



## **Strategic Research Area Stem cells and Regenerative medicine Call for applications May–2 October 2026**

### **Research grants**

The SFO announces up to 16 research grants for projects within the field of stem cells, and regenerative medicine. Senior research grants are open to all candidates and junior research grants are open to candidates up to 12 years after obtaining their PhD, counted until the day of the application deadline (time for parental leave, military service, and up to 5 years for internship and medical specialty training occurring after PhD can be deducted). Funded projects will be supported with 1,5 MSEK for 2027. Grants can be used to cover salaries, running costs, equipment and administrative costs. Starting date for grants is February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2027. However, within an active recruitment process of an external candidate, the starting date could be delayed to December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2027 at the latest. A researcher is limited to submit only one application for a research grant *or* a Tandem grant, i.e. not both.

Proposals will be evaluated and ranked by external international experts within the field. Final decisions will be taken by the SFO Steering committee.

**Note**, if the government and university decide to allocate funding for 2028 to the SFOs, the 2027 grant may be followed by a second-year grant in 2028 based on the application granted in 2027, without new evaluation.

## Eligible to apply

For senior grants: Principal investigator. For junior grants: Principal investigators within 12 years after obtaining their PhD, counted until the day of the application deadline (time for parental leave, military service, and up to 5 years for internship and medical specialty training occurring after PhD can be deducted). PIs in the process of being recruited to KI and who will be employed at the latest December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2027, are also eligible, but will require a detailed letter of support by the chair of the receiving institution. A final decision about support will require that the applicant has started his or her employment at KI/Region Stockholm. Grants will be transferred to the respective KI department. Applicants should have a PhD degree or equivalent and be affiliated 100% to KI and/or Region Stockholm at the time of starting the project. The proposed research program should have relevance for the field of stem cells and regenerative medicine. **Applicants who received project funding from this SFO with a disposition right including 2027 (last funding round and granted extensions) are not eligible to apply.**

## Relevance

Funding is given to basic and translational research projects within the areas of stem cells and regenerative medicine.

This includes research on the generation of cells, tissues, and organs, as well as on mechanisms that are important for regeneration including understanding of development, homeostasis, or pathological processes. Advancing knowledge of these processes is critical within regenerative medicine and tissue engineering, which aim to develop strategies for regrowing, repairing, or replacing damaged cells, tissues, organs, or body parts.

### **Evaluation criteria and weights**

*Evaluation of the project's scientific relevance within stem cells, regenerative medicine 25%*

*5 = Relevant*

*3 = Partially relevant*

*0 = Insufficient – Does not adequately fit the program goals*

*Evaluation of quality and feasibility of the project 25%*

*5 = Outstanding*

*4 = Excellent*

*3 = Very good*

*2 = Good*

*1 = Insufficient*

*Evaluation of the originality of the project 25%*

*5 = Outstanding*

*4 = Excellent*

*3 = Very good*

*2 = Good*

*1 = Insufficient*

*Evaluation of the quality and merits of the involved scientist(s) 25%. For junior applicants' evaluation of the applicant's potential to start an independent and successful line of research.*

*5 = Outstanding*

*4 = Excellent*

*3 = Very good*

*2 = Good*

*1 = Insufficient*

## **Application**

Each application must be supported by a letter from the head of department, who will thereby ascertain that the applicant is a Principal Investigator and holds or will hold a 100% position at KI/Region Stockholm. If several departments are involved, each head of department should support the application.

- Project description (maximal 5 pages excluding references, Times New Roman, 12 points, single space, 2 cm margin), covering: Summary (limit 200 words), Objectives, Introduction, Preliminary results, Experimental plan, Significance for the field. References should be linked.
- CV, max 2 pages. Indicate if within 12 years from PhD.
- List of publications (with link), highlighting the 10 most relevant publications of the main applicant, shared authorships must be indicated, and author order should be listed as published
- Budget description for 2 years, INDI should be specified according to departmental specifications.

The application should be submitted as a single pdf to Daniel Holl, Karolinska Institutet ([daniel.holl@ki.se](mailto:daniel.holl@ki.se)).

**Application deadline: 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2026**

**Decisions** will be announced before February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2027