

Research on Multiple System Atrophy and related diseases

CALL FOR PROJECTS 2024

The Fund Sophia was created to support medical research on neurodegenerative diseases. Priority will be given to research projects with focus on Multiple System Atrophy (MSA) and Atypical Parkinsonisms. The Fund Sophia is managed by the King Baudouin Foundation with the help of an international scientific jury and a Steering Committee.

Subject of the call

The Fund is launching a fourth call for projects. The topic of this call is:

Advancing Research in Multiple System Atrophy (MSA) and Atypical Parkinsonisms

The Fund Sophia is seeking for innovative research proposals to improve our understanding of, develop novel diagnostics for, and explore potential treatments for multiple system atrophy (MSA) and other atypical parkinsonisms.

We recognize these neurodegenerative conditions present unique challenges and are often understudied compared to Parkinson's disease.

This call is open to both fundamental as well as translational research that addresses one or more of the following areas:

- **Etiology and Pathophysiology:** studies elucidating the underlying causes and mechanisms of disease progression in MSA and atypical parkinsonism.
- **Biomarker Development:** identifying and validating biomarkers for early detection, differential diagnosis, and disease progression tracking.
- **Novel Treatment Strategies:** development of disease-modifying therapies, including pharmacological, cell-based, or gene therapy approaches, targeting the specific mechanisms of MSA and related conditions.
- **Symptomatic Management:** exploration of improved strategies for managing non-motor and motor symptoms to enhance patients' quality of life.

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.



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Main applicant

The call is open to researchers and clinicians based at accredited universities, hospitals or research institutions in Europe.

Both established investigators and early-career researchers are encouraged to apply.

Laureates of previous calls may reapply if they have submitted all activity reports related to the previous call(s) as required by the agreement.

Projects demonstrating interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches are strongly favored.

Interdisciplinarity: projects that include a collaboration between different disciplines and professional perspectives (e.g. neurology, psychiatry, psychology, behavioural sciences, educational sciences, neuroscience, etc. etc.)

Collaborative approaches: collaboration between different research centres (proof of collaboration regarding task allocation and content of the research, inclusion of patients and logistical cooperation should be demonstrated in the application).

Selection criteria

Scientific quality of the project

- Design, including a timeline, statistics, sample calculation
- Feasibility of the proposed study, including feasibility to complete the study within the proposed timing;
- Innovative approaches

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

- The project addresses clearly identified health issues related to MSA and atypical parkinsonisms.

Involvement of stakeholders

- List of key stakeholders and clear description of how they will be involved in the research and how their expertise will be taken into account.

Potential of the main applicant and research team

- Career potential of the main applicant (creativity, management skills, (inter)national visibility etc...)
- Potential of the research team & collaborating teams: scientific environment, competence, experience, added-value from the collaboration.

Potential impact

- of the results on diagnosis/prognosis/treatment
- of the research on quality of care/quality of life
- of the research for patients, their family and/or professionals.
- of the research on society

Perspective of implementation of the results

- the proposal has to include a clear plan for the implementation of the study results.

Dissemination of the study results

- the proposal has to include a plan for the communication of the study results., including negative results.

Justification of the budget



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Ethical questions & gender issues

- A description of how ethical issues , if any, are taken into account. If the project has to be submitted to an Ethics Committee, researchers should send approval of the ethical approval before the project can start (but not before the introduction of the application).
- A description of how gender/diversity issues, if any, are taken into account.

Grants

A global budget of €150.000 has been allocated to this call.

Grants ranging from €50.000 to €150.000 will be awarded, covering a period of 2 years.

Procedure

If interested, please submit an online application via the website of the King Baudouin Foundation www.kbs-frb.be. The applications must be submitted online by **24/09/2024 at the latest**.

Candidates will receive confirmation that their application was received.

An independent international selection committee, composed of experts in neurology, movement disorders, and related fields will review proposals based on scientific merit, innovation, feasibility and potential impact on MSA and atypical parkinsonism research.

The final selection will be made by the Steering committee of the Fund **in November 2024**. All parties will be informed of the decision in December.

Contact

- For technical assistance during the application process:
Contact center – Tel +32-(0)2 500 45 55 – info@kbs-frb.be
- For information regarding the call:
Annemie T'Seyen – Tel +32-(0)2-549 03 03 – tseyen.a@kbs-frb.be

King Baudouin Foundation

Working together for a better society

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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