

The Pershing Square Foundation's 2026 MIND (Maximizing Innovation in Neuroscience Discovery) Prize Opens for Applications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 25th, 2025 (*New York, NY, Business Wire*): The Pershing Square Foundation today announced the opening of applications for the **2026 MIND (Maximizing Innovation in Neuroscience Discovery) Prize**. Since the Prize launched in 2023, it has been awarded to 20 multidisciplinary investigators from institutions across the country. The annual prize awards \$250,000 per year for three years (\$750,000 total) to at least six scientists looking to uncover a deeper understanding of the brain and cognition, with a lens on Alzheimer's Disease and Dementias. The Prize is meant to enable the most talented early-to-mid-career investigators to pursue bold, creative projects that could have transformative impacts on the field of brain research.

Applicants must have between one and eight years of experience running their own laboratories by the award start date (May 2026), hold a PhD, MD, or MD-PhD (or degree equivalent), and be affiliated with a nonprofit research institution in the United States of America. Applicants may apply for the MIND Prize a total of three times. The deadline to submit a Letter of Intent is **Monday, September 29th, 2025**, by 5:00pm ET. For more details on the MIND Prize and the application process, including the full eligibility criteria, a link to FAQs, and a link to the application submission platform, please visit: <https://pershingsquarephilanthropies.org/initiatives/programs/mind-prize>.

"We continue to be inspired by the scientists who approach neuroscience with fearless curiosity and a drive to push boundaries," said Olivia Tournay Flatto, PhD, President of The Pershing Square Foundation. "The MIND Prize was created to unlock new thinking in brain science, and each application cycle reminds us just how much untapped potential exists when bold ideas are met with the right support."

The highly competitive MIND Prize catalyzes novel and daring interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary work by facilitating collaborations across academic departments and institutions and amongst the academic, biomedical industry, philanthropic, and business communities. These breakthroughs in basic, fundamental research will help augment the toolkit for, and knowledge of, neurodegenerative and neurocognitive disorders. Projects may range from the invention of novel tools, techniques, and technologies for mapping and analyzing the brain, to bold approaches that demonstrate extraordinary therapeutic potential.

"My project pursues a really bold vision that other funding mechanisms would consider too risky, but that's generally where the exciting work happens," said 2025 MIND Prize winner [Katie Galloway](#), PhD, Assistant Professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "The MIND Prize allows us to take those risks and to envision a future that's different."

“The MIND Prize grant—because it's a mechanism that funds extremely innovative ideas, but at early stages in their development where the funding is really needed—is the reason we're able to pursue our interest in understanding the possible ramifications of oligodendrocyte precursor cell biology for neurodegeneration,” 2025 MIND Prize winner [Lucas Cheadle](#), PhD, Assistant Professor at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory remarked. “Without this funding, we probably wouldn't be able to do any of these experiments.”

The MIND Prize is proud to rely on the guidance of a highly accomplished [Scientific Advisory Board](#):

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About The Pershing Square Foundation

The Pershing Square Foundation is a family foundation established in 2006 to support exceptional leaders and innovative organizations that tackle important social issues and deliver scalable and sustainable global impact. Pershing Square Philanthropies, which includes The Pershing Square Foundation, has committed more than \$930 million in grants and social investments in target areas including health and medicine, education, economic development and social innovation. Bill Ackman and Neri Oxman are co-trustees of the Foundation. For more information, visit: <http://pershingssquarephilanthropies.org>.

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