

CALL FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS 2022-2023

The Fund Victoria was created to support **activities in the field of autism**, including research. Research will prioritize **the relationship between epilepsy and autism**, with the potential for insights that could elucidate mechanisms of disease, early detection, and treatment. The Fund is managed by the King Baudouin Foundation with the help of an international scientific jury and a Steering Committee. The Fund is launching a first call for basic research projects focusing on shared pathophysiological mechanisms underlying autism and epilepsy.

Subject of this call

Autism and epilepsy are neurodevelopmental disorders that commonly co-occur, but the shared causal mechanisms and their temporal relationship remain largely unsolved, hampering the development of effective treatment strategies and interventions. This first call for research projects launched by the Fund Victoria focuses on:

Innovative research on the shared pathophysiological mechanisms underlying epilepsy and autism and which, if scientifically successful, will create novel treatment targets for these neurodevelopmental disorders

Through this call, the Fund aims to support a research team or a consortium of research centers in Belgium and/or Europe with outstanding scientific achievements in the field of epilepsy and autism research.

Selection criteria

Scientific quality of the project

Quality of the research

- Design of the study, including a timeline, data treatment and management
- 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/practices

- The proposal includes a clear assessment of the necessity and relevance of the research question with respect to achieving the goal of this call

Track record

- Track record and career potential of project leader (CV and publications, international recognition, main research achievements...)
- Potential of the research team & collaborating teams: scientific environment, competence, experience, added-value from the collaboration.

Adequacy of the budget

Valuable assets

Translational potential

- Refers to a research methodology integrating a basic science approach as well as clinical considerations and encompasses all stages from bench to bedside. Research that elucidates shared pathophysiological mechanisms underlying epilepsy and autism and identifies



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potential targets for treatment or intervention is a key objective of the Fund Victoria. As such, a clear description of the translational strategy will be considered as a strong asset.

Multidisciplinarity

- Refers to the use and application of different scientific disciplines as a substantial element of the research methodology.

Multicentric cooperation:

- Refers to the close collaboration with centers of excellence located in Belgium or abroad.

Communication Plan

- Refers to the communication about the research within the scientific community but also towards patients and a broader public (conferences, articles, video with success stories, etc.)

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.

Project leader

- must be an internationally established investigator, with outstanding scientific achievements and multiple seminal contributions in the field of neurodevelopmental disorders.
- must hold a PhD or have at least 4 years of equivalent research experience in a relevant field.
- must be affiliated to a Research Center in Europe, including Israel (universities, university colleges, strategic research centers)
- must not reach the retirement age limit during the project.

Consortium

An application can be filed by a single research institution or by a consortium of institutions. If the application is submitted by a consortium, the consortium will appoint a supervisor who is responsible for the proper execution of the project. The supervisor acts as representative and spokesperson of the consortium vis-à-vis the KBF and ensures the coordination of the activities of the allocated project support and the reporting on the project.

If several research centers are involved in the project, and if the project is approved, all centers shall conclude a mutual agreement governing the practical cooperation, as well as mutual agreements concerning the ownership and valorization of the research results

Grant

Amount, duration and allocation

- The grant amounts to 1.000.000 € over 4 years. However, a first instalment of 500.000 € will be credited for 2 years. The second instalment of 500.000 € will be subject to the positive evaluation of a mid-term scientific, financial and communication report. The project supervisor is also requested to submit a final report at the end of the project.
- Eligible expenses encompass personnel costs, running costs and equipment.



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Overhead

- If any overhead should be taken, this cannot exceed 15%.

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 **31st January 2023** at midnight at the latest. Candidates will receive an acknowledgement of receipt.

Selection

The selection process will be carried out in accordance with the highest standards of quality, impartiality, and transparency.

The jury will draw up recommendations for the Fund Steering Committee, which will make the final decision.

The decision will be published in June 2023

Contact

- For technical assistance during the application process:
Contact centre – Tel +32-(0)2 500 45 55 – proj@kbs-frb.be
- For information regarding the call:
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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.

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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