



Thursday 26 November - Sunday 29 November 2026

Biological Psychiatry Congress

Century City Conference Centre, Cape Town

Bridging Brain, Behaviour & Beyond

Dan J. Stein Award for Emerging Leaders in Biological Psychiatry

Scope of the Award

The **Dan J. Stein Award for Emerging Leaders in Biological Psychiatry** recognises outstanding early-career clinicians, clinician-scientists, and basic neuroscientists from South Africa and the African continent who demonstrate excellence, innovation, and leadership potential in the field of biological psychiatry. The award seeks to support and showcase emerging leaders whose work advances understanding of the biological mechanisms underpinning mental disorders, integrates biological approaches with clinical and population-level perspectives, and contributes to improving mental health outcomes in African and global contexts.

The award honours the enduring legacy of Professor Dan J. Stein and his seminal contributions to biological psychiatry and translational neuroscience research, as well as his longstanding commitment to mentorship, training, and capacity building in Africa. Through his scientific leadership and scholarship, he has played a pivotal role in advancing biological psychiatry in South Africa, across the African continent, and internationally.

Professor Stein served as Chair of the Biological Psychiatry Special Interest Group from 1999 to 2004, during which time he helped to strengthen and expand the field locally. He was instrumental in establishing biological psychiatry fellowships and training opportunities for medical students and early-career psychiatrists, and has mentored generations of clinicians and researchers who have gone on to contribute to the field in South Africa and beyond.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible work may span a broad range of topics within biological psychiatry, including (but not limited to) genetics and genomics, neuroimaging, psychoneuroimmunology, neuroendocrinology, pharmacology, experimental psychopathology, computational approaches, and other translational or mechanistic research relevant to mental health and illness.

Applicants must meet **all** of the following criteria:

1. Abstract Submission

- Must have submitted a **scientific abstract** for presentation (poster, oral, symposium, or workshop) at the **South African Biological Psychiatry Congress**.

2. Career Stage

- Must be **early- to mid-career**, defined as:
 - Within **10 years of completion of their highest degree or clinical specialist qualification**, excluding documented career interruptions (e.g., parental leave, illness), **or**
 - Currently in a training or early faculty position (e.g., registrar, fellow, postdoctoral researcher, lecturer, or equivalent).



3. Professional Background

- Open to:
 - Clinicians
 - Clinician-scientists
 - Basic neuroscientists
- Applicants should be actively engaged in research relevant to **biological psychiatry**.

4. Geographic Eligibility

- Open to **South African nationals** and **nationals of other African countries**, regardless of current country of residence, provided the research has relevance to African contexts or populations.

5. Leadership and Contribution

- Applicants should demonstrate **emerging leadership potential**, as evidenced by:
 - Scientific contribution to the submitted abstract
 - Evidence of initiative, mentorship, collaboration, or capacity-building activities
 - A clear trajectory of ongoing engagement in biological psychiatry research or practice

Selection Considerations

In selecting the award recipient, the adjudication panel will consider:

- Scientific quality, originality, and rigour of the submitted abstract
- Relevance to biological psychiatry on the African continent and globally, and translational impact
- Applicant's role and contribution to the work
- Evidence of leadership potential and commitment to the field

Award

The award will be presented at the Biological Psychiatry Congress and will include a monetary prize of R25,000, along with a plaque and certificate.

Application process

1. Submit your abstract through the congress submission portal by 30 April - <https://biopsychsa.co.za/submit-your-oral-poster-abstract/>
2. Submit your application for the award through the REDCap survey by 15 May - <https://redcap.sun.ac.za/surveys/?s=A9XKLM7KK4TDNYKN>