

JOINT CALL FOR RESEARCH ON CYSTIC FIBROSIS 2022 - 2023

The Fund Alphonse and Jean Forton has been created to support research on cystic fibrosis and related diseases. It is managed by the King Baudouin Foundation with the help of an international scientific jury and a Steering Committee.

The Belgian Cystic Fibrosis Association is the patient organisation of and for people with cystic fibrosis and their families in Belgium. The Association supports activities aiming at empowering patients and their families, at improving quality of life and CF care and gives grants to researchers pursuing innovative research on the disease.

Call 2022-2023

The Fund Alphonse and Jean Forton & the Belgian Cystic Fibrosis Association are launching a third joint call for research projects on Cystic Fibrosis. Projects in basic, translational and clinical research are eligible for support as well as psychosocial research projects.

Basic research includes, but is not limited to research on CFTR folding, trafficking and activity, cell physiology and ion transport, and model systems for CF.

Translational research includes, but is not limited to innovative therapeutic approaches targeting the basic defect, including personalised medicine, and new methods to fight antimicrobial resistance. Also research targeting a better understanding of the ageing process in CF patients and related comorbidities (*e.g.* cancer, osteopenia and osteoporosis etc.)

Clinical research concerns research directly related to CF treatment and care expected to directly or indirectly improve the quality of life and care of CF patients, for instance investigating methods to simplify the treatment burden of people with CF and research on debilitating gastrointestinal symptoms or CF-related diabetes.

Psychosocial research includes, but is not limited to research on coping mechanisms, the psychological side effects of modulator treatment, the transition process, body image and ways to improve adherence.

Particular attention is given to innovative projects that make an obvious contribution to the wellbeing of patients with CF.

Assessment criteria

Scientific quality of the project

- Rigour of the research design and methodology, including well defined work packages & milestones, sample calculation and statistics, expected implementation of the research outcomes etc.
- Feasibility of the proposed study, including feasibility to complete the study by the end of 2026.
- Innovative character of the project

Relevance/added-value of the research to existing knowledge/clinical practices:

- The project addresses clearly identified gaps in our knowledge of the disease mechanisms of CF, or medical, allied health or psychosocial issues related to CF.
- The project is in line with identified research priorities for the CF community (further reading: [‘Beyond the expected: Identifying broad research priorities of researchers and the cystic fibrosis community’](#) and [‘The top 10 research priorities in cystic fibrosis developed by a partnership between people with CF and healthcare providers’](#))
- The proposal includes an assessment of the necessity and relevance of the research question, including the patient perspective
- The potential impact of the results on diagnosis / prognosis / treatment/quality of care has to be clearly described.

Track record

- Track record and career potential of project leader (creativity, management skills, international visibility etc...)
- Potential of the research team & collaborating teams: scientific environment, competence, experience, added value of the collaboration.

Dissemination of the study results

- Plan of implementation & follow up of the research results.
- The proposal includes a clear plan for the communication of the study results towards all relevant stakeholders, including CF patients and their families,

Involvement of stakeholders

- A list of key stakeholders, including patients, and a clear description of how they will be involved in the research and how their expertise will be taken into account.

Ethical questions

- A description of how ethical issues are taken into account.
- Researchers should obtain Ethical Approval for the studies before the project can start (but not before the introduction of the application).

Eligible applicants

The call is open to researchers or research teams within universities or research centres in Belgium. Interdisciplinary and multi-centre research is encouraged (i.e. with proof of collaboration between researchers from different disciplines and centres regarding the content of the research, inclusion of patients and logistic cooperation).

Collaboration with international research teams is possible, but there must be a strong and evident Belgian contribution, i.e. realization of a well-developed work package by an autonomous functioning Belgian team.

Past laureates may resubmit a project provided they are in compliance with the requested reporting for previously supported projects.

For-profit organizations (e.g. pharmaceutical companies) can be part of a research team but are excluded from funding.

Grants

For this joint call, a total budget of € 1.500.000 has been made available.

Budget basic research projects: a maximum amount of 200.000 € can be requested for a single-centre project. For a multi-centre project, the maximum amount that can be requested is € 275.000.

Budget clinical, translational and psychosocial research projects: a maximum amount of € 150.000 can be requested for a single-centre project. For a multi-centre project, the maximum amount that can be requested is € 225.000

Budget restrictions: in the case of purchase/leasing of hardware and technical installations, the grant will only cover a maximum of 50% of the required budget for this specific item.

Concerning the salaries of PhD's and/or postdocs, the generally applicable wage scales will be followed.

The budget shall be presented based on work packages and sufficiently detailed. Adaptation of the budget can be requested after the first evaluation.

Overhead: no overhead can be deducted from grants up to € 30.000 included. For higher amounts, the overhead cannot exceed 15%.

The grant covers a research period of maximum 3 years.

Follow-up of selected projects on the ongoing research, as well as a final activity and financial report. The precise dates for reporting will be indicated in the contract.

Procedure

The applications must be submitted online by **19 January 2023** at the latest via the website of the King Baudouin Foundation www.kbs-frb.be.

Candidates will receive confirmation that their application was received.

The applications will be evaluated by an independent jury composed by experts from different domains (scientists, clinicians, allied health professionals, patient representatives...). Projects that are allowed to proceed to the second round, will be invited for a presentation to the members of the jury in May 2023.

The final selection will be made by the joint Steering Committees of the Fund Alphonse and Jean Forton & the Cystic Fibrosis Association in June 2023. All parties will be informed of the decision by the end of June 2023 at the latest.

Contact

- For technical assistance during applying:
Contact center – Tel +32-(0)2 500 45 55 – proj@kbs-frb.be
- For information regarding the call:
Scientific secretariat of the Fund Alphonse and Jean Forton: Annemie T'Seyen
Tel +32 (0)2 549 03 03 Mail to: tseyen.a@kbs-frb.be
Scientific secretariat of muco.be: Elise Lammertyn
Tel +32 (0)2 663 39 03 Mail to elise@muco.be

King Baudouin Foundation

Working together for a better society

The King Baudouin Foundation is an independent, pluralistic foundation working at the local, regional, federal, European and international levels. Because our mission is to change society for the better we invest in inspiring projects and individuals. In 2015, the King Baudouin Foundation and the Funds it administers provided €34.8 million in support to 264 individuals and 1,813 organizations. Projects were funded in the areas of poverty, health, development, civic engagement and heritage, among others. The Foundation also organizes seminars, round table discussions and exhibitions. The King Baudouin Foundation shares experience and research results through free publications. We work in partnership with civil society organizations and encourage philanthropy – working 'through' rather than 'for' the King Baudouin Foundation.

We benefit from the free services of 2,155 experts in our steering groups, advisory committees, management committees and independent juries. Their generous efforts ensure that the right choices are made on an independent, pluralistic basis.

The Foundation was set up in 1976 on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of King Baudouin's reign.

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For a better and longer life for people with CF and their families

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