

The Oskar Fischer Prize FAQ

What will winners receive?

The contest will award up to \$4 million USD in Oskar Fischer Prizes, including a grand prize of \$2 million, two second place prizes of \$500,000 each, and four third place prizes of \$250,000 each.

I love this idea, how can I help spread awareness?

Follow us on Facebook for updates: <https://www.facebook.com/oskarfischerprize/> and share our website: <https://oskarfischerprize.com/>

How can I submit an entry?

Competitors need to create an account on EasyChair.org. Please use the following link:

<https://easychair.org/my/conference?conf=ofp2020#>

This link will take you to a landing page to create an account. Once the account is approved, the link will take you to the OFP 2020 (author) page where you can fill in the information forms and upload your entry files. *See screenshots of Easychair in Appendix 1 below.*

How do I know my submission was received?

After your files are uploaded, Easychair provides a screen that informs you which number in the contest your submission is, as well as the dates and time it was received. *See screenshot of Easychair in Appendix 2 below.*

Am I eligible to enter this contest?

You must be 18 years or older at the time of submission. We are looking for entries from anyone around the world, as long as they don't reside in a country prohibited from entering into trade relations with the U.S.

How many submissions can I make?

Only one submission is allowed per individual participant. Updated or revised files are allowed to replace any previously submitted file until the contest deadline on December 15, 2020. No team submissions permitted.

What would a winning submission look like?

A winning submission is the best idea that explains Alzheimer's disease (AD). The contest was conceived to promote innovative thinking. With over 130,000 articles regarding AD on the internet, the answer(s) for AD may have already been researched and found. We are looking for a brilliant synthesis that fits all the pieces together in an ingeniously written 10 page explanation. No science degree required.

Can original work be submitted?

Yes, absolutely. The explanation must fit within 10 pages of text in the "Entry" file, and unlimited pages in the "Figures" file.

Can I enter my idea to the Oskar Fischer Prize if it is currently under review for publication or already published? Yes, the contest will not preclude your work, as long as the entry complies with our formatting instructions as well as copyright or other intellectual property permissions.

How will the contest entries be reviewed?

The contest will use a double-blind review, therefore your name or other personally identifying information should not be included in either the "Entry" file, or the "Figures" file.

How do I submit an updated or revised file?

Follow instructions on EasyChair: To view or update your existing submission click on the corresponding "view" icon. This takes you to a page with the link to "Update files" that may be used to replace a previous file. *See screenshot of EasyChair in Appendix 2 below.*

What will UTSA do with my entry?

The prize winning entries as well as other entries may be published and made available to the public in order to promote progress in the field of Alzheimer's disease.

What about intellectual property rights?

UTSA makes no claim on, and is otherwise not responsible for, any intellectual property submitted by a Competitor. Third-party confidential, proprietary and/or highly personal information should not be submitted, and UTSA assumes no responsibility or liability for such.

How will winners be selected?

UTSA will work closely with an interdisciplinary committee of outstanding scientists to award the Oskar Fischer Prizes.

Who makes up the Interdisciplinary Committee?

UTSA is in the process of carefully vetting and selecting the independent technical reviewers/jurists from the Alzheimer's and neurosciences community that will compose an open-minded interdisciplinary committee.

Is this the only Oskar Fischer Prize – or first of its kind in Alzheimer's?

The Oskar Fischer Prize is currently a one-time contest running from December 2019 to December 2020. There exist other *prizes* relating to innovations in Alzheimer's disease. The Oskar Fischer Prize is distinguished by its systems approach - meaning that the 10 page text should give a broad explanation to how interrelated and interdependent factors define AD. Furthermore, the prizes are to be personal winnings; the Oskar Fischer Prize is not an application for a grant request or research project.

When will winners be selected?

Winners will be announced in 2021.

Who is Oskar Fischer?

Oskar Fischer was a pioneer in neuroscience who studied dementia at the same time as Alois Alzheimer, for whom the disease is named. Oskar Fischer's work met a very high standard for research, for example his 1907 paper described the presence of plaques in 12 out of 16 dementia cases, four being senile dementia. It also provided the first description of neuritic plaques, accompanied with detailed drawings of the plaques. The rigor of his work was further supported by the fact that he included descriptions of 10 controls that didn't have dementia or plaques.

In contrast, Alois Alzheimer's 1907 paper described a single patient, Auguste Deter, whom Alzheimer observed for a period of 6 months when she was first admitted. His follow-on clinical observations were second-hand from Perusini who had observed her for three of the remaining five years of her life. Arteriosclerosis appears to be the cause of her death in 1906 at the age of 55, at which time Alzheimer examined her brain. Recent DNA analysis of her brain had a first

study yielding a positive result for an early onset gene variant and a second study yielding a negative result. Further testing needs to be done.

Not only was Oskar Fischer a successful research scientist with numerous publications, he was also a very successful entrepreneur and businessman, founding a sanitarium with his cousin Leo Kosak. In 1908 they purchased the Chateau Veleslavin for their sanitarium. Oskar Fischer's fortune continued until the Germans invaded Czechoslovakia in 1939, at which time he was deposed from his teaching position because of his Jewish heritage. It was this same year that the Nazi (National Socialist) Gestapo appropriated the sanitarium. The Gestapo arrested Oskar Fischer in early 1941 and deported him to the Small Fortress at Theresienstadt, a prison similar to Dachau in Germany. According to neighbor and fellow colleague, Vladimir Vondracek, Oskar Fischer died on February 28, 1942 after being severely beaten.

Who/how was the Prize founded?

To expand the understanding and explanation of Alzheimer's disease, Texas businessman Dr. James Truchard gave a \$5 million USD gift to The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) College of Sciences to establish the Oskar Fischer Prize.

Dr. Truchard's generous gift will create an international initiative engaging those within and outside of the research community to assess the work done in Alzheimer's through a comprehensive study of articles and research that synthesizes the information into one explanation for the cause of Alzheimer's disease.

Who is Dr. James Truchard?

Dr. Truchard is the co-founder and retired president of the U.S.-based technology company National Instruments. Truchard conceptualized and established the Oskar Fischer Prize to engage the world's brightest minds.

Appendix 1

Screenshots of the EasyChair portal for new submission.

The screenshot shows the 'New Submission for OFP 2020' page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'New Submission', 'Submission 1', 'OFP 2020', 'Premium', 'CFP', 'News', and 'EasyChair'. The page title is 'New Submission for OFP 2020'. Below the title, there is a section for 'OFP 2020 Submission Instructions' with a 'Read instructions' button. The 'Address for Correspondence' section contains several input fields: 'Address, line 1:', 'Address, line 2:', 'City:', 'Post code:', 'State (US only) *:' (with a dropdown menu set to 'TX'), and 'Country/region: *:' (with a dropdown menu set to 'United States'). Below this is the 'Author Information' section, which includes a note: 'Please fill out the form below. Some items on the form are explained here:' and a bullet point: '• Email address will only be used for communication with the author. It will not appear in public Web pages of this conference.'

This screenshot shows the same 'New Submission for OFP 2020' page as above, but with a modal window open. The modal window is titled 'OFP 2020 Submission Instructions' and contains the following text: 'All submissions must be original. Please refer to [OFP Rules](#) for the complete submission guidelines. Submission instructions are as follows:'. It lists seven numbered instructions: 1. The 'Entry' file allows a maximum of 10 pages in English, single-spaced (figures are optional and will not count towards the page limit); 2. It is the competitor's responsibility to obtain copyright permission for any non-original materials; 3. Competitor identifying information will be recorded in the Author Information form; 4. No personally identifying information in the 'Entry' or 'Figures' files of the submission; 5. Keywords: 5 word maximum; 6. Figures: no page limit; 7. Bibliography: no page limit. Below the instructions, there is a section titled 'CONTACT' with the text: 'All questions about submissions should be emailed to oskarfischerprize@utsa.edu'. The background of the page is dimmed, and the 'Read instructions' button is visible in the background.

Author Information

Please fill out the form below. Some items on the form are explained here:

- **Email address** will only be used for communication with the author. It will not appear in public Web pages of this conference.
- **Web page** can be used on the conference Web pages, for example, for making the program. It should be a Web page of the author, not the Web page of her or his organization.

Author

First name [†] :	<input type="text" value="Roxana"/>
Last name *	<input type="text" value="Richardson"/>
Email: *	<input type="text" value="roxana.richardson@utsa.edu"/>
Country/region: *	<input type="text" value="United States"/>
Organization: *	<input type="text" value="UTSA"/>
Web page:	<input type="text"/>

[†] Note: leave first name blank if there is no first name. If you are not sure how to divide a name into the first and last name, [read the Help article about names.](#)

Title and Abstract

The title and the abstract should be entered as plain text, they should not contain HTML elements.

Title: *	<input type="text"/>
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Title and Abstract

The title and the abstract should be entered as plain text, they should not contain HTML elements.

Title: *	<input type="text"/>
<i>The abstract should not exceed 250 words</i>	
Abstract: *	<input type="text"/>

Keywords

Type a list of keywords (also known as key phrases or key terms), **one per line** to characterize your submission. You should specify at least three keywords.

<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>

Keywords:

Files

Entry. Remove personally identifying information. Upload your entry. The work must be in PDF format (file extension .pdf)

(10 pages maximum)

No file chosen

Figures. Remove personally identifying information. Upload any Figures in PDF format. They may be original figures or from primary research. It is the Competitor's responsibility to obtain copyright permission for any non-original materials.

There is no page limit

No file chosen

Bibliography. Upload bibliography in PDF format. There is no page limit

No file chosen

Ready?

If you filled out the form, press the 'Submit' button below. **Do not press the button twice: uploading may take time!**

Appendix 2

Screenshot of the EasyChair portal after submission is uploaded, or after the View icon (magnifying glass) is clicked.

OFP 2020 Submission 9

If you want to **change any information** about your paper, use links in the upper right corner.

For all questions related to processing your submission you should contact the conference organizers. [Click here to see information about this conference.](#)

Submission 9

Title:	Oskar Fischer Prize Rules
Figures:	(Jan 15, 20:10 GMT)
Bibliography:	(Jan 15, 20:10 GMT)
Entry:	(Jan 15, 20:10 GMT)
Author keywords:	test submission exemplar
EasyChair keyphrases:	selection committee (60)
Abstract:	Essentially this is a testing submission.
Submitted:	Jan 15, 20:10 GMT
Last update:	Jan 15, 20:10 GMT
Address:	UTSA College of Sciences One Utsa Circle San Antonio, TX 78249 United States

Authors

first name	last name	email	country	organization	Web page	corresponding?
Roxana	Richardson	roxana.richardson@utsa.edu	United States	UTSA		✓

You may click on the icons highlighted in the screenshot to open and check on the files that you have uploaded. If you need to come back and revise information, use the links in the upper right corner to update information before the contest closes.

EasyChair will send you an email confirming receipt of your submission.