

Paulo Gontijo Award
International Scientific Award
Award Handbook 2026

Official Regulations

Recognizing Today's Young Scientists.

Advancing Tomorrow's ALS Breakthroughs.

Paulo Gontijo Institute - Brazil

18th Paulo Gontijo Award

The Paulo Gontijo Institute is guided by internationally recognized principles of research integrity, ethical governance, transparency, and merit-based evaluation, ensuring the independence and credibility of the Paulo Gontijo Award.

Since 2005, the Institute has transformed its commitment to science into long-term investment in researchers, innovation, and international collaboration—advancing discoveries that have the potential to change the future of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

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Paulo Gontijo Award Handbook 2026 Official Regulations

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The Paulo Gontijo Award Handbook is published annually and may be updated by the Instituto Paulo Gontijo to reflect improvements in governance, scientific standards, and the Award selection process.

In the event of any discrepancy between editions, the most current officially published version of this Handbook shall prevail.

This publication is intended to provide guidance regarding the rules, procedures, and principles governing the Paulo Gontijo Award.

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18th Paulo Gontijo Award

Award Handbook 2026

Official Regulations & Call for Applications

This Handbook presents the objectives, eligibility criteria, application procedures, evaluation process, governance, and guiding principles of the **18th Paulo Gontijo Award**. It is intended to provide applicants, reviewers, and partners with a clear, transparent, and comprehensive guide to the Award and its selection process.

QUICK GUIDE

Celebrating Scientific Excellence. Accelerating Hope for People Living with ALS.

- | | |
|---|--|
|  International Scientific Award |  Independent International Jury |
|  ALS Research |  Merit-Based Evaluation |
|  Young Investigators |  Gold Medal |
|  USD 10,000 Prize |  Applications: July 13 – September 13, 2026 |
|  Award Ceremony: International Symposium on ALS/MND |  Open to International Applicants |
| |  Official Winner Certificate , signed by the Chair of the International Scientific Committee |
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ABOUT THE PAULO GONTIJO AWARD

Recognizing excellence. Inspiring the future of ALS research.

For nearly two decades, the **Paulo Gontijo Award** has recognized outstanding young investigators whose work advances the global understanding of **Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)**.

Established in **2005** by the **Paulo Gontijo Institute**, the Award was created to encourage scientific excellence and recognize early-career researchers whose discoveries contribute to advancing knowledge, innovation, and hope for people living with ALS.

Created in honor of engineer **Paulo Gontijo**, whose legacy continues to inspire commitment to science and innovation, the Award has become one of the leading international recognitions dedicated to young ALS researchers.

Throughout its eighteen editions, the Award has brought together scientists from universities, hospitals, and research institutions around the world, strengthening collaboration and encouraging the next generation of researchers.

More than recognizing scientific excellence, the Paulo Gontijo Award connects science, collaboration, and purpose—bringing together researchers, healthcare professionals, patients, families, and institutions committed to improving lives through scientific discovery.

FOREWORD

Science begins with a question. Hope begins when someone chooses to answer it.

Eighteen years ago, the Paulo Gontijo Institute made a commitment to support scientific research as one of the most meaningful ways to honor the legacy of Paulo Gontijo and contribute to transforming the future of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

Since then, we have had the privilege of following the work of outstanding researchers from around the world who have dedicated their careers to advancing the understanding of ALS and exploring new pathways for diagnosis, treatment, and patient care.

The Paulo Gontijo Award was founded on the belief that great discoveries begin when talented scientists are given opportunities, recognition, and trust.

More than recognizing scientific achievements, we seek to encourage the people behind them—individuals who ask difficult questions, challenge existing paradigms, expand scientific knowledge, and dedicate their talent to improving the lives of others.

By publishing these Official Regulations, we reaffirm our commitment to a selection process grounded in scientific excellence, integrity, transparency, and the independence of peer review.

We hope that every applicant will see this Award not only as an opportunity for recognition, but also as an invitation to become part of an international community of researchers dedicated to advancing ALS science and improving the lives of people affected by the disease.

MESSAGE FROM THE PAULO GONTIJO INSTITUTE

A Tribute to Science. A Commitment to Hope.

Since 2005, the Paulo Gontijo Institute has believed that scientific research is one of the most powerful ways to transform the future of people living with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

Created to honour the legacy of Paulo Gontijo, the **Paulo Gontijo Award** recognizes outstanding young investigators whose dedication, creativity, and scientific excellence contribute to advancing ALS research around the world.

Over eighteen editions, the Award has become an internationally recognized initiative that connects researchers, universities, healthcare professionals, and institutions around a shared commitment to scientific excellence and innovation.

More than recognizing outstanding scientific achievements, we celebrate the researchers whose curiosity, integrity, and commitment continue to expand knowledge and improve the lives of people affected by ALS.

Through these Official Regulations, we reaffirm our commitment to an independent, transparent, and merit-based selection process, guided by internationally recognized principles of scientific integrity and ethical governance.

We hope these Regulations represent not only the rules governing the Award, but also the values that define the Paulo Gontijo Institute: scientific excellence, integrity, transparency, collaboration, and an unwavering commitment to research.

We warmly welcome every applicant and invite you to become part of a global scientific community working together to advance ALS research. Recognizing Today's Young Scientists. Advancing Tomorrow's ALS Breakthroughs.

Marcela Gontijo
President

Paulo Gontijo Institute

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

These Official Regulations establish the rules governing participation in the **18th Paulo Gontijo Award**, organized by the **Paulo Gontijo Institute**.

This Handbook outlines the Award's objectives, eligibility requirements, application procedures, evaluation process, judging criteria, prize conditions, and the responsibilities of both applicants and the organizing institution.

Created to honour the legacy of Paulo Gontijo, the **Paulo Gontijo Award** recognizes outstanding young investigators whose dedication, creativity, and scientific excellence contribute to advancing ALS research around the world.

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We warmly welcome every applicant and invite you to become part of a global scientific community working together to advance ALS research. Recognizing Today's Young Scientists. Advancing Tomorrow's ALS Breakthroughs.

Marcela Gontijo
President

Paulo Gontijo Institute

OUR COMMITMENT TO SCIENCE

Building the future of ALS research through long-term commitment and international collaboration.

The **Paulo Gontijo Award** is an international initiative of the **Paulo Gontijo Institute**, made possible through the enduring commitment of the **Gontijo family**, principal benefactors of the Institute, whose long-standing vision has sustained investment in scientific research for nearly two decades.

Created to honor the legacy of **Paulo Gontijo**, the Award reflects a lasting commitment to advancing scientific knowledge and supporting innovation in the diagnosis, treatment, and care of people living with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

Since **2010**, the Award has also benefited from the institutional support of the **MND Association (United Kingdom)** and the **European Network to Cure ALS (ENCALS)**. These longstanding international partners have played a fundamental role in expanding the Award's global visibility, strengthening scientific collaboration, and supporting its mission.

Together, these enduring partnerships reflect a shared commitment to scientific excellence, international collaboration, and research capable of transforming the future of ALS.

Strategic Partners

The Gontijo Family

Principal Benefactors of the Paulo Gontijo Institute

Long-term supporters of scientific research and full sponsors of the Paulo Gontijo Award.

MND Association

International Partner since 2010

Supporting the Award's international visibility and strengthening its engagement with the global ALS and Motor Neurone Disease community.

ENCALS – European Network to Cure ALS

International Partner since 2010

Promoting international scientific collaboration and strengthening relationships with leading European ALS research centers.

"Science advances through long-term commitment. Lasting impact is achieved through collaboration."

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

International leadership ensuring scientific excellence and independent evaluation.

The **Paulo Gontijo Award** is guided by an independent **International Scientific Committee** composed of internationally recognized leaders in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) research.

Representing leading universities, hospitals, and research institutions across Europe and the Americas, the Committee ensures that every application is evaluated with scientific rigor, independence, fairness, and integrity.

Beyond guaranteeing the excellence of the selection process, the Committee reflects the Award's commitment to international collaboration and scientific leadership.

Prof. Mamede de Carvalho, MD, PhD

Chair of the International Jury
University of Lisbon | Portugal

Prof. Orla Hardiman, MD, PhD

Trinity College Dublin | Ireland

Prof. Nicolas Maragakis, MD

Johns Hopkins University | USA

Prof. Francisco Rotta, MD

University of Texas Health Science Center | USA

Brian Dickie, PhD

Former Director of Research Development
MND Association | United Kingdom

Valeria Gerbino, PhD

Sapienza University of Rome | Italy
2025 Paulo Gontijo Award Laureate

The Paulo Gontijo Award reserves one seat on its International Scientific Committee for the recipient of the previous edition.

This initiative strengthens the Award's scientific community by engaging former recipients in the evaluation process, promoting continuity, scientific excellence, and collaboration across generations of researchers.

Each laureate is invited to serve on the Committee for the following edition, reinforcing the Award's commitment to lasting international scientific leadership.

By inviting each Award recipient to join the International Scientific Committee the following year, the Paulo Gontijo Award transforms recognition into scientific leadership, building a lasting global community dedicated to advancing ALS research.

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

Advancing scientific excellence. Inspiring the next generation of ALS researchers.

The **Paulo Gontijo Award** recognizes outstanding scientific research and encourages the next generation of investigators dedicated to advancing the understanding, diagnosis, treatment, and care of **Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)**.

Through this Award, the Paulo Gontijo Institute seeks to strengthen scientific leadership, promote international collaboration, and accelerate discoveries that have the potential to improve the lives of people affected by ALS.

Our Objectives

- ✓ Recognize outstanding scientific research with the potential to advance ALS knowledge and patient care.
- ✓ Encourage early-career investigators to pursue internationally recognized scientific careers.

- ✓ Foster collaboration among researchers, universities, healthcare institutions, and research centres.
 - ✓ Promote international scientific exchange and increase the visibility of ALS research.
 - ✓ Reinforce the Paulo Gontijo Institute's long-term commitment to science, innovation, and scientific leadership.
-

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The values that guide every stage of the Award.

Every stage of the Paulo Gontijo Award—from the opening of applications to the final decision of the International Scientific Committee—is guided by internationally recognized principles of scientific excellence, integrity, independence, and transparency.

These principles reflect the values of the Paulo Gontijo Institute and ensure that every application is evaluated fairly, objectively, and exclusively on scientific merit.

Scientific Excellence

The Award recognizes original, innovative, and methodologically rigorous research capable of significantly advancing scientific knowledge in ALS.

Scientific excellence remains the primary criterion throughout the evaluation process.

Scientific Integrity

All submitted research must comply with the highest standards of research ethics, academic integrity, and responsible scientific conduct.

Applicants are expected to adhere to internationally accepted ethical standards governing research involving human participants, animals, laboratory investigations, and data integrity.

Independence and Transparency

The evaluation process is conducted independently, objectively, and transparently.

Eligibility requirements, evaluation criteria, and selection procedures are publicly available through these Official Regulations.

The International Scientific Committee conducts its deliberations independently, free from institutional, political, commercial, or financial influence.

Scientific Collaboration

The Paulo Gontijo Institute believes that scientific progress is accelerated through collaboration.

The Award values multidisciplinary research and encourages cooperation among researchers, universities, healthcare institutions, research centers, and international scientific networks.

Diversity, Inclusion and Global Engagement

The Award welcomes applications from researchers of different nationalities, cultures, institutions, and scientific disciplines, promoting equal opportunity and diversity throughout the selection process.

Scientific excellence knows no borders.

Patient-Centered Impact

While the Award recognizes scientific excellence, its ultimate purpose is to improve the lives of people living with ALS.

Every submission is evaluated not only for its scientific quality, but also for its potential to advance knowledge that may contribute to better care, improved outcomes, and future therapeutic innovation.

Our Commitment

Scientific excellence is the foundation of discovery. Collaboration transforms discovery into progress. Hope is the reason we pursue both.

ELIGIBILITY

Who may apply?

Applications are open to **young investigators** whose research demonstrates scientific excellence and contributes to advancing the understanding, diagnosis, treatment, or care of **Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)**.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must:

- ✓ Not exceed 40 years of age on the application deadline
 - ✓ First author of at least one original scientific manuscript on ALS (basic, clinical, or translational ALS research), published or accepted in a Quartile 1 journal within the two years preceding the application deadline
 - ✓ Candidates must upload their single selected publication. If the manuscript has been accepted but is not yet published, official proof of acceptance must be provided
 - ✓ Comply with all ethical and scientific integrity requirements described in these Regulations
-

Ineligible Applications

The following submissions are not eligible:

- Review articles, editorials, commentaries, or opinion papers.
- Duplicate submissions.
- Research is unrelated to ALS.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements or submission deadlines.

Only complete applications that fully comply with these Official Regulations will be considered for scientific evaluation.

WHY THIS AWARD MATTERS

Investing young scientists means investing in the future of ALS research.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis remains one of the greatest challenges in modern neuroscience. Although remarkable scientific progress has been achieved, thousands of people around the world continue to depend on discoveries that only research can provide.

Every scientific breakthrough brings us closer to a better understanding of the disease, more effective therapies, and improved quality of life for patients and their families.

The Paulo Gontijo Institute believes that supporting talented young investigators is one of the most meaningful ways to accelerate scientific progress.

For this reason, the **Paulo Gontijo Award** is more than a scientific distinction.

It is an investment in the next generation of researchers, a commitment to international collaboration, and a contribution to a future where science continues to transform lives.

At a Glance

  Young Investigators

 Basic, Clinical or Translational ALS Research

 Peer-reviewed Publication or Accepted Manuscript

 International Competition

 Scientific Excellence

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Protecting the integrity and independence of the Award.

The Paulo Gontijo Institute is committed to ensuring a fair, transparent, and impartial Award selection process.

All members of the International Scientific Committee and reviewers must disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest.

Examples of Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest may include, but is not limited to:

- ✓ Current or recent scientific collaboration with the applicant.
 - ✓ Co-authorship of scientific publications within the previous **five years**.
 - ✓ Direct supervisory, mentoring, or advisory relationships.
 - ✓ Employment at the same institution or department.
 - ✓ Financial, professional, or personal relationships that could influence the evaluation.
-

Declaration and Recusal

Whenever a conflict of interest is identified, the reviewer or Committee member shall immediately disclose the conflict and withdraw from the evaluation, discussion, and decision-making process related to the affected application.

When necessary, the Paulo Gontijo Institute may appoint an alternate reviewer to preserve the independence and integrity of the evaluation process.

All conflict of interest declarations shall be treated confidentially.

Scientific credibility depends not only on the quality of research, but also on the independence and integrity of its evaluation.

SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY

Upholding the highest standards of responsible research.

The Paulo Gontijo Institute expects all submitted research to comply with the highest standards of **scientific integrity**, **research ethics**, and **responsible scientific conduct**.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their work demonstrates:

Research Standards

- ✓ Accuracy and integrity of research data.
 - ✓ Transparency in research methods and reporting.
 - ✓ Compliance with all applicable ethical approvals and regulatory requirements.
 - ✓ Adherence to internationally accepted scientific and ethical standards.
-

Scientific Misconduct

Any evidence of scientific misconduct—including, but not limited to—

- plagiarism;
- data fabrication or falsification;
- image manipulation;
- unethical research practices;
- concealment of authorship; or
- any other violation of accepted standards of scientific integrity—

may result in the immediate disqualification of the applicant at any stage of the Award selection process.

RESPONSIBLE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Artificial Intelligence should support science—not replace scientific authorship.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools may be used to support the research process, provided that they **do not replace the intellectual contribution, scientific judgment, or authorship of the researchers**, and do not compromise the integrity of the submitted work.

Applicants may be required to disclose the use of AI tools in manuscript preparation, data analysis, image processing, or any other stage of the research or publication process, whenever applicable.

The following uses of AI are not permitted

- ✓ Fabricating or falsifying research data.
- ✓ Manipulating or misrepresenting scientific results.
- ✓ Generating misleading scientific images or content.
- ✓ Concealing authorship or scientific responsibility.
- ✓ Any use that violates internationally accepted standards of scientific integrity and research ethics.

Such practices shall be considered **scientific misconduct** and may result in immediate disqualification from the Award.

Our Commitment

The Paulo Gontijo Institute is committed to promoting a culture of scientific excellence, ethical responsibility, transparency, and innovation.

Every submission is evaluated not only for its scientific merit, but also for its adherence to the highest standards of integrity that underpin responsible research and public trust in science.

"Scientific excellence can only flourish where integrity, transparency, and responsibility are upheld."

APPLICATION PROCESS

A simple, transparent, and fully online application process.

Applications for the **18th Paulo Gontijo Award** are **free of charge** and must be submitted exclusively through the official **Paulo Gontijo Institute** online application platform during the application period established in these Official Regulations.

To be considered for scientific evaluation, applicants must successfully complete all steps described below.

Application Steps

Step 1 – Online Registration

Complete the online application form with accurate personal, institutional, and scientific information.

Step 2 – Document Submission

Upload all required documents in **PDF format**.

Incomplete, incorrect, or unreadable applications may be deemed ineligible.

Step 3 – Administrative Review

The Paulo Gontijo Institute will verify compliance with all eligibility and submission requirements.

No scientific evaluation is conducted during this stage.

Step 4 – Confirmation

Applicants whose submissions meet all administrative requirements will receive an official confirmation that their application has been accepted for scientific evaluation.

Application Workflow

Online Registration
↓
Document Submission
↓
Administrative Review
↓
Scientific Evaluation
↓
International Scientific Committee
↓
Award Recipient

Required Documents

Applicants must submit:

- ✓ Completed online application form.
 - ✓ PDF version of the scientific publication.
 - ✓ Official letter of acceptance for publication (*when applicable*).
 - ✓ Declaration of authorship and acceptance of these Official Regulations.
 - ✓ Conflict of Interest Declaration (*when applicable*).
-

Important Information

The Paulo Gontijo Institute reserves the right to request additional documentation whenever necessary to verify the eligibility of an application.

An application will only be considered complete after **all required documents have been successfully uploaded** and the applicant has received the official confirmation email.

Before You Submit

Please ensure that:

- ✓ All required documents have been uploaded.
 - ✓ All information provided is complete and accurate.
 - ✓ The submitted research complies with the eligibility requirements.
 - ✓ You have received the official confirmation email.
-

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Key dates, general conditions, and Award ceremony.

Key Dates

Activity	Date
Applications Open	July 13, 2026
Applications Close	September 13, 2026 – 6:00 PM (Brasília Time, UTC-3)
Administrative & Scientific Review	October 2026
Award Ceremony	December 9, 2026

Applications submitted after the official deadline will not be accepted.

General Conditions

By submitting an application, candidates acknowledge that they have read, understood, and accepted these Official Regulations.

The following conditions apply:

✓ **Previous recipients of the Paulo Gontijo Award are not eligible to apply in subsequent editions of the Award. Their participation as co-authors in collaborative research does not affect the eligibility of other applicants.**

✓ By submitting an application, candidates authorize the **Paulo Gontijo Institute** to announce the results and promote the winning research through its institutional publications and communication channels.

✓ **The Award recipient will be invited to present the winning research during the official Award Ceremony held at the Opening Session of the 37th International Symposium on ALS/MND.**

Award Ceremony

The **18th Paulo Gontijo Award** will be presented during the **Opening Session of the 37th International Symposium on ALS/MND**, one of the world's leading scientific meetings dedicated to **Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)** and **Motor Neurone Disease (MND)**.

Venue

📍 **Amsterdam, The Netherlands**

December 9, 2026

The International Symposium on ALS/MND brings together researchers, clinicians, healthcare professionals, patient organizations, and industry leaders from around the world to present scientific advances, exchange knowledge, and strengthen international collaboration in ALS research.

EVALUATION PROCESS

A rigorous, independent, and merit-based scientific evaluation.

Every eligible application undergoes a structured, multi-stage evaluation process designed to ensure fairness, scientific excellence, and transparency.

Stage 1 – Eligibility Review

The Paulo Gontijo Institute verifies that all eligibility requirements, documentation, and submission criteria have been fully met.

No scientific evaluation is conducted during this stage.

Stage 2 – Scientific Review

Eligible applications undergo an independent scientific assessment based on the Award's official evaluation criteria.

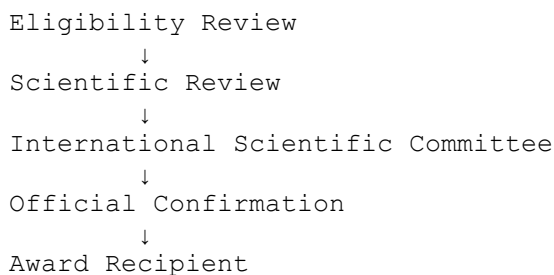
Stage 3 – International Scientific Committee

Applications are independently reviewed and discussed by the **International Scientific Committee**, which conducts the final scientific evaluation and recommends the Award recipient.

Stage 4 – Official Confirmation

The Paulo Gontijo Institute formally validates the selection process and publicly announces the Award recipient.

Evaluation Workflow



Guiding Principle

Final decisions are based exclusively on scientific excellence, originality, methodological quality, and the potential contribution of the research to advancing Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION CRITERIA

Every application is evaluated exclusively on scientific merit.

The International Scientific Committee evaluates all eligible applications using objective, transparent, and internationally recognized scientific criteria.

Evaluation Matrix

A. Scientific Merit of the Submitted Research (70%)

Criterion	Weight
Scientific Impact	30%
Originality & Innovation	20%
Methodological Quality	20%

B. Applicant's Scientific Profile (30%)

Criterion	Weight
Scientific Publications	15%
International Recognition & Scientific Leadership Potential	15%

WHAT THE AWARD OFFERS

More than recognition. A gateway to the international ALS scientific community.

The Paulo Gontijo Award recognizes outstanding young investigators whose work advances the understanding of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

More than a scientific distinction, the Award provides international recognition, professional visibility, and opportunities to engage with one of the world's leading ALS research communities.

The Award Recipient Will Receive

Paulo Gontijo Gold Medal

Awarded in recognition of outstanding scientific excellence and contribution to ALS research.

USD 10,000 Research Prize

Presented in recognition of scientific merit and to encourage the continued development of the recipient's research career.

* Taxes not included

International Scientific Recognition

Recognition by the Paulo Gontijo Institute and its International Scientific Advisory Board, composed of internationally respected leaders in ALS research.

Official Winner Certificate,

Signed by the Chair of the International Scientific Committee

Presentation at the International Symposium on ALS/MND

Invitation to present the winning research during the **Opening Session of the International Symposium on ALS/MND**, the world's leading annual scientific conference dedicated to ALS and Motor Neurone Disease.

This provides exceptional international visibility before researchers, clinicians, healthcare professionals, patient organizations, and industry leaders from around the world.

Complimentary Registration at ENCALS

The recipient will receive **complimentary registration** to the **European Network to Cure ALS (ENCALS) Annual Meeting**, providing an additional opportunity to engage with Europe's leading ALS researchers, expand international collaborations, and strengthen scientific networking.

(Subject to the policies and arrangements established by ENCALS for each edition.)

Appointment to the International Scientific Advisory Board

As part of the Award's commitment to building a lasting international scientific community, the recipient will be invited to join the **International Scientific Advisory Board** for the following edition of the Paulo Gontijo Award.

This honorary appointment allows each recipient to participate in the scientific evaluation process, contributing to the recognition of future generations of researchers while strengthening collaboration, mentorship, and scientific excellence.

A Lasting Scientific Community

The Paulo Gontijo Award believes that scientific recognition should create lasting relationships.

Each recipient becomes part of an international network of researchers committed to advancing ALS science, sharing knowledge, inspiring future investigators, and strengthening global collaboration.

"The Paulo Gontijo Award recognizes scientific excellence today while helping to shape the scientific leaders of tomorrow.

Certain benefits, including participation in partner events, are subject to the policies and operational arrangements of the respective partner organizations."

Evaluation Parameters

Scientific Impact

Assessment of the potential of the research to advance scientific knowledge, improve the understanding of ALS, and contribute to future research, clinical practice, or patient care.

Originality & Innovation

Assessment of the novelty of the research, originality of the scientific question, and contribution to advancing ALS knowledge.

Methodological Quality

Assessment of scientific rigor, study design, statistical robustness, reproducibility, and methodological consistency.

Scientific Publications

Assessment of the applicant's scientific productivity, quality of publications, and contribution to the field of ALS research.

International Recognition & Scientific Leadership Potential

Assessment of the applicant's scientific trajectory, international engagement, collaborations, and potential to become a future leader in ALS research.

"Applications are evaluated independently by each member of the International Scientific Committee. Final recommendations are based exclusively on scientific merit."

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Independent leadership ensuring scientific excellence.

The **International Scientific Committee** is composed of internationally recognized experts in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) research.

Committee members act independently, impartially, and confidentially, evaluating each application exclusively on its scientific merit and in accordance with these Official Regulations.

Members with a declared conflict of interest shall withdraw from the evaluation of the affected application.

The recommendations of the International Scientific Committee are final and are submitted to the Paulo Gontijo Institute for formal confirmation and public announcement.

Responsibilities of the International Scientific Committee

✓ Conduct independent scientific evaluations.

- ✓ Apply the official evaluation criteria consistently and fairly.
 - ✓ Ensure impartiality, confidentiality, and scientific integrity.
 - ✓ Recommend the Award recipient based exclusively on scientific excellence.
-

Guiding Principle

Scientific excellence is achieved through independent evaluation, objective criteria, and the collective expertise of internationally respected researchers.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applications must be submitted exclusively through the official online application platform: <https://awards.ipg.org.br/>

An application will only be considered complete after **all required documents have been successfully uploaded** and the applicant has received an official confirmation email from the Paulo Gontijo Institute.

Required Documents

Applicants must submit:

- ✓ Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- ✓ Valid e-mail address
- ✓ Valid photo identification (passport, national ID card, or driver's license)
- ✓ PDF copy of the scientific article submitted for the Award, published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal
- ✓ Official letter of acceptance for publication (*if the manuscript has been accepted but has not yet been published*)

Important Information

Only the documents expressly requested in these Official Regulations will be considered during the evaluation process.

KEY DATES

Activity	Date
Applications Open	July 13, 2026
Applications Close	September 13, 2026 – 6:00 PM (Brasília Time, UTC–3)
Scientific Evaluation	September 20 – October 11, 2026

Applications submitted after the official deadline will not be accepted.

GOVERNANCE

Ensuring independence, transparency, and scientific integrity.

The **Paulo Gontijo Institute** is responsible for the overall administration of the Paulo Gontijo Award, including:

- ✓ Publishing the Official Regulations.
- ✓ Managing the application process.
- ✓ Verifying eligibility requirements.
- ✓ Providing administrative support to the **International Scientific Advisory Board**.
- ✓ Officially announcing the Award recipient.

The Institute does **not** participate in or influence the scientific evaluation or final decisions of the **International Scientific Advisory Board**.

The scientific evaluation process is conducted independently and in accordance with internationally recognized principles of **research integrity, ethical governance, transparency, and merit-based evaluation**, ensuring the credibility and international reputation of the Paulo Gontijo Award.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

By submitting an application, candidates acknowledge that they have read, understood, and accepted these Official Regulations in their entirety.

The following conditions apply:

✓ **Previous recipients of the Paulo Gontijo Award are not eligible to apply in subsequent editions of the Award. Their participation as co-authors in collaborative research does not affect the eligibility of other applicants.**

✓ By submitting an application, candidates authorize the **Paulo Gontijo Institute** to publicly announce the results and promote the winning research through its institutional publications, website, social media channels, and other communication materials, with due acknowledgment of authorship.

✓ **The recipient of the Paulo Gontijo Award will be invited to present the winning research during the official Award Ceremony, held at the Opening Session of the 37th International Symposium on ALS/MND.**

The **International Symposium on ALS/MND** is the world's leading annual scientific conference dedicated to Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and Motor Neurone Disease (MND), bringing together researchers, clinicians, healthcare professionals, patient organizations, and industry leaders from around the world to present scientific advances and strengthen international collaboration.

✓ **All decisions of the International Scientific Advisory Board are final and not subject to appeal.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contact

 pgaward@ipg.org.br

 www.ipg.org.br/premiopg

Strategic Partners

The Paulo Gontijo Award is made possible through the long-term commitment of institutions and individuals who share a common vision: advancing scientific excellence and accelerating progress in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) research.

The Gontijo Family

Principal Benefactors of the Paulo Gontijo Institute

Providing long-term support for the Paulo Gontijo Award and reinforcing a lasting commitment to scientific research, innovation, and hope for people living with ALS.

MND Association

International Partner since 2010

Supporting the international visibility of the Award and strengthening collaboration with the global ALS and Motor Neurone Disease scientific community.

ENCALS – European Network to Cure ALS

International Partner since 2010

Promoting scientific collaboration and connecting the Award with leading European ALS research centers.

A Shared Vision

Science advances when people and institutions unite around a common purpose. Through collaboration, integrity, and scientific excellence, we continue building a

future with greater knowledge, better treatments, and renewed hope for people living with ALS.

Recognizing Today's Young Scientists.

Advancing Tomorrow's ALS Breakthroughs.

Paulo Gontijo Institute

Brazil

Supported by

(Inserir os logotipos alinhados horizontalmente)

The Gontijo Family | Paulo Gontijo Institute | MND Association | ENCALS

PAULO GONTIJO AWARD

Award Handbook 2026

*Science begins with curiosity.
Discovery begins with research.
Hope begins with those who never stop asking questions.*

Instituto Paulo Gontijo

São Paulo • Brazil

www.ipg.org.br

pgaward@ipg.org.br
