

Call for candidates:

Steering Committee for the Fund for Mental Health Research

Context

Mental health research is significantly underfunded compared to research into somatic illnesses, yet mental health problems have a profound impact for both the individual and society.

Most mental health research funding goes towards basic research into the origins and mechanisms of mental health problems while far less support is awarded to social sciences, leaving an important gap between research and practice. In addition, the quality of mental health research is not always optimal. This is due to different factors, including the heterogeneity in how data are measured in mental health research, making comparisons across studies very difficult.

The Fund for Mental Health Research (MHR Fund) of the King Baudouin Foundation wants to contribute to a much needed change in Belgian mental health research. With a budget of 4 million euro, the Fund's aim is to support high quality, sustainable, large-scale mental health research that embraces patient/public engagement and involvement throughout its research efforts.

In preparation, a portfolio analysis was performed of the research published by Belgian researchers in scientific journals in the time period of 2018 to 2021. The data of this analysis can be consulted using this [link](#).

The primary goal of this analysis is to support the MHR Fund's Steering committee in its reflection on mental health research funding, in order to identify possible knowledge gaps and opportunities.

What is a Fund Steering Committee?

Role of the Fund Steering Committee

- The Fund Steering Committee is responsible for managing all aspects of the Fund for Mental Health Research.
- It develops the strategy, discusses the challenges it faces and the means best suited to achieving its aims, it initiates actions and monitors their implementation.
- It is the Fund Steering Committee that decides how the financial resources are used.

Structure and governance of Fund Steering Committee

- The **members** of the Fund Steering Committee are appointed as individuals, not as representatives of associations or groups, and they are not remunerated for their work.
- **The Foundation's Board of Governors** appoints the members of the Fund Steering Committee. To ensure that the Fund for Mental Health Research achieves its objectives, the Fund Steering Committee meets at regular intervals, either physically or virtually. Each meeting is chaired by the committee's chair.
- A **representative of the Foundation**, also appointed by the board of Governors, is present to ensure that that decisions taken by the Fund Steering Committee are in line with the mission and values of the Foundation.
- The Fund Steering Committee can rely on **the secretary** of the Fund for Mental Health Research, provided by the Foundation for the general coordination and day-to-day management of the Fund. The secretary responsible for the Fund:
 - o Examines and proposes appropriate strategic developments in order to fulfil the chosen objective(s)

- Convenes Fund Steering Committee meetings
- Produces the minutes for each meeting, mentioning the decisions taken by the Management Committee
- Implements the decisions taken, provided they are in line with the Foundation's statutes and the available resources
- Coordinates communication with the public and the press; also coordinates the various bodies set up within the framework of third party participation (juries, advisory groups, etc.)

Qualities required for members of the Fund Steering Committee

We are looking for persons who:

- Have professional and/or personal expertise within the field of mental health research
- Have a broad view of the Belgian (and international) mental health research landscape
- Are willing to commit to actively participating in the steering committee for the duration of the Fund Steering Committee's mandate.
- Adhere strongly to the mission and values of the Foundation
- Being fluent in Dutch, French or English

The King Baudouin Foundation aims to reflect as closely as possible the society to which it is committed. Candidates are selected on the basis of their abilities and skills, without distinction as to gender or ethnic origin.

If you have a disability, please let us know: we will make sure that you can take part in the selection process under the best possible conditions.

Remuneration

Members of the Fund Steering Committee are not remunerated.

Time commitment

The Fund Steering Committee will meet **2 or 3 times** in the first year and once or twice a year in following years. Meetings typically last about 2 to 3 hours. During the course of the year members of the steering committee can be consulted to give advice on a specific topic by email or telephone, if needed.

Mandate

The Fund Steering Committee is appointed by the Foundation's Board of Governors for a period of **4 years**.

Conflict of Interests

Any conflict of interest that may arise has to be brought to the attention of the secretary of the Fund for Mental Health research as soon as possible.

Application process

Application form

Applications can be submitted using this [form](#).

Timetable

Call is open from 14 February till 25 March 2024.

Contact information

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King Baudouin Foundation

Working together for a better society

The King Baudouin Foundation's mission is to contribute to a better society in Belgium, in Europe and elsewhere in the world.

The Foundation is an actor for change and innovation, serving the public interest and increasing social cohesion. It seeks to maximise its impact by improving skills in organisations and for individuals. It also stimulates effective philanthropy by individuals and corporations.

The Foundation's most important values are integrity and transparency, promoting solidarity, respect for diversity, pluralism and independence.

Our vision for the future is

- In Belgium, to anchor our activities, from the local to federal level;
- In Europe, to continue to position the KBF on the European stage;
- Internationally, to become a significant player in cross-border philanthropy, through the Myriad alliance for borderless giving created together with Myriad USA and KBF CANADA, and through our partnership with Give2Asia.

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

With thanks to the National Lottery and its players, and also to our many donors for their ongoing commitment.

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