

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

October 05, 2026

MTZ-Helmholtz Health Award 2027

funded by the MTZ®stiftung

Aim of the funding

The prize, funded by the MTZ®stiftung, is aimed at scientists working in the research field of Helmholtz Health in the area of medically oriented systems biology or systems medicine. It serves as a recognition for outstanding scientific achievements in the scientific start-up and development phase and is intended to support and encourage the award winners to continue their scientific careers in the field of systems biology / systems medicine.

Information on the Foundation

Founded in 2006 and supported by the Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft (Donors' Association for the Promotion of Sciences and Humanities in Germany), the MTZ®stiftung¹ pursues the goal of sustainably working for a promising future - for a life in the best possible health and dignity. The focus is on medically oriented systems biology, systems medicine and bioethics. The promotion of up-and-coming young scientists is of particular importance to the Foundation.

With the MTZ-Helmholtz Health Award for early career researchers in the field of Helmholtz Health, the MTZ®stiftung donates a permanent prize for outstanding achievements in medically oriented systems biology or systems medicine.

The administration of the selection process is carried out by the Head Office of the Helmholtz Association.

Criteria for the selection of the award winners

The funding is aimed at researchers up to four years after receiving their doctoral degree, whereby the date of the doctoral thesis examination at the university and the date on which the application must be submitted to the Helmholtz Head Office are decisive for the period².

¹ <https://www.mtzstiftung.de/>

² For both, female and male researchers, the time after the doctorate is extended by the duration of the parental leave actually taken per child (with a maximum of 18 months in total).

Candidates should distinguish themselves through outstanding scientific achievements and publications in high impact international journals or similar formats. A prerequisite is their research activity in the field of medically oriented systems biology or systems medicine, preferably with the potential for innovative clinical applications for prevention, detection or treatment of diseases³.

This award not only acknowledges the quality of the dissertation but also requires that the candidates have established a reputation in their early post-doctoral phase. Their research outcomes must have attracted attention within the specific academic community, indicating that they are likely to continue performing exceptionally in the future.

At the time of nomination, candidates must be employed at one of the Centers active in the research field Helmholtz Health.

Duration and object of the funding

The prize, first awarded in 2024, has been awarded biennially since 2025. The successful candidate will receive a one-time **prize money of 5,000 euros**, granted by the MTZ®stiftung, to be used for scientific purposes.

Application

Each Center involved in the research field Helmholtz Health⁴ can nominate one candidate. The pre-selection of candidates is the responsibility of the Center. **The nominations** shall be submitted to the Helmholtz Head Office via the Executive Boards of the Centers by **February 25, 2027**. Self-nominations by candidates are not permitted.

Proposals should be submitted by e-mail to Dr. Anna Tschaut
anna.tschaut@helmholtz.de

³ In line with the Foundation's objective: <https://www.mtzstiftung.de/>

⁴ DKFZ, Helmholtz Munich, MDC, HZI, DZNE, HZDR

Documents to be submitted

The following documents must be submitted as one PDF document in the order listed:

- **Cover sheet** with the following information:
 - Name and address (incl. e-mail and telephone) of the candidate
 - Helmholtz Centre, Institute, Research Group
 - Summary of the research topic (max. 250 words), incl. 5-6 key words
 - Date of the doctoral thesis examination at the university
- Copy of the **doctoral certificate**
- **Curriculum vitae and list of publications** (max.4 pages)
 - incl. awards, scholarships, stays abroad, lectures/posters at conferences etc.
 - the five most significant publications of the candidate are to be highlighted in the publication list
- **Letter of recommendation** from director of the Center and/or supervisor containing the following information (max. 2 pages each):
 - Rationale for selection (also with regard to medically oriented systems biology or systems medicine)
 - Assessment of previous scientific achievements and scientific potential in the field of medically oriented systems biology or systems medicine
- **Letter of motivation** from the candidate (max. 3 pages)
 - Relation of own research to the research field of medically oriented systems biology or systems medicine
 - Contribution to scientific knowledge in the field of medically oriented systems biology or systems medicine.
 - Future scientific planning/orientation of research in the field of medically oriented systems biology or systems medicine

Decision-making procedure and prize allocation

The selection of the award winners is based on the evaluation of the Helmholtz Association's Management Board Health. A personal presentation of the candidates is not included in the process.

The award ceremony will take place together with the Helmholtz Doctoral Award in 2027 in Berlin.

Application deadline and timetable

25 February 2027 Deadline for submitting nominations from Helmholtz Centers to the Helmholtz Head Office

18 March 2027 Deadline for forwarding formally eligible nominations to the Management Board Helmholtz Health by the Head Office

13 May 2027 Notification from the Management Board to the Head Office regarding the selected award winner

Subsequently in 2027 Granting of the MTZ-Helmholtz Health Award in Berlin

Contact persons

Questions regarding the scientific scope of the call can be addressed to Dr. Katja S. Grossmann (katja.grossmann@helmholtz.de). For procedural questions, please contact Dr. Anna Tschaut (anna.tschaut@helmholtz.de).