

To: School of Medicine Faculty  
 From: Katherine L. Nathanson, MD and Matthew D. Weitzman, PhD  
 Co-Chairs, PSOM Limited Applications Selection Committee  
 Re: FY25 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 the hospital 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 1983.
- 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.
- The Blavatnik Awards strongly encourages the nomination of women and other underrepresented groups in science and engineering.

Life Sciences	Chemistry	Physical Sciences & Engineering
Agriculture and Animal Sciences	Analytical Chemistry	Applied Mathematics
Biomedical Engineering & Biotechnology	Biochemistry & Structural Biology	Astrophysics & Cosmology
Clinical Medicine & Epidemiology	Chemical Biology	Atomic, Molecular & Optical Physics
Computational Biology, Bioinformatics & Systems Biology	Chemical Engineering	Civil Engineering
Developmental Biology	Environmental Chemistry & Biogeochemistry	Computer Science
		Condensed Matter Physics

Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Genetics & Genomics Immunology Microbiology Molecular & Cellular Biology Neuroscience	Green Chemistry Inorganic & Solid-State Chemistry Organic Chemistry Physical Chemistry Polymer Chemistry Synthetic Chemistry Theoretical Chemistry	Electrical Engineering Materials Science & Nanotechnology Mechanical & Aeronautical Engineering Nuclear & Plasma Physics Particle Physics Physical Earth Sciences Theoretical Physics
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### Blavatnik Evaluation Criteria:

Nominees and their **work as independent investigators** will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- **Quality:** The extent to which the work is reliable, valid, credible, and scientifically rigorous.
- **Impact:** The extent to which the work addresses an important problem, advances scientific progress, and is influential in the nominee's field, related fields, or beyond, and/or has the potential to benefit society.
- **Novelty:** The extent to which the work challenges existing paradigms, establishes a new field or considerably expands on an existing field, employs original methodologies or concepts, and/or pursues an original question.
- **Promise:** The nominee has potential for further significant contributions to science, and the research program will generate further impactful and novel discoveries.

### PSOM Review and Selection Process

Each candidate must submit the following:

- **Cover page** with the candidate's name, academic rank, department, email address, phone number, campus address, date of appointment (month and year), birth year of candidate, and project title.
- **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 audience.
- **CV or Biosketch**
- **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.

Materials must be submitted by email **in a single pdf file** to Kaitlyn Hagarty at [kaitlyn.hagarty@pennterapeutics.com](mailto:kaitlyn.hagarty@pennterapeutics.com) by **12pm on Wednesday, October 2, 2024**.

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@pennterapeutics.com](mailto:kaitlyn.hagarty@pennterapeutics.com).