

BDH – Otto Löwenstein RESEARCH AWARD 2026



INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

The BDH – Otto Löwenstein Research Award, worth 5000 €, recognizes and rewards neurorehabilitation, neuropsychological and psychopathological research published by junior scientists (< 40 years of age)

The BDH - Bundesverband Rehabilitation (Federal Association for Rehabilitation), a charity serving people with neuro-disabilities with clinical services, social rehabilitation support and research for more than 100 years announces this biennial research award that had been commenced in 2020 again for 2026.

Named after Professor Otto Löwenstein in recognition of his contribution to neurological research, the award is open to researchers worldwide.

Otto Löwenstein (1889 - 1965) was Professor of Psychopathology at the University of Bonn and was closely associated with a forerunner of the present BDH Bundesverband Rehabilitation (Federal Association for Rehabilitation), a federation of brain-injured soldiers, to whom he gave selfless help. Of Jewish origin, he was maligned and driven into exile from a local Nazi faction among them.

He settled first in Switzerland and then in New York. After the war, he was reinstated by Bonn University, but he remained in the USA.

Entries for the BDH – Otto Löwenstein Research Award are welcome from clinicians, researchers and allied health professionals.

Entry categories

Entries can involve published research (high-quality doctorate* incl. Ph.D., habilitation, or first author peer-review publication published within 2 years in either English or German) from research areas related to neurorehabilitation including neuropsychology and psychopathology, i.e.:

- Translational research with high clinical application potential
- Observational or experimental clinical study (non-RCT or RCT)
- Evidence synthesis (including meta-analyses)
- Health care research (including implementation science research)

* grade magna or summa cum laude or equivalent

The entries must demonstrate a direct difference to patient outcome or a high clinical application potential in case of translational research.

5000 € prize

There is a single prize of 5000 Euros.

How to apply

Each entrant must complete the Application Form, submit an electronic Copy of the Published Research (PDF), and a Summary of maximally 1000 words describing the research and its impact. Please use the criteria (1 to 7) stated below to structure your summary.

Entry criteria

Entries for the BDH – Otto Löwenstein Research Award are welcome from qualified junior clinicians, researchers and allied health professionals below the age of 40 years (on the 15th of April 2026).

The project must be the applicant's own research work related to neurorehabilitation including neuropsychology and psychopathology.

The documented research must demonstrate a clinically relevant benefit to the patient or a high clinical application potential in case of translational research.

Work must have been published within the last 24 months (at date of entry; criterion is the date of publication or the date of the official document for doctorate* incl. Ph.D. submissions).

The published research needs to be written in either English or German, the summary in English.

Evaluation

Each application will be evaluated by a panel of judges according to the following criteria:

1. Title and description
2. Objectives
3. Methodology
4. Results
5. Discussion
6. Patient benefits / translational potential
7. Innovation

The decision of the judges is final and no correspondence can be entered into.

Closing date for entries is 15th April 2026.

Contact details

If you have any queries, please contact:

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