

2026 Linda Spear Award Submission Guidelines

The Society for Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience

La Jolla, California, USA | September 8-10, 2026

www.fluxsociety.org



About the Linda Spear Mid-Career Award

Dr. Linda Spear was a Distinguished Professor Emerita in the Department of Psychology at the State University of New York, Binghamton. She was one of the true pioneers of developmental cognitive neuroscience. Her seminal work, using rodent models to investigate neurobehavioral function during adolescence, and the translation of that work to understanding the effects of substance use on human development, has been greatly influential to the field. The importance of her contributions to the field was recognized in 2017 when Flux presented her with the Huttenlocher Award, our Society's highest recognition for career achievement. She was an incredible human being, kind, humble, and supportive. This award is named for her in honor of her considerable achievements, her kindness, and her stalwart support of her colleagues.

The Mid-Career Award in Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience is named in honor of Dr. Linda Spear, a pioneer in developmental neuroscience. This award recognizes outstanding contributions by scientists at the mid-level of their careers.

Nominations will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Originality of the work
- Excellence of the work
- Significance of the work
- Rigorousness of the work
- Commitment and promise to the field
- Engagement in science communication and outreach
- Efforts to foster open science
- Advocacy for diversity and inclusion

Eligibility

Scientists eligible for this award should have been working in the area of developmental cognitive neuroscience for at least 8 years following their terminal degree (e.g. PhD, DPhil, MD), but not for more than 19 years. Caregiving leave or time spent in clinical training do not count toward the 19 year limit. Self-nominations are also welcome.

Award Submission Deadlines

Award submission open: January 5, 2026

Award submission close: February 27, 2026

How to Submit

You do not have to be a member of Flux to nominate or to be nominated for the 2026 Linda Spear Mid-Career Award. If selected, the nominee will be required to become a member of Flux. All award nominations will be reviewed by the Awards Committee.

Application Materials

- **Nomination Letter:** The nomination letter must clearly explain how the nominee fulfills all the specified criteria. The letter should be no longer than two pages, using Arial font, size 11, and single spacing.
- **Three papers:** Include three papers that should be emphasized in the evaluation
- **Nominee's CV**