

# ERS Advocacy Awards Guidance 2026

March 9, 2026

## Contents

1	Introduction.....	- 2 -
2	Application.....	- 2 -
3	Selection Process.....	- 2 -
4	ERS Advocacy Mid-Career Award.....	- 2 -
4.1	Eligibility criteria.....	- 2 -
4.2	Reviewing criteria.....	- 3 -
4.3	Entitlements & recognition.....	- 3 -
4.4	List of past awardees.....	- 3 -
5	ERS Advocacy Lifetime Achievement Award.....	- 3 -
5.1	Eligibility criteria.....	- 3 -
5.2	Reviewing criteria.....	- 4 -
5.3	Entitlements & recognition.....	- 4 -
5.4	List of past awardees.....	- 4 -
6	Past awards.....	- 4 -
6.1	Five-year moratorium rule.....	- 4 -
6.2	Three-year moratorium rule.....	- 5 -



## 1 Introduction

Through the advocacy awards programme, ERS aims to acknowledge merit by honouring exceptional members in the respiratory field for their exemplary achievements and contributions to advocacy. The advocacy awards programme seeks to promote and champion members from all areas of the world to acknowledge their significant regional and national impact.

### The ERS Advocacy Awards 2026:

- Call to open on **March 23, 2026**
- Deadline on **April 30, 2026 at 23:59: CET**

## 2 Application

- Applicants of all ethnicities, gender and career trajectories including periods of career breaks (e.g. parental leave, employment outside of the field) are encouraged to apply.
- Candidates may be nominated by a peer or may apply directly for themselves. Nominated candidates will not be favoured during the selection process.
- Applications/nominations must be submitted via e-mail ([advocacy@ersnet.org](mailto:advocacy@ersnet.org)) and include a cover letter to support and explain reasons for the application/nomination. Applicants should also send an up-to-date CV.
- Applicants are not allowed to apply for multiple awards in the same year; only one application for one award, for the same person will be accepted by the ERS office each year.
- Applicants must have active ERS membership at the time of the application.

## 3 Selection Process

Applications are evaluated through a multi-step peer-review process, encompassing distinct groups of experts.

- Applications will be initially reviewed and ranked by experts/peers in the field of advocacy.
- Based on the initial evaluation, a ranking list will be established and the Advocacy Council Chair will select the two top candidates..
- Subsequently, the scores and proposed top two candidates will be presented to the ERS Advocacy Council members for their vote on the awardee.
- The applicant selected will be submitted to the ERS Executive Committee for final endorsement.

## 4 ERS Advocacy Mid-Career Award

The ERS Advocacy Mid-Career Award, introduced in 2026, is awarded each year at the opening session of the ERS Congress to an individual who has made significant contributions to advocacy in respiratory medicine. ERS Advocacy Mid-Career Award honour members who have an excellent track record and the potential for further outstanding developments in advocacy.

### 4.1 Eligibility criteria

- Active ERS membership at the time of the application.
- Aged 50 years old or below by the application deadline (taking into consideration any work hiatus period which will be deducted to calculate the career-age).
- Must not be a previous winner of the Advocacy Award. However, candidates may apply for a mid-career science award.
- Must not be a previous ERS award winner in the past five years of any of the awards listed under section 6.1.



- Must not have received any of the ERS awards or grants listed under section 6.2 in the past three years.
- Must not be a member of the ERS Advocacy Council and Executive Committee.

#### 4.2 Reviewing criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following weighted scoring criteria:

- **Main advocacy activities - 40%**  
Main activities in the area of advocacy locally, regionally or nationally/supranationally. This could be engagement with local institutions (schools, NGOs, community, etc.) or regional, national or supranational institutions (civil society institutions, scientific societies, governments, WHO, UN, etc.) that have the aim to improve respiratory health and prevent respiratory disease through political, regulatory or organisational actions.
- **Future advocacy plans - 30%**  
Relevance of topic to respiratory research, novelty and innovation, feasibility and quality of the design, dissemination and outreach plan.
- **Personal contribution and engagement within ERS - 30%**  
Elected position, contribution to Advocacy Council or its committees, assembly, groups or working groups, contribution to events (e.g. planning or chairing sessions), writing statements or policy briefs, representing ERS at advocacy events.

#### 4.3 Entitlements & recognition

- Award ceremony taking place during ERS Congress 2026.
- ERS Advocacy Mid-Career Award Certificate.
- Awardee promotion through ERS channels before and during ERS Congress 2026.
- Free registration to the ERS Congress 2026. (Attendance at the ERS Congress is highly encouraged.)

#### 4.4 List of past awardees

Year	Name of past awardees
-	Not applicable – awards new to 2026

For further details on past awardees, please visit the [Hall of Fame](#) on the ERS website.

## 5 ERS Advocacy Lifetime Achievement Award

The ERS Advocacy Lifetime Achievement Award, introduced in 2026, is awarded each year at the opening session of the ERS Congress to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to advocacy in respiratory medicine. It is intended to honour highly-regarded senior members of the society who have made significant contributions to advocacy, that have influenced policy or practice related to the respiratory field in a major way. It ranks at the same level as the ERS Annual Educational Award (Education Council) or the ERS Lifetime Achievement Award (Science Council).

### 5.1 Eligibility criteria

- Active ERS membership at the time of the application.
- Established contribution in the respiratory field.
- Senior career level by the application deadline.



- 10 years minimum as ERS member (cumulated years).
- At least 50 years old at the application deadline.
- Must not be a previous ERS award winner in the past five years of any of the awards listed under section 6.1.
- Must not have received any of the ERS awards or grants listed under section 6.2 in the past three years.
- Must not be a member of the ERS Advocacy Council and Executive Committee.

## 5.2 Reviewing criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following weighted scoring criteria:

- **Main advocacy activities - 60%**  
Main activities in the area of advocacy locally, regionally or nationally/supranationally. This could be engagement with local institutions (schools, NGOs, community, etc.) or regional, national or supranational Institutions (civil society institutions, scientific societies, governments, WHO, UN etc.) that have the aim to improve respiratory health and prevent respiratory disease through political, regulatory or organisational actions. The activities should have a lasting impact, wide outreach, and form processes and activities in society.
- **Personal contribution and engagement within the ERS - 40%**  
Elected position, contribution to Advocacy Council or its committees, assemblies, groups or working groups, contribution to events (e.g. planning or charring sessions), writing statements or policy briefs, representing ERS at advocacy events. The contributions should be lasting, of high impact and have the potential to contribute to the formation of processes or structures within ERS.

## 5.3 Entitlements & recognition

- Award ceremony taking place during the ERS Congress.
- ERS Advocacy Lifetime Award Certificate.
- Awardee promotion through ERS channels before and during ERS Congress.
- Free registration to the ERS Congress 2026. (Attendance at the ERS Congress is highly encouraged).

## 5.4 List of past awardees

Year	Name of past awardees (assembly)
-	Not applicable – award introduced in 2026.

For further details on past awardees, please visit the [Hall of Fame](#) on the ERS website.

# 6 Past awards

Rules regarding past ERS awards have been developed to help support ERS' efforts in offering the same opportunities for all its members. The following regulations have been put in place to favour a natural turnover of awardees and foster a transparent and cohesive application process.

## 6.1 Five-year moratorium rule

Candidates applying for an ERS Advocacy Award should not have received any of the ERS awards listed below within the past five years. Therefore, applicants applying for an ERS Advocacy Awards for 2026 should not have received any of the awards mentioned in the below list since 2021:

- ERS Presidential Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award Science
- Mid-Career Gold Medal Science



- ERS Educational Award
- Sadoul lecture
- Yernault Lecture
- Cournand Lecture
- ECMC Award

### 6.2 Three-year moratorium rule

Candidates applying for an ERS Advocacy Award should not have received any of the ERS awards and grants listed below within the past three years. Therefore, applicants applying for an ERS Advocacy Award for 2026 should not have received any of the awards or grants mentioned in the below list since 2023:

- ERS Teaching Awards
- ERS Abstract Grant
- Young Investigator JRS/APSR
- Young Scientist Sponsorships
- Congress Sponsorships
- Best Abstracts