SMARTSOCKS®DISCOVERY PIONEERS COMPETITION 2026

Information for Applicants v1.0

Building on the success of the first SmartSocks®DISCOVERY Pioneers Competition back in 2025, Milbotix has launched the SmartSocks®DISCOVERY Pioneers Competition 2026. The Competition is open to researchers and research students investigating aspects of:

1. Dementia
2. Other neurological disorders
3. Stress
4. Sleep
5. Rehabilitation
6. Movement

The 2025 competition received a high volume of applications in the "Dementia and other neurological disorders" category. For 2026, we have split the "Dementia and other neurological disorders" category into "Dementia" covering neurodegenerative diseases and "Other neurological disorders" covering neurological disorders without a neurodegenerative pathology e.g. neurodevelopment disorders.

Applicants may hail from the health sciences, engineering, computer science, psychology, or a related discipline.

We are looking for visionary and ambitious projects that use SmartSocks®DISCOVERY to push the envelope of current knowledge, thinking, and practice.

For more information about SmartSocks®DISCOVERY, please visit: https://milbotix.com/smartsocksdiscovery/. Sign up to the Milbotix mailing list to receive the latest news about the Competition.

PRIZES

There are six prize categories:

1. Dementia
2. Other neurological disorders
3. Stress
4. Sleep
5. Rehabilitation
6. Movement

A SmartSocks®DISCOVERY Kit will be awarded to the winner in each category.

A SmartSocks®DISCOVERY Starter Kit will be awarded to the runner up in each category.

KEY DATES

The key dates are:

- *1st November 2026.* Competition opens
- *31st December 2026.* Closing date for applications
- *3rd January 2027.* Shortlisting complete
- *31st January 2027.* Winners and runners up chosen by the judging panel
- *5th February 2027.* Applicants notified

JUDGING CRITERIA

Applications will be scored on the following criteria:

1. Originality
2. Impact
3. Robustness of approach
4. Strength of team
5. Project achievable within 12 months

APPLICATION PROCESS

Your application should describe your proposed project involving the use of SmartSocks®DISCOVERY in no more than 1,300 words. Please use the application form provided (in Microsoft Word format) to enter your responses. There are eight questions on the application form:

1. What is the title of your project? [max. 50 words]
2. Which prize category applies to your project?
3. What is the central research question or problem your project aims to address? [max. 250 words]
4. What are the objectives and expected outcomes of the proposed research? [max. 250 words]
5. What is the methodology or approach you will use to conduct the research? [max. 250 words]
6. How does the research contribute to the existing body of knowledge or solve a real-world problem? [max. 250 words]
7. What is the timeline and work plan for completing the project? [max. 250 words]
8. What are the qualifications of the research team?

Completed application forms must be emailed to discovery-pioneers@milbotix.com in Microsoft Word or PDF format on or before the closing date of 31st December 2026.

Applications will be shortlisted by Milbotix before passing to an independent judging panel which will select the winner and runner up in each category.

Only original research proposals involving the use of SmartSocks®DISCOVERY will be considered. Projects should be completable in 12 months. SmartSocks®DISCOVERY may be used to capture data from one or both feet simultaneously.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The SmartSocks®DISCOVERY Pioneers Competition ('the Competition') is a Competition run by Milbotix Ltd. ('Milbotix'), a company registered in England and Wales (no. 12480178), whose registered office is at 21 Hailey Avenue Chipping Norton OX7 5JG.

Any person in any country can enter the Competition, except for people directly involved with organising and/or judging the Competition. Collaborative works will be accepted.

The Competition is free to enter.

Submitting an application to the Competition constitutes acceptance of the Competition Terms and Conditions.

Submitting an Application

Applications must be received by 23:59pm (GMT) on 31st December 2026.

Completed application forms must be emailed to discovery-pioneers@milbotix.com in Microsoft Word or PDF format. Any entry submitted by any other method will not be eligible for the Prize.

Applications should be 1,300 words or less. The maximum word limit is a guide.

Prizes are as stated in the Information for Applicants in the main body of this document above.

There is no limit on the number of applications an individual can submit.

Each application can only be entered once into the Competition.

Each application must be entered into ONE prize category:

1. Dementia
2. Other neurological disorders
3. Stress
4. Sleep
5. Rehabilitation
6. Movement

Milbotix reserves the right to move any application into a different category if it feels the category entered on the application form does not reflect the nature of the research described.

Submissions that have been previously published cannot be submitted.

All applications must be in English.

Milbotix reserves the right to disqualify any applications which are not of acceptable quality.

Applications will remain confidential to Milbotix and the judging panel.

Milbotix reserves the right to use the project title in promotional material.

Copyright and Permissions

The applicant or their representative applying on their behalf must be the copyright holder or have permission from the copyright holder to apply to the Competition under the Terms and Conditions specified here.

Copyright holders retain copyright in their work.

Copyright holders grant to Milbotix a non-exclusive, worldwide, irrevocable right to copy, adapt, distribute, perform and use the submitted project title (as outlined in the Information for Applicants in the main body of

this document above) in any media (including social media, online and print): in connection with the operation, promotion and/or description of the Prize for a period of 3 years from the date of submission.

The above licence will be royalty free.

The applicant or their representative applying on their behalf warrants they have all third-party permissions and releases, including patient consent if relevant.

The applicant or their representative applying on their behalf warrants that any material submitted is their own original work and does not infringe the copyright or any other rights of any third party.

Judging and Prizes

All judging decisions are final.

The winners and runners up will be informed by email on or before 5th February 2027.

If a Prize winner or runner up cannot be contacted within seven days of the judges' decision, Milbotix reserves the right to award the Prize to another entrant.

Milbotix reserves the right to exclude an entry and revoke any Prize made, at any time, in the event of a breach of these Terms and Conditions by the relevant entrant.

Where financial sanctions laws, processes of banks or other financial or regulatory institutions (or similar) prevent, or otherwise restrict, Milbotix, in accordance with its usual internal policies and processes, from awarding the Prize (which may include but shall not be limited to Milbotix not being able to transfer the Prize to the country in which you are based) then Milbotix shall have the right to award the Prize to another entrant instead.

Liability

Insofar as is permitted by law, Milbotix will not in any circumstances be responsible or liable to compensate any entrant or accept any liability for any loss or damage arising from participation in the Competition.

If copyright or any third-party rights are infringed by any material provided by an entrant, then the entrant will take full responsibility for this.

These Terms and Conditions and any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with it or its subject matter or information (including non-contractual disputes or claims) shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of England and Wales.

The terms set out here are binding, and Milbotix reserves the right to refuse or exclude any entries at its discretion.

Milbotix reserves the right at its sole discretion to change the Terms and Conditions, make changes to the timetable, Prizes awarded or other aspects of the Competition. If you maintain your application in the Competition after publication of these changes, you agree to be bound by those changes.

Milbotix is not responsible for any misuse of applications by third parties.

Data Protection

Milbotix will process your personal information as set out in our Privacy Statement at https://milbotix.com/privacy.