



# How do we best advance Personalised Medicine for Brain Diseases?

## Background

In 2016, based on a workshop with leading Danish researchers and research administrators, aimed at identifying the most pertinent research areas in the field of biomedicine, the Lundbeck Foundation's Board of Trustees defined the following two overarching themes for the Foundation's strategic grants in the coming years:

- Increased understanding of disease mechanisms and improved prevention of disease
- Development of new and more precise diagnostics and treatments

The aim of these Lundbeck Foundation grants is to encourage truly cross-disciplinary projects on which independent, well-established researchers and research teams work together to tackle health-related scientific problems that require a collaborative effort to be solved effectively.

## Research theme

Development of new and more precise diagnostics and treatments.

### Research question

*How do we best advance personalised medicine for brain diseases?*

With this thematic call, the Lundbeck Foundation invites research proposals that focus on ways in which research into personalised medicine may best benefit and be translated into prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the brain and nervous system.

## Is your proposal eligible?

Your project proposes frontline clinical, translational or basic research, and the research must be based at a non-commercial Danish research institution.

Applications are expected to be in accordance with the [Danish National Strategy for Personalised Medicine 2017 – 2020](#), including the strategy's principles.

The Lundbeck Foundation requests proposals in either of the following two categories:

- Thematic Projects of up to DKK 10 million.
- Thematic Alliances of DKK 30 to 50 million (at least two collaborating groups, including at least one international collaborator).

Grants are for up to five years. The budget may include all staff and non-staff costs related to the project. International collaboration is encouraged, and a portion (up to 25%) of the funding may be allocated to international collaborators.

## How much are we allocating?

The Lundbeck Foundation is allocating up to DKK 150 million to this thematic call for proposals. Depending on the distribution of proposals between the categories, and the assessed quality of the proposals, we expect to award grants for five to ten projects.

## Who can apply?

You can apply if you are a researcher at a Danish non-commercial research institution or if you are a researcher from abroad who wishes to move to Denmark to set up a research group to work within the topic of this call. If you apply for a Thematic Alliance you must also document previous experience as research leader.

## How do you apply?

You must submit the application, written in English, via the Lundbeck Foundation's application system at <https://lanas.lundbeckfonden.com/> ("Thematic Projects – Personalised medicine" or "Thematic Alliances – Personalised medicine") no later than 19 April 2018 at 1.00 pm CET (GMT+1).

The application must include an account of the research plan, collaborators and budget. In addition, all applications must include a support letter with a description of placement and institutional support from the Danish host institution.

Further guidance is provided in the application form.

If you apply for a Thematic Alliance, we welcome, in addition to your written proposal, a video pitch lasting no more than 90 seconds, presenting the main ideas behind the proposed research project. Please email the video to [application@lundbeckfonden.com](mailto:application@lundbeckfonden.com) with the project title in the subject line.

You are welcome to contact the Foundation at [application@lundbeckfonden.com](mailto:application@lundbeckfonden.com) if you have any questions regarding your application. Please specify "Thematic grants 2018" in the subject line.

## The evaluation process

**Step 1.** All proposals will be reviewed by international peers based on the criteria below:

- Scientific originality and vision of the research idea
- Relevance and rigor of suggested methodology
- Coverage of all aspects relevant to personalised medicine, e.g. integration of complementary data types, comprehensive reference material (pathological and non-pathological), clearly connected to clinically relevant research issues
- Anticipated short and long-term impact of the project
- Qualifications of the main applicant and co-applicants
- Relevant high-level international collaboration
- Relevant interdisciplinarity
- In applications for Thematic Alliances, the complementary expertise of partners and potential synergies resulting from the alliance will be evaluated
- Organisation of the project and governance model for the proposed collaboration
- Support and infrastructure available to the project at the host institution(s)

**Step 2.** Based on the assessments of the international peers, the Foundation's Research and Prize Committee will decide which proposals to recommend for funding. The Lundbeck Foundation's Board of Trustees will make the final decision.

You will receive a letter from the Foundation informing you whether your project will receive funding approximately seven months after the application deadline. This letter will include brief comments by the external reviewers.

## What are the grant conditions?

If your proposal is successful, a contract will be drafted. As part of this process, you and your host institution will be required to accept the Lundbeck Foundation's general grant conditions and individual, project-specific amendments, which will be subject to negotiation.

*The Lundbeck Foundation is one of Denmark's largest commercial foundations, worth over DKK 60 billion, and we award research grants of around DKK 500 million each year to Danish-based, biomedical sciences research – primarily in the field of brain research. Founded in 1954 the Foundation has three large subsidiaries, Lundbeck, ALK and Falck, an international portfolio of 20 venture capital companies, organisationally anchored in Lundbeckfonden Ventures, and a portfolio of small biotech companies based on Danish university research in Lundbeckfonden Emerge. Our Investment Department manages assets of around DKK 14 billion.*

Lundbeckfonden  
Scherfigsvej 7  
DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø  
Phone: 39 12 80 00  
[www.lundbeckfonden.com](http://www.lundbeckfonden.com)

