Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft
Clinical Research Groups

Call 2022/23
General Information for Applicants

Dr. Neda Motamedi-Shad
Programme Manager Clinical Research Groups
Before we start

• Sound and video are disabled during the presentation
• You may use the Q/A function to send us questions about content and the chat for technical problems
• Please note that the presentation will be recorded
• Make sure to turn on the microphone when you want to speak

• The recording and slides will be made available through our website
• Questions that should not get answered today will be included in the FAQ section of our website
CRGs are to support:

innovative (novel) research of high quality in the field of diseases, and patient-oriented approaches.

Unique aspects of CRGs:

a research network of closely interacting clinicians, physician-scientists and basic scientists

a mix of experienced and younger investigators

funding of clinical trials (non-commercial, investigator-initiated)

ideally an interdisciplinary group from different disciplines, with synergistic effects

dedicated research time for physicians can be applied for (rotation)

promotes young clinicians/scientists to advance their career
• Aims of the Funding Programme
• Key facts of the call
• What is a CRG? Structure, Organisation of Research, Staff
• Funding: Eligible Costs, In-kind contributions, Non eligible costs
• Application: Selection, Timeline, Documents/Forms, eCall, Short Proposal Form
• Reporting
• Support

• Questions
Subject

• intensify the quality of **non-commercial clinical research** at Austrian medical universities and to promote the integration of translational aspects into medical research (“bench to bedside”)

• support **interdisciplinary** approaches that can promote knowledge and technology transfer in the field of health sciences and clinical research and to foster the **creation of research networks**

• endorse **young researchers’ careers** in clinical/translational research and project management and to strengthen gender equality

• to overcome the current inherent competitive disadvantage clinician scientists face when competing for funding with full-time non-clinical researchers
Key facts of the call

- Two-stage call
  - Short proposal deadline: Nov 17, 2022
  - Full proposal deadline: April 20, 2023
  - On site interviews: July 2023

- Budget: 24 million €
  - 16 Mio €
  - 8 Mio €

- Max funded costs/CRG: 0.5–1.0 million € per year
  - Funding covers personnel, non-personnel expenses, and 25% overhead costs
  - Funding rate: Max. 90% of the total costs of the CRG, min 10% must be in-kind contribution
  - Duration: Max 4 + 4 years (after successful interim evaluation)
The Clinical Research Group (CRG)

Structure

- **LEAD INSTITUTION**
  
  funded
  
  Austrian medical university/medical faculty with an affiliated university hospital
## The Clinical Research Group (CRG)

### Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEAD INSTITUTION</th>
<th>COOPERATION PARTNER(S)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>funded</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austrian medical university/medical faculty with an affiliated university hospital</td>
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*sign funding contract*
In well-founded cases, an individual application by a university is also possible. In such cases, greater emphasis should be placed on cooperation between different clinical departments and on interdisciplinarity between researchers.

- **LEAD INSTITUTION**
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The Clinical Research Group (CRG)

Structure

- **LEAD INSTITUTION**
  - funded
  - Austrian medical university/medical faculty with an affiliated university hospital

- Medical University of Vienna
- Medical University of Graz
- Medical University of Vienna of Innsbruck
- Medical Faculty of Johannes Kepler University Linz
- Medical Faculty of Sigmund Freud University Vienna
- Karl Landsteiner Private University Krems
- Paracelsus Medical Private University Salzburg
- Danube Private University Krems
Proposals must include the description of the planned research project as well as a description of the planned work packages/sub-projects.
The research project including its work packages/sub-projects must meet the following criteria:

- A coherent research project must be presented in the proposal, describing how individual work packages/sub-projects form a larger project, and thereby create benefit.
- Research projects must be innovative and of high quality in the field of disease- and patient-oriented clinical research.
- > 50% of the proposed work to be carried out at medical universities/faculties
- Project teams must be interdisciplinary

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The Clinical Research Group (CRG)

Staff of a CRG – general points

• 5-15 directly funded individuals (full-time equivalents), plus in-kind personnel
• The consortium must consist of at least two different organisations*
• Different disciplines* must be represented as CRG partners in the consortium
• Cross-organisational approach: work package/sub-project teams should ideally consist of staff from different organisations in order to foster cross-sectoral learning

see Statistic Austria, apply 4-digit code
The Clinical Research Group (CRG)

Staff of a CRG – different roles

- Mentor
- Head
- Deputy Head(s)
- work package/sub-project Leaders
- Researchers and other staff

> 1/3 of all the Heads (Head, Deputy Head(s), and work package/sub-project Leader(s)) must be female
The Clinical Research Group (CRG)

**Staff of a CRG – MENTOR**

- ensures the integration of the CRG into the framework of the Lead Institution
- experienced scientist/clinician, ideally in a medical leadership position at a university hospital, **employed at the Lead Institution**
- ensures that young clinical staff have the required “freedom” to perform research within the CRG
- assists the CRG and its young professionals in their professional and personal career development
- can, but is not obliged to, carry out own research within the CRG
The Clinical Research Group (CRG)

Staff of a CRG – HEAD

• experienced physician/researcher employed at the Lead Institution with relevant expertise in project management
• responsible for the scientific and administrative management of the CRG, for the coordination and submission of proposals and reports
• required to dedicate at least 25% of their time to the CRG
• acts as Head for first funding period (4 years)
The Clinical Research Group (CRG)

Staff of a CRG – WORK PACKAGE/SUB PROJECT LEADERS

- The group of work-package/sub-project leaders shall be a **balanced mix** of experienced and junior physicians or scientists.
- Pairs of work-package/sub-project Leaders (e.g. with different expertise, from different disciplines, etc.) can jointly lead a work package/sub-project.
- Must have a proven track record, and in case PhD students are employed in the respective work-package/sub-project, must fulfil the academic requirements to supervise PhD students (according to their universities’ regulations).
- Are required to **dedicate at least 20% of their time** to the CRG.
The Clinical Research Group (CRG)

Staff of a CRG – DEPUTY HEAD(S)

• one (or more) work-package/sub-project Leader will act as Deputy Head(s) who supports the Head and as such learns to lead a CRG

• a (more) junior researcher (ideally a junior clinical or physician scientist) employed at the Lead Institution

• is not required to have the same advanced scientific, clinical, and project management experience as the Head from the start, but should acquire the necessary expertise by supporting and strongly collaborating with the Head during the first funding period

• in case of extended funding (+4yrs), the Deputy Head (or one of them) will take over the role of the Head during the second funding period

• are required to dedicate at least 20% of their time to the CRG
The Clinical Research Group (CRG)

Staff of a CRG – ROTATIONAL POSITIONS

- Clinicians (including those still in training) can be released from clinical duties for a defined period of time to partake in one or more work packages/sub-projects of the CRG
- Funding can be used for temporary substitutes who will be appointed to do their clinical work

Limits:
- Maximum of 2 rotational positions (FTEs) allowed per year
- Duration: 1 year per person
Team members of a CRG may include

- Postdocs
- PhD Students
- Bachelor or Master students
- Technicians: technical staff, data analysts
- Study nurses
<table>
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<td>• Salaries for personnel (see previous slide)</td>
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Eligible costs

- Salaries for personnel (see previous slide)
- Material costs
- Training
- Consulting services
- Smaller equipment
- Third party services
- Travel expenses
- 25% of direct eligible costs as overheads

Direct eligible costs + Overheads = total funded costs
### Funding

#### In-kind contributions

- At least 10% of the total costs (direct and indirect) must be contributed in-kind.
- This can be: personnel costs, direct financial contributions by the institution, non-personnel costs (material, equipment, etc.), or access to and use of existing infrastructure.

- **NOT** costs covered by the overheads.
- **NOT** third party funding or contributions from companies.

- **Note:** Salaries of the Head, the Mentor and of work package/sub-project Leaders including Deputy Head(s) are not eligible for funding and **must be contributed** in-kind.
Non eligible costs

- Cost not directly required for the successful completion of the project are not eligible for funding
- Value-added tax payable on eligible costs is not eligible for funding, unless non-deductible for the beneficiary
  
  (exceptions: see “Call specifications” section 3.5 and “Special Guideline” section 7.3 for details on VAT)
- Funding is not available for studies involving direct commercial interest and does not cover costs for registration of intellectual property rights
Application

Selection process: Two stage call

1 Short proposals are reviewed and evaluated by the international Scientific Expert Commission (for members see www.lbg.ac.at/kfg). After review, decisions are made jointly by the entire commission during a Commission meeting. Selected applicants are invited to submit Full Proposals.
<table>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Full proposals are peer-reviewed by 3 reviewers (independent from the commission) and applicants will subsequently attend on-site interviews with the Scientific Expert Commission. Decisions will be based on the reviews as well as the hearing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Application

Timeline

September 22\textsuperscript{nd} 2022
November 17\textsuperscript{th} 2022
January 31\textsuperscript{st} 2023

Call opens
Short Proposal submission deadline
Notification of applicants
## Application

### Timeline

<table>
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<th>Date or Deadline</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>September 22(^{nd}) 2022</td>
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<td>January 31(^{st}) 2023</td>
<td>Notification of applicants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 20(^{th}) 2023</td>
<td>Full Proposal submission deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2023</td>
<td>On-site interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latest by October 2023</td>
<td>CRG starts</td>
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*Invitation to submit Full Proposals*
Application

Documents

- Sonderrichtlinie
- Special Guideline
- Call Specifications
- Data Privacy Policy

Forms to submit – Short Proposal stage

- Short Proposal Form
- CV Template

For Evaluation by Scientific Expert Commission – Short Proposal stage

- Short Proposal Evaluation Form
Application

Documents and forms

All documents and forms are available on [www.lbg.ac.at/kfg](http://www.lbg.ac.at/kfg)

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Documents describing the framework of the call

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- Short Proposal Form
- CV Template

Forms to download, fill in and submit

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- Data Privacy Policy

Forms to download, fill in and submit

- Short Proposal Form
- CV Template

Used by Scientific Expert Commission to evaluate proposal

- Short Proposal Evaluation Form
Application

Electronic Submission Platform eCall

The Call

Important dates

- Call opens: September 22nd 2022
- Short proposal submission deadline: November 17th 2022
- Full proposal submission deadline: April 20th 2023 (upon invitation only)
- On-site interviews: July 2023
- CRG start: October 2023

- Webinar with general information for applicants: October 4th 2022, 3:30 - 5:30 pm.
  Registration
  The webinar will be recorded and available on our website subsequently.

Please send any questions you might have to kfg@lbg.ac.at*. These will either be discussed during the webinar, or included in our Frequently Asked Questions+ section.

*Electronic submission platform eCall (FFG)

Downloads

- Sonderrichtlinie_DE.pdf 0.64 MB
- Special Guideline_EN.pdf 0.56 MB
- Call Specifications.pdf 1.19 MB
- Short Proposal Form.DOC 0.28 MB
- CV Template.DOC 0.08 MB
- Data privacy policy.pdf 0.12 MB
- Short Proposal Evaluation Form.DOC 0.06 MB
Costs for the 1st 4 years ->
Designated FFG helpline

phone: +43 (0) 5 7755-0

Mail: foerderservice@ffg.at
**Application**

**1st selection round: Short Proposal Form**

**List names and affiliations**
- Lead Institution
- Mentor
- Head
- Work package /sub-project Leaders
- Cooperation Partners

**Sections**
- Abstract: ½ page or 1500 characters
- Short CRG description: 5-10 pages
- Financial Plan

**Attachments**
- CVs, brief ethical declaration
- Other relevant attachments, e.g.
  - Letters of intent
  - Conflict of interest: Disclosure should any CRG members act in any capacity *within* the private sector
Application

1st selection round: Formal review after submission

- Submitted proposals are checked by LBG for formal correctness and completeness within two weeks and before evaluation begins
- Only submission of CV can be corrected!
- Use „Checklist Formal Checks“ (Call Specifications Table 4, page 25/26)
The Head, assisted by the Mentor, is responsible for reporting.

### Reporting

#### After funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Periodicity</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>scientific and financial</td>
<td>annual</td>
<td>formal correctness ensured by LBG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>interim</td>
<td>6 months before end of 1\textsuperscript{st} funding period</td>
<td>international peer-review, decision for a 2\textsuperscript{nd} funding period by Scientific Expert Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>final</td>
<td>2 months after 2\textsuperscript{nd} funding period</td>
<td>international peer-review</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Support

Program Management Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft:
Neda Motamed-Shad, MSc PhD

Mail: kfg@lbg.ac.at
Phone: +43 (0) 1 513 27 50-45

Technical questions regarding eCall (FFG):
Mail: foerderservice@ffg.at
Phone: +43 (0) 5 7755-0
Questions

Selected team members Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft

- Prof. Sylvia Knapp, Vice president
- Jürgen Busch, Senior Manager
- Alias Sherin, Information and Knowledge Manager
- Kurt Wolfsberger, Head of Finances and IT
- Anneliese Inreiter-Weiss, Head of Legal Affairs
Programme Manager medizinisch-klinische Forschung
Programme Manager Medicine and Health Sciences