

CALL FOR PROJECTS 2026

– N°1 –

BASIC RESEARCH IN CARDIOLOGY

The Belgian Heart Fund, the Fund Walckiers-Van Dessel and the Fund Fernand Léonard were created to support research in cardiology in Belgian institutions. The Belgian Heart Fund was created in collaboration with the Belgian Society of Cardiology. All 3 Funds are managed by the King Baudouin Foundation with the help of a Fund Steering Committee. Research projects are reviewed by an independent scientific jury.

The Funds are launching a joint call for projects in the field of **basic research** in cardiology.*

Subject of the call

The call concerns non-commercial pilot-projects for **basic research** in the field of cardiovascular research. This research encompasses scientific disciplines such as biochemistry, physiology, and pharmacology and their interplay and involves laboratory studies with cell cultures, animal studies or physiological experiments. Patients are not in the centre of the study but biological samples (e.g. blood) can be used for this purpose.

Eligible applicants

Project

The project must fall within the scope of the call and meet all scientific requirements. It must not have previously received a grant or prize from any of the supporting funds.

The same project cannot be submitted simultaneously under any other ongoing calls of the Belgian Heart Fund (see*).

The project must be initiated and carried out, for the most part, within one or more Belgian institutions.

Organizations

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

Main applicant

The call is open to researchers who have been employed for more than two years in a non-profit medical research organization in Belgium. The main applicant must be a Member of the Belgian Society of Cardiology .

If the main applicant has previously received a BHF award, the new project will only be considered if all required activity reports due before the call's deadline have been submitted to the fund secretary.

Collaborations

- Collaborative projects are encouraged. In case of a multicentre project, the applicant should be the principal investigator of the project.
- Projects that involve collaboration between research teams internationally must be initiated and coordinated by the team based in Belgium.

Selection criteria

Scientific quality of the project

Quality of the research

- Design, including a timeline, statistics, sample calculation, feasibility, potential etc.
- Innovative approaches
- Relevance/added value of the research to existing knowledge

Track record

- Track record and career potential of the main applicant
- Potential of the research team and - in case of multicentre project - collaborating teams (scientific environment, competence, experience...)

Budget

- Feasibility of the research and the adequacy of the budget

Grant

- 1 to maximum 3 high level research projects will be supported. Maximum amount per project: €20.000
- No overhead can be deducted from this grant. The entire amount of the grant must go to the researcher and his team.
- The support can be used for all costs related to the project.

Procedure

If you are interested, please submit **an online application** via the website of the King Baudouin Foundation <https://kbs-frb.be/en/belgian-heart-fund-basic-research-cardiology-2026>. Applications should be submitted **in English by 08/09/2026 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 Steering Committee of the Fund which will make the final decision. The decision will be published in January 2027. The grant will be officially awarded at the annual congress of the Belgian Society of Cardiology planned in January 2027.

Contact

For technical assistance during the application process:

- Contact centre – Tel +32-(0)2 500 45 55 – info@kbs-frb.be

For information regarding the call:

- KBF: Laetitia Aerts – Tel +32-(0)2-549 02 33 – aerts.l@kbs-frb.be
- BSC: Anne Dewaegnaere – anne.dewaegnaere@bscardio.be

*** Interested in support for research projects in other domains of cardiology? Have a look at the other ongoing calls:**

N° 2. Clinical research in cardiology, launched by the Belgian Heart Fund and the Fund Fernand Léonard.

N° 3. Call for Multicentre clinical trials, launched by the Belgian Heart Fund in partnership with the [Fund for Cardiac surgery](#)

Information on the ongoing calls is available on the websites of the King Baudouin Foundation and of the Belgian Society of Cardiology.

Please note that one same project can only be introduced once, parallel introduction of the same project in different calls is not allowed. On the other hand, a candidate or team can submit different projects for different calls.

With thanks to the Belgian Society of Cardiology and its major sponsors, including the Fund for Cardiac Surgery and the BHF donors, for their valued support.

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

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

The King Baudouin Foundation was set up in 1976, on 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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