



Sigma/DAISY Nurse Scientist Leadership Award

NOMINATION TIMELINE

17 July-11 December 2025

ENTRY FEE:

Free

NOTIFICATION

Award recipients will be notified in March 2026.

PRESENTATION

The award will be presented at Sigma's 37th International Nursing Research Congress in July 2026.

PURPOSE

In collaboration with The DAISY Foundation, the Sigma/DAISY Nurse Scientist Leadership Award recognizes a licensed registered nurse who has demonstrated excellence in research, compassionate care, and leadership.

ELIGIBILITY

Recipient must be a licensed registered nurse in good standing with a minimum of five years in clinical practice and research.

Current Sigma Board of Directors, Sigma elected international committee members, Sigma staff, Sigma consultants and contracted staff, and members of the judging committee are not eligible to receive this award, serve as nominators, or write letters of support. Members of appointed committees may participate in the award process. Self-nominations will not be accepted.

CRITERIA

1. Research Contributions

- a. Original Research and Scholarly Leadership: Has led, significantly contributed to, or mentored others in the conduct of original research that improves nursing practice, patient outcomes, or healthcare systems. Recognizes leadership in fostering research capacity among junior investigators.
- b. Dissemination: Has a strong record of peer-reviewed publications, scholarly presentations, or funded research projects, or has played a key role in mentoring and supporting others in achieving these outcomes.
- c. Translation of Research into Practice: Demonstrates the successful implementation of research findings into clinical settings or policies. Contributes to evidence-based innovations that improve patient and system-level outcomes, either directly or through leadership and mentorship.

2. Compassionate Care Focus

- a. Research Scope: Advances focus on compassionate care, including identifying, observing, and measuring its delivery to patients, families, or in systems. This may also include research on the nursing workforce that fosters environments where compassionate care can thrive.
- b. Cultural Sensitivity: Integrates cultural sensitivity and respect into aspects of care, workforce development, and/or research.
- c. Advocacy: Advocates for a compassionate, equitable care environment and workplace cultures for vulnerable or underserved populations through science, leadership, and service.

3. Leadership

- a. Role Model: Champions the integration of research, education, and compassionate care in decision-making and practice.
- b. Mentor: Fosters a culture of research literacy and continuous improvement through mentoring other nurses and healthcare professionals.



- c. Interprofessional: Builds meaningful partnerships across disciplines to expand the reach and relevance of nursing science.

Qualified judging panels representing strong talent and expertise are appointed.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Supporting documents required below must address the criteria. All materials must be submitted in English. Entries that do not meet the criteria and requirements below will be disqualified. A complete online nomination consists of:

- Online entry form.
- Supporting narrative, from the nominator: Using the criteria as subheadings, clearly stating overall area of expertise and sustained impact (not to exceed two pages)
- Two letters of support from diverse sources supporting the criteria (interprofessional colleague, supervisor, coworker, etc., excluding nominator; not to exceed two pages)
- Nominee's curriculum vitae
- Letter of Acceptance - Statement from the nominee agreeing to attend Sigma's International Nursing Research Congress if selected
- Supporting documentation as further evidence of the nominee's contribution as outlined in the criteria above (not to exceed five pages)

AWARD PRESENTATION

The award recipient will be recognized at Sigma's International Nursing Research Congress and will conduct a special session about their work. The DAISY Foundation will provide the awardee with a travel stipend to attend congress, and Sigma will provide a one-day complimentary registration for the award and special session presentations.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information, contact Laura Belt at laurab@sigmanursing.org.



Frequently Asked Questions Sigma/DAISY Nurse Scientist Leadership Award

General

What is the awards website?

<https://www.sigmanursing.org/advance-elevate/awards/nurse-researcher-awards>

Nominations are submitted through an online system:

https://stti-awards.confex.com/stti_awards/nr2026/cfp.cgi

When is the awards deadline?

11 December 2025, 11:59 p.m. EDT

Is membership required to be a nominee?

No, Sigma membership is not required to apply.

Award Criteria

Where are the award criteria sheets?

The award criteria sheet can be found on the Sigma International Nurse Researcher Awards page: <https://www.sigmanursing.org/advance-elevate/awards/nurse-researcher-awards>

Does the nomination need to fulfill all of the criteria points?

Nomination should show evidence of meeting a majority of the criteria.

I am a board member of my chapter. Can I still submit a nomination?

Only current Sigma International Board of Directors, Sigma elected international committee members, Sigma staff, Sigma consultants and contracted staff, and members of the judging committee are ineligible to submit a nomination or be nominated.

Submitting a Nomination

How do I submit a nomination for the 2026 International Nurse Researcher Awards?

Nominations are submitted through an online system:

https://stti-awards.confex.com/stti_awards/nr2026/cfp.cgi

Is there a hard copy entry form?

No. All entries must be submitted through the online system. Entries mailed to Sigma will not be reviewed.

How do I start an online entry?

You can start an award nomination by clicking the “Submit a nomination today” button on the International Nurse Researcher Awards page. You will then select the award category and click “Submit an entry.”

I started a submission but had to stop. Can I return to the same entry?

Yes. Using your Entry ID (4-digit number) and Entry Password (6-digit number), you can log-in to a nomination until the system closes on 11 December 2025 (11:59 p.m. EST).

What is my Entry ID and Entry Password?

The Entry ID and Entry Password are emailed to the email address entered by the nominator when an entry is started. You can also view them in the top-left corner of the nomination page. Please contact awards@sigmanursing.org if you have lost your Entry ID and Entry Password.

Can I view, edit, or withdraw my nomination once it is submitted?

Yes. You can view, edit, or withdraw your submission until the 11 December 2025 deadline.

Are there font requirements for nomination materials?

Please submit all materials in Calibri 11, Times New Roman 12, or a similar font and size. Margins should be a minimum of .5 inches. Individual nomination materials will note special formatting requirements.

What is the “supporting narrative”?

The supporting narrative is a 1- to 2-page summary, written by the nominator, describing how the nominee meets the award criteria. This is the nominator’s opportunity to write a letter of support.

Can I submit more than two “letters of support”?

No. The judges will only read two letters.

What is the “letter of acceptance”?

This is a statement from the nominee that they will attend Sigma’s International Nursing Research Congress if selected as an award recipient.

What is the “supporting documentation”?

Any documentation or summaries that provide direct evidence of meeting the award criteria are “supporting documentation.” This includes videos, writing samples, articles, photos, etc. This is an opportunity to expand on the summary provided by the supporting narrative. Additional letters of support will not be considered.

What formats can be uploaded through the online system?

TXT - Plain Text

HTML - Hyper Text Markup Language, web pages

PDF - Adobe’s Portable Document Format

GIF, JPG, PNG - Formats commonly used on the web

RTF - Rich text file (most word processors export this format)

DOC - Microsoft Word

WMV, WMA, MOV, WAV, AIFF - Multimedia formats

How do I label the different submission requirements in Step 4: Supporting Material?

Self-narrative from the nominee: Self narrative (used for Emerging Nurse Researcher/Scholar Award submissions only)

Narrative from the nominator/supporting nominator: Summary (criteria)

Two letters of support: Letter of support

Nominee's curriculum vitae: Curriculum vitae A listing of publications: Publication

Letter of acceptance: Letter of acceptance

Supporting documentation: Other, Digital Photo, Article, Screenshot, or other descriptive label

Points of Contact

Whom do I contact with questions?

Laura Belt, Awards Coordinator

888.634.7575 (US/Canada toll-free)

+1.317.634.8171

(International) Email:

awards@sigmanursing.org

Whom do I contact if I have problems with the online system? Confex Technical Support

Call +1.401.334.0220 between 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. EDT, Monday-

Friday Email: stti_awards@confex.com



AWARDS RUBRIC

Sigma/DAISY Nurse Scientist Leadership Award

ENTRY NAME:

RATING SCALE

5 = Outstanding achievement of criteria

4 = Notable achievement of criteria

3 = Adequate achievement of criteria

2 = Fair achievement of criteria

1 = Limited achievement of criteria

NA = Criteria not achieved at this time

CRITERIA

Research Contributions: Has led, significantly contributed to, or mentored others in the conduct of original research that improves nursing practice, patient outcomes, or healthcare systems. Recognizes leadership in fostering research capacity among junior investigators. Has a strong record of peer-reviewed publications, scholarly presentations, or funded research projects, or has played a key role in mentoring and supporting others in achieving these outcomes. Demonstrates the successful implementation of research findings into clinical settings or policies. Contributes to evidence-based innovations that improve patient and system-level outcomes, either directly or through leadership and mentorship.

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	x 7	=	/35
5	4	3	2	1	NA			

Compassionate Care Focus: Advances focus on compassionate care, including identifying, observing, and measuring its delivery to patients, families, or in systems. May also include research on the nursing workforce that fosters environments where compassionate care can thrive. Integrates cultural sensitivity and respect into aspects of care, workforce development, and/or research. Advocates for compassionate, equitable care environments, and workplace cultures for vulnerable or underserved populations through science, leadership, and service.

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	x 6	=	/30
5	4	3	2	1	NA			

Leadership: Champions the integration of research, education, and compassionate care in decision-making and practice. Lead in fostering a culture of research literacy and continuous improvement through mentoring other nurses and health care professionals. Builds meaningful partnerships across disciplines to expand the reach and relevance of nursing science.

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	x 7	=	/35
5	4	3	2	1	NA			

Points awarded	=	
Total points available	=	100