The Strategic Research Programme in Diabetes (SRP Diabetes)

BLUE SKY GRANT

SRP Diabetes announces project grants in diabetes and metabolism research for well-defined innovative pilot projects that aim to demonstrate proof of principle.
Grants are for one year, amounts to 500 000 SEK + 25% INDI per grant.

General information

The project: should be of a "high risk – high reward" type that cannot yet attract funding from conventional funding agencies. The aim should be to obtain proof of principle and thereby provide the basis to obtain other funding. The project should not be a continuation or expansion of already funded projects. Preliminary data is not required in the proposal, but the underlying concept, premise or hypothesis must be plausible and testable, and the proposal must be focused with a well-defined goal that is achievable within the timeframe and amount of the award.

Research field: The Blue Sky grant call is aimed for research projects relevant to the field of diabetes and metabolism.

Eligibility: The call is open for researchers at Karolinska Institutet (including post-docs) as well as clinical researchers affiliated to KI. All faculty with a PhD and working at least 50% at any KI Department are eligible to apply and clinical researchers are eligible if employed within Region Stockholm or at a unit performing health care by order of Region Stockholm. Applicants who are not Group/Team Leaders **must** provide a letter of support from their Principal Investigator (PI) or their department guaranteeing employment for the full duration of the project in case the project is awarded. This also applies to co-applicants, even if the main applicant is a Group Leader. Only one application per research group is allowed. Applicants who received a Blue Sky Grant in the previous edition are not eligible and should wait until next edition.

Grant size: The grant is for one year, amounts to SEK 500 000 + 25 % INDI, and can cover all kinds of project-related costs, except stipends.

Evaluation: The projects will be initially assessed by members of the SRP Diabetes Management Group and a final ranking will be conducted by external reviewers.

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Application instructions

The application should be written in English and contain:

- **First page** (1 page) including: Title, name of the applicant (and co-applicant if applicable), position/job title, and a short summary (200 words max).
- **Research program** (3 pages maximum, font 11 pt, including figures and tables but not including references) should be in the area of diabetes and metabolism. It should be explicitly defined why this is a Blue-Sky Grant project without prior funding. The research plan should include the following information and headings:
  - **A.** Statement of Innovation (describe here why your proposal is a Blue Sky Grant and why it cannot be funded through other mechanisms)
  - **B.** Specific Aims
  - **C.** Background and Significance to diabetes and metabolism
  - **D.** Research Design and Methods (including a clear timetable with well-defined deliverables)
  - **E.** Potential Impact and Next Steps (if successful). *NOTE: This funding mechanism is not intended to support proposals aiming to incrementally advance existing hypotheses or ongoing areas of research within diabetes and metabolism. Preliminary data is not required in the proposal, but the underlying concept, premise or hypothesis must be plausible and testable.*

- **References to the research program,** not more than 1 page**.**
- **Short 2-page CV** of the principal investigator (including current funding).
- **Short 2-page CV** of the co-applicant, if applicable.
- **Publication list** for the last eight years (2018-Present, max. 2 pages) in reversed chronological order. Please mark your five most important publications with an asterisk and emphasize your own name in bold. Please categorize your publications (1. peer-reviewed original articles in international journals, 2. review articles/ book chapters, 3. patents). If the list is longer than two pages, prioritize the most relevant ones to this application and you may include a link to PubMed or a similar source for a full list.
- **Support letter.** If the main applicant or co-applicant is not a Principal Investigator/Group Leader, a letter of support from the PI or the department is required to guarantee that the applicant will have a position and employment during the proposed project period.
- **Project budget,** max 1 page (simple project budget for the Blue Sky grant sum and also describe available resources and facilities necessary for the project).

Combine all these sections in the stated order in one single PDF file for submission.

Application is submitted via the following link: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/m2mY3KQ390

Deadline to apply: January 16, 2027

Information: SRP-diabetes@ki.se