This award recognizes an outstanding research effort by an early-stage investigator in the field of sleep research. The basis for evaluation of a candidate is a single, peer-reviewed publication reporting original research (not a review), supported by a senior investigator's letter of recommendation that must address specific elements described below. The candidate must be the first author; and the article must be published or accepted for publication in 2019.

The award consists of a plaque and a travel honorarium to be applied toward travel to SLEEP, the Annual Meeting of the Associated Professional Sleep Societies. The plaque and honorarium will be presented at SLEEP 2020, during the SRS Club Hypnos Reception, Sunday evening in Philadelphia, PA.

To be eligible, the candidate must:

- Be the first author of the original, peer-reviewed publication,
- Which must have been published or accepted for publication in 2019,
- Be a member, in good standing, with the SRS,
- Hold a terminal degree (e.g., PhD, MD, DO) and be within 7 years of having obtained such degree, as of the January 26, 2020 deadline. If the applicant has taken time away from research and is thus beyond 7 years of having obtained a terminal degree, then the applicant must provide a description of extenuating circumstances (e.g. clinical training, maternity/paternity leave or care of dependents).

To apply, candidates must submit the completed Application Form, as a single PDF or Word Document, which includes:

1. Complete citation of the article being submitted;
2. Brief description (100-word maximum) of the significance of the article;
3. A copy of the published article. If an article is in press at the time of application, a copy of the written notification of the article's acceptance for publication must also be included;
4. The name of a senior investigator providing the letter of recommendation. The senior investigator does not need to be an author on the article, but should be familiar with the candidate's role on the research described in the article.
5. Senior investigator letter of recommendation precisely describing the role of the applicant in the 1) design, 2) execution, 3) analysis and 4) writing of the article, to be no more than 2 pages.
6. Brief description of extenuating circumstances, consistent with above, if applicant is not within 7 years of obtaining terminal degree (e.g., medical or family issues, clinical training period).

Applicants (that still meet eligibility criteria) from previous years are eligible. The SRS Outstanding Early Investigator Award can only be received once by an individual.

Candidates are welcome to apply for the SRS Outstanding Early Investigator Award in addition to the Trainee Merit Awards, but in the event the candidate receives the SRS Outstanding Early Investigator Award, she/he will receive only this award. Multiple awards may be made, depending on the quality of the applications and availability of funds.