

Funds for research in pediatric hematology-oncology

Fundamental research on the mechanisms of pediatric cancers

Call for projects 2025

The Funds Simon Bauvin, Christian Lispet, Rosa Meynen, Denise Raes and Alice Sepulchre were created to support **research on pediatric cancer**. The Funds are managed by the King Baudouin Foundation with the help of a scientific Jury and a Steering Committee. The funds are launching a second joint call.

Subject of the call

The 2025 call concerns: **fundamental research on the mechanisms of pediatric cancers with clinical translation**.

The introduced research project aims to improve the understanding of pediatric tumor biology, including (but not limited to) studies on genetic change, signaling pathways and tumor microenvironment. The project should be **specific to pediatric cancers and include clear perspectives for applications in medicine**.

Collaborations between laboratory scientists and clinicians are strongly encouraged.

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.

Main applicant

The call is open to:

- **young post-doctoral researchers** (maximum 8 years of active research activities (with an additional time for documented career break) following their PhD thesis public defense). This term expires at the latest on the deadline for submission of applications; working full-time or at least 50% of their time within a university or research center in Belgium.

The applicant researcher is supported by the head of department/medical director of the concerned university, hospital or research center.

Collaborative projects are encouraged. Projects that involve collaboration between research teams internationally must be initiated and coordinated by the team based in Belgium.



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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 a clearly identified medical, allied health or psychological issues related to pediatric oncology
- The rationale why the patient perspective is taken into account (or not taken into account) in the design of the project, is clearly explained in the proposal

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

- Previous research achievements of the main applicant since the start of their career.
- Career potential of main applicant (creativity, management skills, (inter)national visibility, etc)
- Potential of the research team and collaborating teams: scientific environment, competence, experience and added value of 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 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 clear plan for 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:
 - o Mention the N° of submission to the ethical committee in the application file
 - o Send approval of the ethical committee 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

Grant

Financial support of a total of € 170.000 is available to support a single research project covering a working period of two years. The support can be used for all cost categories related to the project.

The grant will be made available in instalments conditional upon approval of the activity report.

The researcher (main applicant) may be invited to present the final activity report to the jury and fund steering committee upon conclusion of the grant.

The overhead cannot exceed 17%.

Procedure

If you are interested, please submit an **online application** via the website of the King Baudouin Foundation www.kbs-frb.be. Applications should be submitted **in English** by **22 May 2025 at midnight** at the latest. Candidates will receive an acknowledgement of receipt.

Selection

Eligible applications undergo a two-step evaluation process:

- Applications will first be submitted to individual international scientific expert-referees specialised in the field of the submitted project.
- Applications will then be submitted to an independent international scientific jury. The jury will assess the projects and will draw up recommendations for the Fund Steering Committee managed by the King Baudouin Foundation, which will make the final decision.

The decision will be published in December 2025.

Contact

- 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:
Isabelle Nguyen – nguyen.i@mandate.kbs-frb.be – Tel +32 (0)2 549 03 00



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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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