DISCOVERY award statute for innovation in biomedical research

DISCOVERY Award is annually awarded by Novartis Company (hereinafter only as company) to young researchers under 40 years old who have contributed to the extraordinary shift in the field of medicine and pharmacy.

The award was established to promote research and development in medicine and pharmacy. The company wants to support and encourage brave and innovative achievements that will benefit patients, improve their quality of life and also contribute to the innovative potential of the Czech healthcare and pharmacy. Novartis wants to encourage especially the young generation of researchers and motivate them to be more interested in working in the Czech Republic.

I. EVALUATION COMMITTEE
The Evaluation Committee has ten members and is composed of renowned experts who have been working in the healthcare environment for a long time.

Prof. MUDr. Tomáš Zíma, DrSc., Vice-dean 1.LF UK
Prof. MUDr. Jan Žaloudík, CSc., Senator, Senate PSP ČR
Prof. MUDr. Vladimír Beneš, DrSc., Head of the neurosurgical Department, ÚVN
Doc. JUDr. Ing. Ivan Malý, vice-rector, Faculty of Economics and Management, Masaryk University, Brno
Bc. Vladimír Kotera, MBA, Head of external relations, ČPZP
Prof. MUDr. Jiří Vorlíček, CSc., President of the Czech Oncological Society
Prof. MUDr. Vladimír Tesař, DrSc., Head of the department of Nephrology, VFN Praha
MUDr. Marek Zeman, MBA, Director, VFN Královské Vinohrady
Prof. MUDr. Tereza Pelikánová, CSc., head of Diabetes Centre, IKEM
MUDr. Pavel Březovský, MBA, Director of SÚKL

Membership in the evaluation committee is held for three years, while repeated membership is possible only under the founder’s consent.

II. THE AREA OF COMPETITION
The competition is promulgated for the Biomedicines field, focusing on the following areas:

1. Innovative clinical, diagnostic and preventive approaches
2. Basic research in the biomedical field
3. Prototypes of tools and equipment, including ICT solutions

III. EVALUATION CRITERIA
a) Originality
b) Applicability
c) Social contribution
d) Potential economic impact
IV. THE PRIZE
This year the company announces 2 prices in a total amount of 200 000 Kč. Maximum amount of one price is 100 000 Kč. Novartis will specify the amount of the prize for each subsequent year. Registration for the competition can be made via internet application at www.discoveryaward.eu. Each application must include a confirmation of the source of funding of the innovative work that is entering the competition. The financial amount will be transferred by bank transfer to the account of the laureate. The prize can also be in a form of non-financial performance (i.e. stay in a research center abroad, etc.). In case a team of authors wins the prize, the prize will be given to the first author of the work, who then decides on the distribution of the prize among other members of the team.

V. EVALUATION PROCESS
The evaluation process is held in two rounds. For the first round, the jury may determine an assessment mechanism, based on which each member of the jury will evaluate all the entries, or a reporter of a particular work will be determined and then will focus on a specific area of innovation (for example, areas). After the first round, the jury has the right to require additional documentation or measures of innovation, or go to a site visit. The jury decides on the results of the first round in the second round and afterwards presents any additional information about the number of awards, or order, and the allocated financial amount.

For the purposes of the final decision, the jury meets in a session after evaluation is given to individual contributions. The final decision is accepted and the results of individual evaluations are confirmed during the meeting, when an absolute majority of all the members of the jury are present and vote. In case of a draw of votes, the vote of the chairman of the jury decides.

The final vote in the jury is undergone either through a secret or a public vote, while it is the Commission who will determine before the session how the voting will be done. The jury has the right to invite an advisor, but the advisor has no right to vote.

VI. REGISTRATION
In 2013, the innovative achievements published or implemented in 2012 will be evaluated. In the subsequent years, it will always be for the one calendar year.

The Competition for the prestigious awards for 2012 is announced by the company in 2013 before the end of January 2013 at the latest, in professional medical printed media, on the Discovery Award website and in other healthcare related media. In subsequent years, the term of awards announcement may be changed.

Natural persons who present that their work was done for the most part - more than 50% - in the Czech Republic, or those, whose work was created with more than 50% of Czech Republic citizenship contribution may compete.

If the work has multiple authors, the main author has to present a written consent of all the co-authors that they agree with the application for competition.
VII. DEADLINES
The deadline for registration is 15th March 2013, at 5 p.m.

The announcement of the competition results will take place no later than by 30th June 2013. The winning prices will be announced at a gala prize awards session.

VIII. FINAL PROVISIONS
If any of the work was applied and evaluated from a workplace/office of one of the members of the jury, that member shall not participate in the evaluation of this work.

The jury in some cases (depending on the type of innovation) holds the right to visit a workplace where the innovation is applied or used (site visit).

The award is given to the winner by the head of the jury and Novartis s.r.o. delegate in a festive manner.

The jury holds the right to even withhold from awarding the prize, or to modify the conditions of competition in the following year.