

Call for research projects 2025

The Fund for scientific research in rheumatology (FWRO-FRSR) supports research on rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases. The Fund is managed by the King Baudouin Foundation, with the help of a scientific jury and a steering committee.

The Fund launches a call for projects every year.

Subject of the call

The research should focus on rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases. Priority is given to clinical, multidisciplinary or multicentre programs, either in academic or non-academic Belgian institutions, that respond to a clearly identified need of patients and/or caregivers.

Projects that are open to collaborations with other interested centres and which cannot easily be supported through other existing national or international programs are especially invited.

Seeding money for innovative translational or basic research can also be requested, in a preparative phase for more established funding opportunities.

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

- all health professionals and researchers in Belgium with an interest in clinical or translational rheumatology research.
- **Trainees in rheumatology and young rheumatologists are particularly encouraged to submit an application.**
- **Collaborative projects involving researchers as well as clinicians and patients are encouraged.**
- Laureates of previous calls may reapply if they have submitted all activity reports related to the previous call(s) as required by the agreement.
- The main applicant may not apply to this call more than once as main applicant but may apply as a co-applicant on more than one application.

Scientific support

The application should be formally supported by an established researcher (e.g. holds PhD or clear research experience).

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 medical, allied health issues related to rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases.
- 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 the main applicant (creativity, management skills, (inter)national visibility...)
- 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 for patients, their family and/or professionals

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

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 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.

Grant

A total budget of € 150.000 has been allocated to this call. Maximum 20% of this total amount can be dedicated to translational research. Target amount for grants: € 30.000 per project.

No overhead can be taken on grants until € 50.000. For higher amounts, the overhead can't exceed 17%.

In case of insufficient high-quality projects, the jury and the Steering Committee reserve the right not to spend the full amount available.

Procedure

If interested, please submit an online application in English via the website of the King Baudouin Foundation www.kbs-frb.be.

The applications should be submitted by **24th June 2025 at midnight at the latest**. Candidates will receive an acknowledgement of receipt.

Selection

Applications will be submitted to an independent 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 September 2025.

Contact King Baudouin Foundation

- 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 for scientific research in rheumatology FWRO-FRSR,
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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