



PMC CALL-5 OVERVIEW

CONTEXT

The Personalised Medicine Consortium (PMC) is keen to build new collaborations between clinicians and researchers from Luxembourg and to foster new synergies. To aid in this process, the five PMC-related institutions Luxembourg Institute of Health (LIH), Luxembourg Centre for Systems Biomedicine (LCSB), IBBL (Integrated Biobank of Luxembourg), Laboratoire National de Santé (LNS) and Life Sciences Research Unit (LSRU) of the University of Luxembourg have developed a fund to 'pump prime' new initiatives. This programme was first launched in 2014 and has been running successfully ever since. We are now pleased to announce a new call for 2020, to be launched on July 1, 2019.

The expectation is that the funding will be used to initiate new collaborative research projects on biomedical research between clinicians and researchers who are based in different research institutions. Priority will be given to projects that are novel and innovative, that are establishing new collaborations within Luxembourg and where preliminary data is needed prior to submitting an application to an external funding agency.

The main expected return on investment of such funding relies on:

- Solving unmet clinical needs with an innovative approach
- Fostering research interactions between the five biomedical research institutes of Luxembourg
- Enabling researchers/clinicians to develop this project into an externally funded project, if successful

ELIGIBILITY AND RESTRICTIONS

- Lead applicants must be based in Luxembourg.
- A minimum of two of the PMC funding organisations (ideally more) must be involved in each funding application.
- A maximum of € 60,000 can be requested per funding application.
- € 50,000 can be used for consumables, external sample analyses, data collection, inter-institution costs (at cost price), market research, literature reviews, pilot studies led by clinician-researchers.
- It cannot be used for existing staffing, existing infrastructure or already funded project components (Please note the funding cannot be used as a “bridge fund” for researchers).
- An additional € 10,000 may be requested for the project provided that this additional funding is intended to cover the cost of activities dedicated to patient recruitment (e.g. communication, clinical research nurse or other healthcare professional involved in patient recruitment). Those specific activities should be sufficiently detailed in the project proposal.
- All awarded funds must be spent within two years of project approval.

PROCESS

The application should be a maximum of five A4 pages in length, and should contain the following:

- Name of Leader and names of main researchers who will participate in the project and their institutions
- A clearly stated hypothesis
- A description of the work to be undertaken
- Impact of such proposal
- Proposed start and end dates
- Expected deliverables
- An explanation as to why pump priming funding is necessary
- A detailed breakdown of the funding requirements of all institutions involved (to include contributions in-kind provided by institutions) with a clear justification of the costs
- Clearly articulated next steps following the pump priming award (incl. subsequent submission of a grant application)
- Any other collaborations involved
- Any other relevant information
- Applications should be emailed to pmc@ibbl.lu
- Any questions should be directed to Clair MEEK +352 269 70 549

Applicants must submit a final report at the end of the project and inform pmc@ibbl.lu

TIMEFRAME

- The call for 2020 will be announced on July 1, 2019.
- Application forms should be completed and submitted to pmc@ibbl.lu by October 15, 2019.
- Applications received after this period will not be accepted.
- The PMC Board¹ will review the applications and determine which proposals will be funded on the basis of a score composed of scientific excellence and impact.
- Decisions to applicants will be communicated during the week commencing November 11, 2019.

ASSESSMENT

The applications will be assessed based on a series of criteria:

- Scientific and technical excellence (maximum score of 5 (threshold 4))
 - Clarity and pertinence of the objectives
 - Soundness of the concept, including trans-disciplinary considerations, where relevant
 - Extent to which proposed work is ambitious, has innovation potential, and is beyond the state of the art (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches)
- Clinical impact (maximum score of 5 (threshold 4)):
 - Whether the proposal will contribute to society or the patient/clinician community
- Threshold is 8/10. No proposal under the score of 8/10 will be considered for funding.

The intention of the PMC board is to select original projects/programmes with a chance for a subsequent submission of a grant application to an external funding agency.

FOLLOW UP

Once granted, the selected programmes will be followed up and presented once a year in front of the PMC Board.

¹ The PMC board will be composed of Ulf Nehrass, Paul Wilmes, Catherine Larue, Friedrich Mühlischlegel and Iris Behrmann