



# The International 22q11.2 Foundation Inc.

## Adam Aelick Advocacy Award

Adam Aelick (1998 – 2020) was an outstanding young man and dedicated advocate for individuals affected by chromosome 22q11.2 differences. Even in the face of numerous physical and neurobehavioral challenges, he encouraged everyone to #thinkpositive. A true 22q Warrior, Adam actively spread hope and awareness to his large social media following and worked tirelessly to support the 22q community.

In memory of Adam's far-reaching and inspiring work, the International 22q11.2 Foundation, Inc. is pleased to announce the establishment of the Adam Aelick Advocacy Award. The prize will honor individuals with chromosome 22q11.2 differences/family members who make a significant impact in promoting advocacy for chromosome 22q11.2 deletion or duplication syndromes. The award will be presented annually beginning in August 2021 with the recipient receiving a commemorative plaque and monetary prize in recognition of the significant accomplishment.

### Eligibility for the Award

To be eligible for this Award, the candidate must be nominated by a non-relative. He/she should play a major role in advocacy for 22q11.2 deletion or duplication syndromes, with a significant, far reaching and long-lasting impact.

The candidate should (1) **have a confirmed diagnosis of 22q11.2 deletion or duplication syndrome** or (2) **be a close relative** (e.g. parent, sibling, offspring, grandparent) **of a person with a confirmed diagnosis of 22q11.2 deletion or duplication syndrome.**

Employees of the International 22q11.2 Foundation and their family members are not eligible for this Award. Paid caregivers (including family members) and individuals who receive payment for their advocacy work are also ineligible.

### Nomination

**Nominators must be at least 18 years of age. Nominators may not be family members of the candidate they nominate.** Family members are defined here as parents, siblings, grandparents, uncles and aunts, and first cousins. Step- and adoptive relationships are considered to be the same as biological relationships for the purpose of Award nomination.

Examples of nominators include (but are not limited to) teachers, religious leaders, activity leaders, coworkers, and classmates.

Nominators must not receive any payments or rewards for the act of nominating or supporting a candidate.

To nominate a candidate for the Award, a nominator should submit a **nomination letter**, which includes the following:

- Name and date of birth of the candidate
- The genetic diagnosis (22q11.2 deletion or duplication) of the candidate (or of the family member of the candidate) [please note that in fairness to all candidates, prior to receipt of the prize the recipient may be asked to provide written documentation of the diagnosis]
- The city, state/province, and country where the candidate resides
- The city, state/province, and country where the nominator resides
- Email address and phone number of the candidate
- Email address and phone number of the nominator
- The relationship between the nominator and the candidate
- The length of time the nominator has known the candidate
- The reason the candidate should be considered for the Award
- Examples of the candidate's activities and impact in advocacy
- Whether the candidate is aware of the nomination

The nominator is encouraged to submit **two letters in support of the nomination**. **Support letters may not be submitted by family members of the candidate**. Family members are defined as above.

These support letters should include:

- The relationship between the supporter and the candidate
- The length of time the supporter has known the candidate
- Email address and phone number of the supporter
- The city, state/province, and country where the supporter resides
- The reason the candidate should be considered for the Award
- Examples of the candidate's activities and impact in advocacy

**Nomination deadline: April 16<sup>th</sup> annually (midnight EST)**

Please submit all nomination and support letters via email to the International 22q11.2 Foundation, Inc.: [info@22q.org](mailto:info@22q.org). The Foundation will send a "notification of receipt" email following completion of the application.

### **Recipient Selection**

The International 22q11.2 Foundation, Inc. will select the Award recipient based on:

- Established effort in completing advocacy work including time commitment
- Demonstrated level of care and enthusiasm in performing advocacy work
- Barriers faced in completing advocacy work
- Evidence of far-reaching and long-lasting impact of advocacy
- Effect on public awareness
- Overall impact on 22q11.2 community

Please direct all questions regarding the Award to the International 22q11.2 Foundation: [info@22q.org](mailto:info@22q.org).