

18TH PAULO GONTIJO AWARD RULES AND ELIGIBILITY – 2026

The Paulo Gontijo Institute (PGI) aims to encourage and recognize outstanding research on Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) through the Paulo Gontijo Award (PG Award). The PG Award promotes competitive and high-quality scientific research conducted by young investigators.

1. Eligibility

To be eligible for the PG Award, applicants must meet all the criteria below:

- The award is granted annually to researchers investigating Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), primarily focused on understanding its causes and seeking new treatments.
- Candidates must be basic science or clinical researchers. Other healthcare professionals involved in ALS research are also encouraged to apply.
- Be under 40 years old at the time of application.
- Demonstrate active involvement and interest in ALS research.
- Have relevant publications in high-impact peer-reviewed scientific journals accepted for publication within the two years preceding the application.

2. Award

The PG Award includes:

- A gold medal;
- USD 10,000 (ten thousand US dollars);
- Free registration for the 37th International Symposium on ALS/MND;
- Free registration for the ENCALS 2027 Meeting.

3. Application Submission

Applications must be submitted online. All required documents should be uploaded through:

 www.ipg.org.br/premiopg

Registration will only be considered valid after all required documents have been submitted and the automated submission confirmation has been received by email.

At the time of application, candidates must submit:

- A copy of their Curriculum Vitae, email address, and a valid photo identification document (ID card, passport, driver's license, etc.);
- A PDF copy of the article submitted for the award. The work must be published in a high-impact peer-reviewed scientific journal. Additional publications will not be accepted;
- If the study has not yet been published, applicants must submit an official acceptance letter for publication.

Additional files and documents will not be considered during the evaluation process.

4. Deadlines

- Application period: from July 13th to September 13th, 2026, until 6:00 PM (Brazil time);
- Evaluation period: from September 20th to October 11th, 2026.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

5. Judging Committee and Results

- The Judging Committee is composed of internationally recognized scientific authorities involved in ALS research;
- Results will be announced in October 2026 on the official website:

 [Instituto Paulo Gontijo](https://www.institutopaulogontijo.org.br/)

- The winner will be notified by email.

6. General Conditions

- By applying, candidates acknowledge and agree with all rules and conditions of this award;
- Proposals involving previous PG Award winners will not be considered for evaluation;
- By submitting an application, candidates automatically authorize the Paulo Gontijo Institute to promote the winning research in institutional publications and publicly announce the final result;

- The winner must present their research during the award ceremony at the opening session of the 37th International Symposium on ALS/MND on December 9th, 2026.

The International Symposium is the world's leading annual conference dedicated to ALS and Motor Neuron Disease (MND) research, bringing together researchers from around the globe to share advances and new discoveries.

- The decision of the Judging Committee is final and non-appealable;
- Legal taxes applicable to the award will be deducted from the total prize amount.

Judging Committee – 2026

- Mamede de Carvalho
- Orla Hardiman
- Brian Dickie
- Nicolas Maragakis
- Francisco Rotta
- Valéria Gerbino

Event Location – 2026

This year's event will take place in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, from December 9th to 11th, 2026.

Further Information

✉ pgaward@ipg.org.br