

General regulation - Translational and clinical research

The Foundation against Cancer (FAC) grants funds in order to encourage clinical and translational oncology research.

Attention: as of **2016**, several **important changes** will be made to the selection process for projects submitted to the FAC. Please read these general regulations carefully before submitting your request.

From now on, project selection will consist of **two phases**:

- The **first phase** consists in analyzing a **letter of intent** (LOI), submitted by the lead applicant to the FAC within the prescribed deadlines. Three international referees, appointed by the FAC's Scientific Committee, will analyze this LOI. The international referee's score will result in a preclassification. The **first 50 projects will be preselected**. All applicants will be notified personally by mail of the results of this preclassification. The preselected candidates will then submit an application form to the FAC within the prescribed deadlines.
- In the **second phase** the members of the Scientific Committee analyze the **full application forms** (FAF). Final selection will take place in a plenary session.

Requisites for participation

All researchers, affiliated to a **research facility or hospital facility**, subordinate to a nonprofit association, a public utility foundation or a private foundation, are authorized to submit in a research proposal insofar as the research with no direct commercial purpose will be conducted in **Belgium**.

A team that is currently already funded by the FAC can

- put in a new request provided that this new request focuses on a research domain sufficiently different from the project being funded at that time
- put in a new request that is linked to the project being funded at that time, provided the first one will end when funding for the new one will start

Letter of Intent (LOI)

A letter of intent can be submitted by one lead applicant or several research teams (co-applicants from different universities or hospitals) jointly. The applicant is not allowed to submit the same research project simultaneously to the Fundamental Scientific Committee as well as to the Translational and Clinical Scientific

Committee.

The applicant is allowed to submit **only one translational & clinical research project** as lead applicant¹ (principal investigator) or co-applicant² (principal investigator from another university or hospital).

This initial choice by the applicant for either of the Committees is important as the letter of intent cannot be transferred from one Scientific Committee to the other.

The letter of intent should be written in **English**.

Full Application Form (FAF)

The lead applicant will be notified personally if his letter of intent has been preselected. The lead applicant is then allowed to submit a full application form (FAF) to the FAC within the prescribed deadlines.

Research project

Translational research: The project should offer clear prospects for the transfer of results from fundamental research to clinical research or from clinical research to fundamental research with the objective of improving prevention (next to primary or secondary prevention) diagnosis and/or treatment of cancer. Its scientific merit should be of the highest quality. Its objectives and approach should be original. It should be the major research project for the researcher and his team.

Clinical research: The project should offer clear prospects for the improvement of prevention (next to primary or secondary prevention), diagnosis and/or treatment of cancer. Its scientific merit should be of the highest quality. Its object and approach should be original. It should be a major research project for the researcher and his team.

Duration of the grant

The request for funds can be submitted, according to the wishes of the applicant, for a period of one to four years. The Translational and Clinical Scientific Committee reserves the right to reduce the duration of the grant when appropriate.

After acceptance of the research project, a possible prolongation of the execution schedule of the project, duly motivated, without impact on the total amount of

¹ **Lead applicant :** The lead applicant is the person who actively applies for a Grant. He is the leader of the project and he has the primary responsibility for the intellectual direction of the research. He assumes also financial responsibility for the Grant.

² **Co-applicant :** The co-applicant is a researcher participating in a **multicentric grant application** and who makes a significant contribution to the intellectual direction of the research. He has also the responsibility of the financial and scientific aspects of the research conducted in its university/ clinical institution.

support, can be granted for a period not exceeding one year. Any request to prolong the project for more than one year will have to be submitted to the Translational and Clinical Scientific Committee.

Scientific evaluation of the project

The scientific evaluation of the project falls under the jurisdiction of the Chairman and the members of the Translational and Clinical Scientific Committee of the FAC. As mentioned above, each project will also be submitted to 3 international reviewers, appointed by the Scientific committee. The final score will consist of the international referees' and committees scores.

The principal criteria for quality during the evaluation of the project are:

- the project's scientific pertinence and original character
- results of previous research and publications of the applying team
- track record of the applying team and scientific environment.

Selection of the projects made by the Translational and Clinical Scientific Committee cannot be disputed.

Costs covered by the grant

The funds granted by the FAC can be used to cover the execution costs of the project as detailed in the Full Application Form. This may include remuneration of the scientific and technical coworkers as well as working and equipment costs as stated and detailed in the request for funds, linked to the execution of the project (laboratory supplies and products; acquisition, installation and maintenance of scientific and technical devices and instruments, etc.).

No excess of the total amount will be authorized, but transfer from one allocation to another will be permitted pending authorization from the FAC.

Overhead

The research organization, whatever its legal status (nonprofit association, public utility foundation, private foundation ...) **is not authorized to withdraw overhead** from the funds granted by the Foundation.

Maximum requested amount

It cannot exceed **€ 400 000** (VAT inclusive) per project.

Beneficiary financial account

At the submission of the request, the applicant has to provide the account number of the beneficiary. This account **imperatively** has to be allocated to an institution having the status of nonprofit association, public utility foundation or private foundation, with consent of the lawful representative(s).

The applicant will attach a financial identification form to the application for candidacy, duly filled in and signed.

The FAC reserves the right to demand a copy of the articles of the account holder (nonprofit association, public utility foundation or private foundation).

Payment schedule

- *For one-year projects*

The first deposit will be carried out in the month following the signature of the agreement with the FAC if all the conditions are met. The second deposit will be carried out halfway through.

- *For projects from one up to 4 years long*

The first deposit will be carried out in the month following the signature of the agreement with the FAC. The following deposits will be carried out bi-annually up until halfway through the mandate.

Halfway through the mandate, the following bi-annual payments will be determined according to an intermediate report and the bank statement testifying to the use of at least 2/3 of the already allocated amounts. This bank statement must be validated by the financial director of the research institution. If 2/3 of the allocated funds have not yet been used at this stage, payments will be interrupted until an additional bank statement is received testifying that this expenses threshold has been reached. One or several simultaneous installments will then be paid as not to modify the total duration of the granting.

- *For four-year projects*

The first deposit will be carried out in the month following the signature of the agreement with the FAC. The following deposits will be carried out bi-annually up until halfway through the mandate.

Halfway through the mandate, the translational and clinical scientific committee will evaluate the progression of the project and will decide on the continuation of the granting, without the applicant having the possibility of obtaining an increase of the funds granted initially. The following bi-annual payments will be determined according to this evaluation based on the intermediate report sent by the beneficiary. He will also provide a bank statement testifying to the use of at least 2/3 of the already allocated amounts. This bank statement must be validated by the financial director of the research institution. If 2/3 of the allocated funds have not yet been used at this stage, payments will be interrupted until an additional bank statement is received testifying that this expenses threshold has been reached. One or several simultaneous installments will then be paid as not to modify the total duration of the granting.

Commitment of the research team to the FAC

By submitting a request for funds, the applicant commits himself to honor the requisites of these granting regulations.

When retained by the FAC, the beneficiary will be asked to sign an agreement. Hereby he commits himself to:

- Provide an intermediary report halfway through the agreement, stating the progression of the research as well as detailing the following steps up until the end of the agreement. This report will come with a bank statement, validated by the financial director of the research institution, detailing the amount and nature of the expenses.
- Provide a final report 2 and a certified bank statement 2 months **after** the end of the agreement between the research institution and the FAC.
- Participate in the communication campaigns, whatever their nature, that the Foundation wishes to organize to support research.
- Provide at the explicit demand of the FAC, of its accountant or its Scientific committee, all information, document or media, whatever their nature, allowing to better understand the use of the granted funds.

If selected, the candidate accepts the installation, in the hospital(s) where the study takes place, of an “infokiosk” provided by the FAC for the duration of the project financing. This infokiosk will be located in a strategic place for the circulation of patients (waiting room, ...) chosen by mutual agreement. In this case, the first payment will be made in the month following the effective installation of the infokiosk.