

Consortia Program Evaluation & Procedure **Dutch Kidney Foundation / Nierstichting Nederland**

Form 28 April 2010.

Program

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

Funding

The Consortia Program has an annual funding round which includes a pre-application and a full application. The DKF aims at an annual budget for awarding two Consortia Grants.

Application

- The pre-application is a concise description of the proposed research, the rationale and structure of the collaboration, past performance of participating research teams, the translational approach and the proposed budget. The ISAB will advise the applicants on follow-up after pre-application. Full application without pre-application is not admitted.
- The full application is an extensive description of the proposed research and collaboration. Full applications are evaluated by the ISAB with the support of international referees. The aim is to have at least three reviews for each full application. A review will evaluate the proposed Consortium along the scientific and DKF criteria (see below). International reviews are forwarded to the applicants who then may deliver a full rebuttal.
- The ISAB evaluates the applications using the reviews and the rebuttal and will produce a summarizing coordinating review of the proposed program. The ISAB will give the DKF a final funding advice supported by a detailed argumentation and a priority ranking of the submitted applications.
- In the entire procedure, conflicts of interest between ISAB members and international referees on the one hand, and grant applicants and participating institutes on the other should be avoided.

Application Procedure

- Call for proposals for pre-applications.
- Evaluation of the pre-applications by the ISAB.
- All applicants receive a non-binding advice on full application.
- Full application.
- Evaluation of the full applications by international referees.
- Applicant rebuttal of the reviews.
- Evaluation of the applications by the ISAB
- Final advice with priority ranking to the DKF.
- DKF grant award decisions.

Program 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

Grant Award Decisions

The DKF Consortia Grant award decisions are based on the international reviews, the applicant rebuttals and the concluding ISAB assessments.

Progress Review

Consortia will be reviewed annually. For each review, a progress report has to be completed on the specific Consortium Progress Report form. The PI is responsible for the reporting process and the content of progress and final reports. Reports are sent to the DKF before the specified deadlines. The ISAB will advise on the progress of the Consortium based on the progress reports. In addition to the report, the ISAB can organize meetings and interviews with the PI and with researchers. International referees can be called upon for progress report reviews.

Progress Evaluation Scheme

The following three year scheme is the basic progress evaluation scheme for Consortia Grants. The reviews are increasing in weight and depth.

First year review

- Scientific results
 - PhD and Junior Researchers are appointed and have started research
 - First results are forthcoming to be published or have been published

Second year review

- Scientific results
 - All research projects show continued progress with publication of first results
- Consortium
 - Results are mutually enhancing for reaching the central aim
 - The collaboration starts to show its additive value

Third year review

- Scientific results
 - All research projects show continued progress with publication of first results
- Consortium
 - Results are mutually enhancing for reaching the central aim
 - The collaboration is showing its additive value

Final Review

The final report will be reviewed by international referees. The ISAB evaluates the report and advises the DKF and the Consortium on the results and on possible extension of the Consortium. Extension entails a new grant application in abridged form.

Final review

- Scientific results
 - Continued high level of results and publishing
- Consortium
 - The central aim is reached, if not failing hypotheses or techniques can be clearly explained
 - The collaboration has firmly proven its additive value
- Translation
 - At least proof of principle for translation and clinical application of results; if not, failing hypotheses or techniques can be clearly explained