

Guidelines for evaluation of nominations for the Danish Diabetes and Endocrine Academy Awards 2026

DDEA will award three annual awards (of DKK 25,000 each) to recognize world-class research talent and excellence, innovation, and commitment in Danish diabetes and classical endocrine research and research education. These are:

- **DDEA Early-Career Researcher Awards** (two awards of 25,000 DKK each): To be presented to two individual early-career researchers (from Danish research institutions) who each has shown promising research and great potential to be world-class researchers within their fields of expertise and who each has made an important contribution to the understanding and treatment of diabetes and classical endocrine diseases¹. The two awards will be presented to: one early-career researcher within diabetes and one early-career researcher within classical endocrinology.
- **DDEA Research Education and Networking Award**: To be presented to a national or international researcher (at any point of her/his career) who has been engaged in diabetes and/or classical endocrine research education in DDEA and/or the Danish Diabetes Academy (DDA) and shown substantial academic citizenship by raising the knowledge and competences of early-career researchers within DDEA/DDA.

Evaluation

Evaluation process

An award committee will assess the applications. The **award committee** will consist of two members of the DDEA Committee for Education and three members of the DDEA Advisory Board (all appointed by the DDEA Board of Directors).

The following members have been appointed:

From the Committee for Education:

- Ulla Kampmann Opstrup, Steno Diabetes Center Aarhus
- Andreas Buch Møller, Arla Foods (chair)

From the Advisory Board:

- Caroline Kistorp, Rigshospitalet
- Mikael Rydén, Karolinska Institute
- Tanja Thybo, Diabetesforeningen

The Award Committee will base its evaluation on the below-mentioned requirements for nomination and evaluation criteria.

The award committee will discuss the evaluation of the applications during a videoconference and make a prioritized recommendation of the (up to) top three candidates (1-3) for each of the three awards. The recommendation should also include a short written statement of each recommended candidate summarizing how each candidate meets the evaluation criteria described below. The chair of the award committee is responsible for compiling the recommendation for the DDEA Board of Directors, which will make the final decision.

¹ Research areas include: diabetes, thyroid disorders, calcium and bone metabolism, pituitary and adrenal gland diseases, gonadal diseases, other endocrine areas such as anorexia nervosa, bariatrics, endocrinopathy, multiple endocrine disorders, nutrition and electrolytes, exercise physiology, obesity, other metabolism.

The DDEA Board of Directors reserves the right to not give out the awards if the DDEA award committee is not able to recommend at least three candidates (for each of the three awards in order to ensure diversity of research area, gender and geography).

Evaluation criteria

The below evaluation criteria must be considered when evaluating the applications. The award committee must score each of the evaluation criteria on a scale from 1 to 5 (5 being highest).

For the DDEA Early-Career Researcher Awards, the Award Committee must ensure that *one* award goes to an early-career researcher within diabetes (i.e. recommend up to three candidates within diabetes) and that *one* award goes to an early-career researcher within classical endocrinology (i.e. recommend up to three candidates within classical endocrinology). The nominators will be asked to indicate the research area of the nominee in their nominations, and the Award Committee will be responsible for ensuring that the two awards are allocated broadly across diabetes and classical endocrinology.

Evaluation criteria for the DDEA Early-Career Researcher Awards	Score (1 to 5)
Quality and originality of the candidate's research – has the candidate made an important contribution to the understanding of his/her research area?	
Innovative potential of the candidate's research: - Has the candidate developed a new method or does the candidate use up-to-date methods in a new setting? - Has the candidate filed a patent or established a spin out company? - Has the candidate set-up a new standard for treatment or been involved in setting up new guidelines for treatment based on his/her research?	
Publications of the candidate, including publications in high impact journals, in relation to the candidate's research area and the candidate's years of experience with diabetes/classical endocrine research.	
The number of invited oral presentations at international conferences of the candidate.	
The candidate's engagement in public dissemination of his/her research and results thereof, i.e. on social media, in the press or in the public in general.	
The candidate's external funding record.	
The commitment and passion of the candidate – has the candidate been involved in planning of courses/conferences, supervision/mentoring or teaching?	
Has the candidate been engaged in the three funding focus areas of DDEA: 1) international collaboration; 2) interdisciplinary translational research; 3) collaboration across sectors?	

Evaluation criteria for DDEA Research Education and Networking Award	Score (1 to 5)
The candidate's overall experience with research education and training or networking and collaboration activities within DDEA and/or DDA, i.e. number and role of the candidate's involvement in DDEA/DDA activities.	
Quality and innovative potential of the candidate's achievements and engagement in research education and networking within DDEA and/or DDA:	

Evaluation criteria for DDEA Research Education and Networking Award	Score (1 to 5)
- Does the candidate take action toward creating an inclusive and involving learning and networking environment, e.g. incorporate (new) pedagogic approaches and learning methods? - Does the candidate support the setting of high, but realistic aims and learning objectives for the individual DDEA/DDA activities? - Does the candidate incorporate specific activities, e.g. challenge-based or collaborative learning: - That support interdisciplinary thinking, learning and networking? - That enhance the knowledge and competences of early-career researchers? - That meaningfully engage them and help them i) foster critical and dynamic thinking; ii) link what they have learned to their own research or work; iii) take a methodological approach to the issues relevant to the individual course; and iv) develop personal and interpersonal competences? - That result in future related activities, further participation or involvement of the participants (after the activity), or a significant outcome/impact? - Does the candidate incorporate specific activities in the individual DDEA activities that support networking and collaborations among early-career researchers and participants of the individual DDEA/DDA activities, and that are relevant across research fields, sectors and internationally? - Has the candidate been involved in setting new standards for research education and networking within DDEA and/or DDA and contributed to improvements of the DDEA/DDA activities, i.e. suggesting, encouraging and disseminating new or improved models for research education and networking?	
The engagement, commitment and passion of the candidate: Has the candidate been involved in planning of courses/conferences, supervision/mentoring or teaching beyond the DDEA and DDA (nationally or internationally to the larger academic community), further underlining the above-mentioned quality and innovation of the candidate?	

Conflicts of interest and incapacity

The DDEA Secretariat will ask the members of the award committee to report any conflicts of interest or incapacities (personal or professional (such as e.g. joint publications or close research collaboration with the nominee(s) within the past five years). In case of conflicts of interest or incapacities reported by one of the members of the award committee, the DDEA Secretariat will consider whether the reported conflicts of interest constitute an incapacity and thus disqualify the member in question from evaluating the specific nomination. If so, the member in question will abstain from participating in the decision-making and discussions regarding the specific nomination.

The members of the award committee cannot nominate candidates or be nominated themselves for the three awards.

Nomination

The DDEA Secretariat will notify the three awardees for the DDEA Awards 2026 of the decision and invite them to take part in the award ceremony on 22 January 2026.

The three winners will be awarded each DKK 25,000.