

Dutch Kidney Foundation Consortia Program

Dutch Kidney Foundation / Nierstichting Nederland

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Program

Biomedical Research (Biomedisch Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek, BWO), Consortia Program. Advisory board for this program is the DKF International Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB).

Aim

Funding research consortia in order to stimulate the internal cohesion and collaboration within the Dutch renal research field, aimed to enhance the international weight and quality of Dutch renal research and to initiate more translation and application of renal research.

Applicants

The applicant is a leading biomedical renal researcher based at a research institute in the Netherlands.

Description

- The Consortia Program funds Consortium Grants, large research grants of a limited number of years in open competition under international peer review.
- A Consortium is a collaboration of research teams from different research institutes. The research is regionally spread. International and interdisciplinary participation are admitted (see below under Participation).
- The DKF has one annual funding round for the Consortia Program with a yearly budget for at least one Consortium Grant.
- A Consortium Grant awards up to € 1.500.000 for a research period of up to 4 years.
- The DKF applies the DKF Research Funding Model (RFM) to calculate grant budgets. The RFM supplies standard all-in personnel years for NSP, PhD, Junior and Senior researchers. The RFM information sheet gives detailed information.
- Consortium Grant proposals may include a budget above the proposed RFM standard personnel years, within the total budget maximum, for expenses for equipment and consumables. This additional budget and its motivation have to be specified on the application form and may not exceed € 200.000.

Conditions

- The DKF General Funding Conditions apply, in addition the following special conditions apply.

Consortium

- A Consortium is a collaboration of at least 3 research teams from at least 2 different research institutes (associated with different medical centres). The proposed collaboration is of intrinsic value in a Consortium.
- A Consortium is focused on an important renal research theme and has a well-defined goal. It is expected to contribute to innovation in renal research, therapies and patient care.
- The research within a Consortium may vary from basic to applied and belongs to one of the following disciplines:
 - Clinical nephrology and epidemiology;
 - Dialysis;
 - Kidney transplantation;
 - Pediatric nephrology;
 - Renal genetics;
 - Renal immunology and pathology;
 - Renal physiology and cell biology;
 - Vascular biology and inflammation.
- A Consortium aims at connecting basic and applied research and at stimulating translational research and application of research results. Therefore a Consortium should strive for a high number of physician researchers as direct participants in carrying out the research.

- A Consortium research program consists of a limited number of tightly interconnected projects, each of which is directed toward reaching the goal.
- The criteria for assessment of proposals concern scientific quality and specific DKF criteria:
 - Scientific quality
 - Innovation
 - Feasibility
 - Significance
 - Quality of the Individual Groups
 - Coherence
 - Linking Basic and Applied Research with a Clinical Perspective
 - DKF Criteria
 - Relevance for Kidney Patients
 - Opportunities for Clinical Implementation of Results
 - Value for Money
 - International Positioning of the Consortium

Participation

- Participating research teams belong to a UMC or a research institution in the Netherlands.
- Participating teams belong to a nephrology department, or if not belonging to a nephrology department, have their main focus on renal research.
- First exception, the participation of at most 1 research team based at an institute outside the Netherlands ('foreign team') is admitted under the following conditions:
 - The foreign team has its main focus on renal research;
 - The expertise of the foreign team is indispensable to realize the research program goal;
 - The Dutch research teams lack this specific expertise;
 - The foreign research team contributes to the Consortium budget in accordance with the DKF Research Funding Model.
- Second exception, the participation of at most 2 research teams not having their main focus on kidney research ('non-renal teams') is admitted under the following conditions:
 - The non-renal teams have expertise necessary to realize the research program goal;
 - The renal research teams lack this specific expertise;
 - The non-renal teams contribute to the Consortium budget in accordance with the DKF Research Funding Model.
- Including the two exceptions, the majority of the participating research teams should meet the first two conditions.
- The ISAB will assess proposals along these criteria.

Principal Investigator and Management

- The Consortium applicant is the Consortium Principal Investigator (PI).
- The PI is a leading biomedical researcher with a strong track record in renal research whose working base is a research institute in the Netherlands.
- The PI is affiliated to, not necessarily employed by, a Dutch UMC department of nephrology.
- The PI is the first responsible for management and execution of the Consortium.

Budget

- In accordance with the RFM, the proposed total budget should be proportional to the expected actual research costs.
- DKF budget within a research program will be spent directly and unequivocally on the program.
- The Consortium Grant is co-funded by the participating research institutes.

Data sharing and intellectual property

- Consortium participants will strive at rapid and wide availability without restrictions of research data resulting from research funded by the Consortium Grant. Data availability may be delayed as a consequence of procedures for protection of intellectual property rights (IPR).
- IPR management is part of the Consortium and will be conducted in collaboration with the DKF and the IPR departments of the participating research institutes. In accordance with the DKF General Conditions, opportunities and plans for IPR protection resulting from Consortium research should be reported to the DKF.

- The DKF will not develop an IPR portfolio.
- The DKF aims at maximising the return to renal research from the revenues from IPR protection.
- The DKF may challenge planned IPR protection or patent usage that it considers to be inhibiting or restraining scientific endeavour, renal research or advances in renal patient care.
- Data sharing and IPR management plans are to be specified in the full grant application.

Procedure and Evaluation

- A Consortium Program funding round has pre-application followed by full application. Full application without pre-application is not admitted.
- The DKF will review Consortia annually.
- The ISAB will evaluate pre-applications, applications, progress reports and final reports. The ISAB is supported by international referees.
- After pre-application, the ISAB will give either a positive or a negative advice on pursuing full application. The advice is non-binding: full application after a negative advice is admitted. Each advice is supported by a detailed argumentation.
- Participants will timely report to the DKF any results that are of value for the communication of results of DKF projects: e.g. forthcoming publication in a prominent scientific journal, forthcoming publication of research results that have a high impact on patient care, etc.
- Pre-applications, full applications, progress reports and final reports are written in English and submitted on the most recent version of the relevant DKF Consortia Program form.

Grant application procedure

- Call for pre-applications.
- Evaluation of the pre-applications by the ISAB. All applicants receive a non-binding positive or negative advice on full application.
- Full application.
- Evaluation of the full applications by international referees.
- Applicant rebuttal of the application review.
- Evaluation of the applications by the ISAB. Final advice to the DKF.
- DKF grant award decisions.

Dates and deadlines can be found on the DKF website.