



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

### **Tandem research grants**

The SFO Stem cells and Regenerative medicine announces up to three tandem research grants for clinically relevant translational research within the area of stem cells, regenerative medicine and cellular therapies.

The grants aim to strengthen and support high-quality translational health research at an international level with the goal of fostering the transition from fundamental/pre-clinical research to clinical translation and vice versa.

A fundamental/pre-clinical scientist and a clinical scientist must jointly apply for a project that is clinically relevant, cross-disciplinary, and translational in nature. The project should aim to advance patient treatment or diagnosis or enhance the understanding of underlying disease mechanisms. Both applicants are expected to contribute substantially to the project.

Only applications where a fundamental/pre-clinical researcher and a clinical researcher establish a cross-disciplinary collaboration will be considered for funding, with both applicants expected to contribute substantially to the project. Both, the basic researcher and the clinical researcher serve as main applicants. The clinical researcher must have active clinical duties and cannot hold a full-time research position.

Both applicants will receive a specified portion of the grant budget, which should be clearly outlined in the application. Additionally, the application must demonstrate how the collaboration will be carried out and how the work will be divided between the applicants.

Applicants should be affiliated 100% at KI and/or the Stockholm County Council (Region Stockholm) at the time of starting the project. Funded projects will be supported with a total of 2 MSEK/year for 2025. Grants can be used to cover salaries, running costs, equipment and administrative costs.

Starting date for grants is February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. However, within an active recruitment process of an external candidate, the starting date could be delayed to December 1<sup>st</sup>, 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**

Applicants should have a PhD and a position as principal investigator or clinician and be affiliated 100% to Region Stockholm and/or KI on the 1<sup>st</sup> Feb.2025. Clinical researchers in the process of being recruited to Region Stockholm / KI and who will be employed at the latest December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 are also eligible, but will require a detailed letter of support by the chairs of the receiving institution and clinical department. 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. The proposed research program should have relevance for the field of stem cells and regenerative medicine.

Applications from PhD students and Postdocs that carry out research under supervision, and applications where PhD students or Postdocs are named as co-applicants will not be considered.

**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 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 scientist 25%. For junior applicants evaluation of the applicant's potential to start an independent and successful line of clinical / translational research.*

5 = Outstanding

4 = Excellent

3 = Very good

2 = Good

1 = Insufficient

*Clinical relevance 25%, please note that score 1 will make the application ineligible for this call.*

5 = Outstanding

3 = Very good

1 = Insufficient

## **Application**

Each application must be supported both by a letter from the head of the KI department and the clinical department, who will thereby ascertain that the applicant holds or will hold a 100% position at Region Stockholm/KI. 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 of both applicants, max 2 pages.
- List of publications (with link), highlighting the 10 most relevant publications of both applicants, shared authorships must be indicated, and author order should be listed as published.
- Budget description for 2 years, specified for distribution between both applicants. 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: November 8<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**Decisions** will be announced before February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025