Life Sciences_Doe_Jane).

If you have any questions, please contact Kaitlyn at kaitlyn.hagarty@pennmedicine.upenn.edu.