

The Pardes Humanitarian Prize In Mental Health 2025



Nomination Packet

The Pardes Humanitarian Prize in Mental Health

March 25, 2025

Dear Colleague,

We are delighted to invite you to submit a nomination for the Pardes Humanitarian Prize in Mental Health, to be awarded by the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation in October of this year.

Established by the late Stephen and Constance Lieber and the BBRF, this International Prize was named in honor of Dr. Herbert Pardes. It recognizes physicians, scientists, public citizens, or organizations whose extraordinary contributions have made a profound impact on advancing the understanding of mental health and providing hope and healing for people who are living with mental illness.

The recipient of the Pardes Humanitarian Prize in Mental Health will receive an honorarium of \$50,000, and we hope to formally present the prize at the 2025 International Awards Dinner in October in New York City. A distinguished International Selection Committee will evaluate all nominations and select the Prize recipient(s).

Funding discoveries that lead to a deeper understanding of the brain and better ways of treating, curing and ultimately preventing mental illness has been the mission of the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation since its founding in the 1980s, when it was called NARSAD, National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression. Since that time, over \$462 million has been granted to scientists around the world, enabling countless discoveries and breakthroughs that are paving the road to better treatments of diseases of the brain.

The Pardes Humanitarian Prize in Mental Health is unique in that there are no restrictions placed on the field or discipline of the nominees. The Prize is intended to recognize a person or organization whose work is transformative and of great magnitude, changing the lives and bringing the joy of living to those facing challenges to mental health.

Nomination details are attached. Please forward your nomination via email no later than **Wednesday, April 23, 2025**, to: Sho Tin Chen, Vice President, Research Grants and Programs at schen@bbrfoundation.org the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation.

Your participation in this effort means a great deal. Working together we can make a powerful difference in the futures of those living with mental illness.

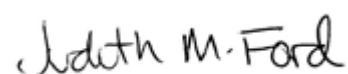
With our sincere thanks,



Geoffrey A. Simon
Chair, Board of Directors



Jeffrey Borenstein, M.D.
President and CEO



Judith M. Ford, Ph.D.
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The Pardes Humanitarian Prize in Mental Health

History

The Pardes Humanitarian Prize in Mental Health, named in honor of Herbert Pardes, M.D., was inaugurated in 2014 at a reception of the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation. The Prize was intended both to honor the humanitarian achievements of Dr. Herbert Pardes and to establish recognition of similar achievements by others in the years ahead.

Recognizing, as the World Health Organization has emphasized, that mental illness is one of the largest health challenges in the world, the Foundation aims to honor people who will overcome and help others to overcome that challenge.

In establishing this Prize, the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation Board of Directors acknowledges the urgency of enhancing mental health services both in the developed world and in developing countries. It sees a vast challenge that will be better met when there is broad recognition of what can be accomplished by exceptional individuals with profound understanding of the challenges and strong humanitarian instincts.

Description of the Prize

The Prize consists of an honorarium of \$50,000. The Prize is intended to both honor the efforts of the recipient(s) and support their work going forward.

Prize Criteria

The Pardes Humanitarian Prize in Mental Health, an international prize, recognizes physicians, scientists, public citizens, or organizations whose extraordinary contributions have made a profound and lasting impact by improving the lives of people suffering from mental illness and advancing the understanding of mental health.

This Prize is foremost a humanitarian award.

The ideal candidate will most likely have made a series of contributions of magnitude, rather than one specific contribution.

Contributions can be varied and there is not one path toward becoming the successful candidate.

Though research can be a strong asset for a candidate's nomination, it is not required. This type of work must also have extended beyond research toward a humanitarian effort.

Past recipients have made a wide breadth of contributions including serving the underserved, legislative reform, judicial reform, advocacy for those without a voice, working in disaster and war zones, and working with senior populations.

Most notably, the candidate's work is or has been transformative.

There are no restrictions on the candidate's discipline or field of service. The candidates may be public servants, physicians, advocates, philanthropists, business leaders, scientists, celebrities, inventors, or organizations. They may come from an unlikely field.

No one has better described the goals of this international Prize than Dr. Pardes himself. He saw the Prize as a vehicle for broadening attention to, and understanding of, the burden of mental illness on individuals and on society.

He said, "Society has found ways of recognizing contributions in basic science, clinical research, and clinical care in the non-psychiatric health fields. This Prize is designed to recognize individuals who comprehensively care, teach, investigate, work, and advocate for improving the mental health of society while simultaneously reducing the pain that psychiatric illness causes."

Characteristics of the recipient should include a focus on humanitarianism, as well as significant contributions to education, prevention, research, administration, clinical care, mentoring and advocacy for policies in support of mental health.

Nomination Requirements

1. Concise nomination (**maximum 250 words**) describing contributions of nominee(s) and why the nominee(s) should be considered for this prize.
2. Biography of nominee(s) with focus on humanitarian efforts (**maximum 3 pages**).
3. Up to 2 supporting letters from colleagues may be included (**optional**).
4. Please email this as one single document labeled: "**Last Name, First Name 2025 Pardes Humanitarian Prize in Mental Health**" to Sho Tin Chen, Director, Research Grants, at schen@bbrfoundation.org of the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation by **Wednesday, April 23, 2025**.

Additional Information

Who is eligible to be nominated?

Anyone or any organization that has made a profound and lasting contribution to mental health awareness is eligible for nomination.

May more than one person be nominated?

Yes, more than one person may be nominated.

Is this an international prize?

Yes, this Prize is intended to have a global reach. Prize winners may reside in any country of the world. Invited nominators and members of the Selection Committee were chosen with this in mind.

Who may submit a nomination?

Nominations are solicited by invitation. Self-nominations will not be considered.

How long does a nomination remain in effect?

Nominations will stand for three years. If the nominee is not selected after that time a candidate must be re-nominated in order to be reconsidered for the Pardes Humanitarian Prize in Mental Health.

Are there limits to how many nominations may be submitted by a single institution?

No, there are no limits, and all strong nominations are encouraged.

Will the Pardes Humanitarian Prize in Mental Health be given every year?

Yes, the intention is to award this Prize annually.

Where can we find the listing of all Pardes Humanitarian Prize in Mental Health winners?

Examples and more information of Pardes prize winners can be found below and part of this nomination packet. Prizewinner information can also be found on the BBRF Website: [Past Pardes Prizewinners](#).

Are the word limits on nomination forms enforced?

Yes, word limits are necessary because of the volume of nominations received. This will allow the members of the Selection Committee to evaluate all the nominations in an efficient and timely manner.

Are letters of support required?

Supporting letters are not required but they are helpful to the Selection Committee. A maximum of two supporting letters may be included with each nomination. If necessary, support letters may be sent by email to Sho Tin Chen, Vice President, Research Grants & Programs at schen@bbrfoundation.org.

Is the nomination process confidential?

All nominations, support letters and nominating materials are kept strictly confidential.

How are nominations evaluated?

A distinguished International Selection Committee, chaired by Dr. Judith Ford, will evaluate all nominations. The Committee is responsible for the selection of the Prize recipient.

When is the recipient notified?

The Prize recipient will be notified in the summer. The public announcement of the 2025 recipient will take place at a later date.

When will the Prize be presented?

The Pardes Humanitarian Prize in Mental Health will be formally presented at the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation's 2025 International Awards Dinner in October in New York City.

For additional information, please contact:

Name: Sho Tin Chen
Email: schen@bbrfoundation.org
Address: Brain & Behavior Research Foundation
747 Third Avenue, 33rd Floor
New York, NY 10017

The Pardes Humanitarian Prize in Mental Health

Nomination for the Pardes Humanitarian Prize in Mental Health

Name of Nominee(s)

Name of Nominator(s)

Describe the contributions of the nominee(s) and the reasons why the nominee(s) should be considered for this prize. (**Maximum 250 words**)

Limit response to 250 words.

Past Pardes Humanitarian Prize in Mental Health Recipients

2024 | Franca Ma-ih Sulem Yong Akinboboye

Franca Ma-ih Sulem Yong Akinboboye is a Cameroonian Creative Art Therapist/Psychologist who has become known for her advocacy to promote tolerance, forgiveness, mental health and human fraternity as keys to sustainable peace.

2023 | Special Olympics International

Special Olympics International had a profound and lasting humanitarian impact around the world through its dedication to providing year-round sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. They are a powerful force in the efforts to reduce stigma and raise awareness about the mental health needs of individuals with intellectual disabilities.

2022 | Altha J. Stewart, M.D. & Robert van Voren, Ph.D., FRCPsych (Hon)

Altha J. Stewart, M.D. is a pioneering voice in America about structural racism and its impact on mental health treatment for people of color. She has dedicated her career to helping the most disadvantaged and underserved people living with serious mental illnesses in our society. She established the Center for Health in Justice Involved Youth at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Robert van Voren has devoted his life to the cause of human rights and mental health. For 45 years his dynamic leadership and global efforts have provided much-needed direction as well as practical support for making human rights a strong pillar of how societies deal with persons living with mental illness.

2021 | Kay Redfield Jamison, Ph.D., Elyn R. Saks, J.D., Ph.D., Charlene Sunkel

Kay Redfield Jamison, Ph.D., is a powerful advocate for mental health awareness and an inspiration to those living with bipolar disorder. Through her candid autobiography, she shares her personal struggles, challenges stigma, and explores the link between bipolar disorder and creativity. Dr. Jamison's work has transformed societal perceptions of mental illness, making it easier for many to seek treatment. As a renowned spokeswoman, she continues to inspire and encourage efforts toward improving mental health care for all.

Elyn R. Saks, J.D., Ph.D., has made pioneering contributions to the understanding of mental illness through her roles as a legal advocate, volunteer, therapist, educator, and author. Her best-selling memoir, *The Center Cannot Hold: My Journey Through Madness*, offers a powerful first-person account of living with schizophrenia and has reshaped perspectives on mental illness. As a distinguished law professor and advocate, she works to eliminate stigma and make psychosis more accessible and understandable, bringing compassion and experience to her professional writings.

Charlene Sunkel, founder of the Global Mental Health Peer Network, has made a profound impact on mental health awareness by creating the first global network focused on empowering individuals with "lived experience" of mental health issues. Her work has transformed societal perceptions of mental illness and ensured that global mental health initiatives include the active involvement of those with lived experience. As both a world-renowned advocate and a person living with mental illness, Sunkel inspires us all to use our knowledge for the greater good.

2020 | Myrna M. Weissman, Ph.D. & Sir Michael Rutter, CBE, FRS, FRCPsych, FMedSci

Dr. Myrna Weissman's humanitarian efforts reflect a deep personal commitment to both scientific excellence and bringing change to the world. Her transformative work has advanced the field of behavioral interventions for depression, including the development and dissemination of Interpersonal Psychotherapy (IPT), one of the most effective standardized approaches for treatment of depression in children, adults, and women post-partum. Her humanitarian spirit is exemplified by her donation of the copyright for IPT to the World Health Organization. Her visionary contributions have had a lasting and profound impact on individuals, families and the global community.

Sir Michael Rutter's pioneering contributions to our understanding of mental resilience, the effects of maternal and institutional deprivation on subsequent mental health, and the turning points in adult life following psychosocial adversity in childhood have had a lasting and profound impact on individuals, families and the global community. The "father of child psychiatry," his transformative work has challenged existing theories and allowed for a major change in earlier ideas about the relationship between maternal deprivation and mental health.

2019 | William T. Carpenter, Jr., M.D.

Dr. William Carpenter has been a transformative force in psychiatry for over 40 years, dramatically changing how we treat schizophrenia and working to reduce stigma. He is a luminary in the field whose vision, scientific productivity, and tireless advocacy for resources for psychiatric research have improved the lives of countless individuals and families. Dr. Carpenter has played a critical role in shifting the focus of treatment to the earliest stages of the illness, when interventions may have their most profound impact and maximize the likelihood of recovery.

2018 | Judge Steven Leifman

Judge Steven Leifman is a national leader in solving the complex and costly problem of people with untreated mental illnesses involved in the criminal justice system. He has been a passionate leader and unwavering agent of change in the shift away from the devastating and unproductive incarceration of people with mental illness. He has shown us how to use our resources to reverse the costly prison recidivism that strips people of their dignity and threatens public safety. Judge Leifman is an extraordinary humanitarian, innovator, and transformative figure whose steadfast advocacy is changing the lives of people with mental illness and their families and impacting our larger society.

2017 | Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières

Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) provides emergency medical aid in response to armed conflicts, natural disasters, famines, and epidemics. MSF doctors and nurses are often seen treating physical ailments: bandaging the war-wounded, rehydrating a cholera patient, or performing an emergency cesarean section. But for more than 20 years, MSF has also been providing vital psychiatric and psychological care to people ravaged by man-made or natural disaster. The organization currently has mental health-related programs in 41 countries across five continents treating adults and children.

2016 | Vikram Patel, Ph.D., F. Med.Sci.

Recognized by *Time magazine* in 2015 as one of the 100 Most Influential People in the world, Dr. Patel addresses the stunning void of mental health care in developing countries and the grave shortage of psychologists and psychiatrists. He was awarded for his transformative work in advancing mental health care in resource-poor countries.

2015 | David A. Hamburg, M.D. and Beatrix A. Hamburg, M.D.

Dr. Betty Hamburg and Dr. David Hamburg have blended their scientific knowledge, their understanding of human behavior, and their profound compassion into a unique vision—imagining and catalyzing a better future for people of all ages and backgrounds, most often those who are undergoing severe stress and who suffer from mental disorders. Betty and David Hamburg were awarded for over six decades of pioneering work in mental health.

2014 | Herbert Pardes, M.D.

Dr. Pardes, a noted psychiatrist, and outspoken advocate for the mentally ill, was the first recipient of the Humanitarian Prize, which bears his name and honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of mental health through education, prevention, treatment, research, health policy, administration, clinical care, mentoring and advocacy. Dr. Pardes is a champion of empathic, humanistic and patient-centered health care, who believes in the power of technology and innovation to dramatically improve 21st-century medicine.

"I am deeply moved by this tremendous honor from the Foundation's Board of Directors, a group for which I have great esteem and affection. Eradicating mental illness has been something I've worked toward my entire career, and we've made great strides in the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness. But much remains to be done. We must ensure that the Foundation continues to support the work of innovative scientists to discover the root cause of these conditions so they can be treated more effectively and, ultimately, be prevented or cured."

Past Pardes Humanitarian Prize in Mental Health Honorary Tribute

2024

Graham Boeckh Foundation, *Honorary Tribute*

2023

Henry Jarecki, M.D., *Honorary Tribute*

2022

Clubhouse International & Sean Mayberry, *Honorary Tribute*

2021

John M. Davis, M.D., Michael R. Phillips, M.D., MPH, Norman Sartorius, M.D., Ph.D., FRCPsych,
Honorary Tribute

2020

E. Fuller Torrey, M.D., *Honorary Tribute*

2019

Cynthia Bissett Germanotta, *Honorary Tribute*

2018

Suzanne and Bob Wright, *Honorary Tribute*

2017

Constance E. Lieber, *Honorary Tribute*

2016

Charles F. Reynolds III, M.D. & Senator Edward M. Kennedy, *Honorary Tribute*

2015

Rosalynn Carter, *Honorary Tribute*