# Funds for biochemical research on cancer

## Call for projects 2023

### Research on biochemical action mechanisms in cancer

The Funds André Vander Stricht, Emile Carpentier, Van Damme, Yvonne & Jacques François - De Meurs, José Plé – Albert Declercq, Daisy Jacobs, Blondine and Van der Poorten-Vermeiren were created to support **research on cancer**. The Funds are managed by the King Baudouin Foundation with the help of a scientific Jury and a Steering Committee.

### Subject of the call 2023

The call 2023 concerns scientific research (fundamental, pre-clinical, translational or a combination of thereof) that is being carried out in the field of 'Research on biochemical action mechanisms in cancer'.

The forementioned action mechanisms accompany pathogenic functions of important regulatory or effector proteins, causing deregulation of one or more healthy actions, at intracellular and sometimes extracellular level, e.g. affecting protein-protein interaction and/or protein-DNA interaction. They affect one or more stages in cancer, i.e. primary tumour formation, extravasation of tumour cells and invasion of other tissues/organs, and establishment of metastatic tumours. In addition, part of these molecular action mechanisms may lead to tumour cell heterogeneity or influence tumour cell interaction with other non-tumour cell types (including, but not limited to immune cell types) of the tumour niche or environment.

These processes can be studied in novel ways ex vivo in e.g. tumour or fused spheroids and analysed at high resolution using single-cell omics. In cases where these new cell culture based and/or omics approaches clearly support the understanding of the aforementioned biochemical action mechanisms, and omics methods do not limit themselves to descriptive aims, such studies will be considered.

#### Selection criteria

- Quality of the research
  - Design, including a timeline, statistics, sample calculation, feasibility, impact and potential.
  - o Innovative approaches.
- The added value of the research to existing knowledge
- Track record
  - o Publication record and other achievements of the project leader (main applicant) since the start of the career.
  - Career potential of the project leader (creativity, management skills, (inter)national visibility);
  - O Potential of the research team and, if applicable, collaborating teams: scientific environment, competence, experience and added value of the collaboration.

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- Perspective of implementation of the results
  - o Communication and knowledge transfer steps.
  - o Plan of implementation and follow-up of the research results.
- Adequacy and justification of the budget
- Ethical questions: a description of how ethical issues are taken into account is required

## Eligible applicants

#### **Organizations**

The Foundation will only fund not-for-profit organizations.

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

### **Principal Investigator**

The call is open to:

- young post-doctoral researchers (maximum 8 years of active research activities (with additional time for documented career breaks) following their PhD thesis public defense);
- researchers working at least 50% within a university or research center in Belgium.

The research project must be formally supported by the head of department/medical director of the concerned university, hospital or research center.

### Location

- The project is initiated and coordinated in Belgium.

#### **Collaborations**

- Collaborative projects are encouraged. Projects involving international collaboration between research teams must be initiated and coordinated by the team based in Belgium.
- Interdisciplinarity and international collaborations are encouraged.

#### Grant

Financial support of a total of  $\le 330,000$  is available to support two research projects covering a working period of 2 years, with a **maximum** amount of  $\le 165,000$  per project.

The support can be used for all cost categories related to the project.

The overhead cannot exceed 15%.

#### **Procedure**

Submit your **online application** via the website of the King Baudouin Foundation <u>www.kbs-frb.be</u>. The applications must be submitted **in English** by **18**<sup>th</sup> **April 2023** at the latest. Candidates will receive confirmation that their application was received.

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#### Selection

Applications will be submitted to an independent scientific jury. The jury will assess the projects and will draw up ranking recommendations for the Steering Committee. The final selection will be made by the Funds Steering Committee in June 2023. The decision will be published in July 2023.

## Contact the King Baudouin Foundation

- For technical assistance when applying: Contact center – Tel +32-(0)2 500 45 55 – proj@kbs-frb.be
- For information regarding the call: Scientific secretariat of the Funds for biochemical research on cancer: Laetitia Aerts – aerts.l@kbs-frb.be – Tel +32 (0)2 549 02 30

## King Baudouin Foundation

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The King Baudouin Foundation's mission is to contribute to a better society.

The Foundation is an actor for change and innovation, serving the public interest and increasing social cohesion in Belgium and Europe. We seek to maximize our impact by strengthening the capacity of organizations and individuals. We also stimulate effective philanthropy by individuals and corporations.

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

With thanks to the Belgian National Lottery and to all donors for their valued support.

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