



Strategic Research Area Stem cells and Regenerative medicine Call for applications October 2024

Research grants

The SFO announces up to 12 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 2 MSEK for 2025. Grants can be used to cover salaries, running costs, equipment and administrative costs. Starting date for grants is February 1st, 2025. However, within an active recruitment process of an external candidate, the starting date could be delayed to December 1st, 2025 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 2026 to the SFOs, the 2025 grant may be followed by a second-year grant in 2026 based on the application granted in 2025, 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 1st, 2025, 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 grants from this SFO with a disposition right including 2025 (last funding round and granted extensions) are not eligible to apply.**

Relevance

Research on the generation of cells, tissues and organs as well as mechanisms important for regeneration is important for understanding normal development, homeostasis, and physiological as well as pathological processes. Advancing our knowledge about these processes is critical within regenerative medicine and tissue engineering aiming to develop strategies for regrowing, repairing or replacing damaged cells/tissues/organs/body parts by endogenous or transplanted cells and to treat malignant conditions. Research projects with relevance within the broadly defined areas of stem cells, regenerative medicine and cellular therapies are eligible.

Evaluation criteria and weights

Evaluation of quality and feasibility of the project 33%

5 = Outstanding

4 = Excellent

3 = Very good

2 = Good

1 = Insufficient

Evaluation of the originality of the project 33%

5 = Outstanding

4 = Excellent

3 = Very good

2 = Good

1 = Insufficient

Evaluation of the quality and merits of the involved scientist(s) 33%. 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 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 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).

Application deadline: November 8th 2024

Decisions will be announced before February 1st, 2025