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EFSD/Boehringer Ingelheim European Research Programme in Microvascular Complications of Diabetes

Deadline Date: 1 April 2018

Background

The European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes (EFSD) was created by the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) to provide multiple funding initiatives in all areas of diabetes research. The aims of EFSD are to encourage and support research in the field of diabetes, to rapidly diffuse acquired knowledge and to facilitate its application.

Boehringer Ingelheim is a global group of companies who seek to improve the health and wellbeing of people and animals through being a part of an independent, innovative, research and development driven company.

Programme and Research Focus

EFSD has established this independent research programme called the EFSD/Boehringer Ingelheim European Research Programme in Microvascular Complications of Diabetes to encourage projects aimed at advancing current knowledge in this domain through innovative basic or clinical research.

To achieve the goals and objectives of this Programme, EFSD invites applications by issuing this "Request for Applications" (RFA) which indicates joint funding as well as areas of research emphasis.

This EFSD/Boehringer Ingelheim European Diabetes Research Programme is intended to stimulate and accelerate European research in the specific area of microvascular complications (retinopathy, nephropathy and neuropathy) of diabetes. Proposals dealing with the following are especially but not exclusively welcome: investigations of various cell types in the eye and kidney and their role and interaction during the course of development of diabetic retinopathy and diabetic nephropathy.

Mechanism of Support and Review

Research will be supported through the award of research grants up to Euro 100,000 for basic research projects (payable in full at the start of the project) and up to Euro 300,000 for clinical research projects (with a duration up to 3 years, payable in instalments following approval of annual scientific progress reports). Please note that projects involving clinical trials will not be accepted for this call.

EFSD, on advisement from the Review Committee, may on occasion, and at its discretion, recommend an award in a different amount than requested but which is considered more appropriate for the proposed studies.

Applications for an EFSD grant are invited from single non-profit institutions or groups of such institutions from Europe or associated countries. The principal investigator and any co-investigators must be normally employed at a non-profit institution and the study must be performed at their place of work.

Applications will be subject to scientific review by a specialised independent *ad hoc* committee. It is anticipated that applications will be received, reviewed and the successful project approved for funding by July 2018.

Prior to any final decision on funding, and in order to offer applicants the opportunity to benefit from the review process, EFSD reserves the right to request revision of applications in accordance with the recommendations of the Review Committee.

Research Grant Applications

Applications for research grants may be subjected to pre-review (or triage) procedures. Applications rejected in this way at pre-review will not be subject to a complete scientific review and no reports will be made available. The deadline for receipt of research grant applications for funding this year is 1 April 2018.

All budgets are to be prepared in Euros. For countries in which the Euro is not the common currency, the exchange rate (between the Euro and the local currency in the country where the work is to be performed) used for calculating the Euro budget must be mentioned under "Budget Justification".

[Download the application form](#)

All applications must be prepared on the official forms and completed in strict accordance with the detailed instructions to be found on these forms.

Applications which do not comply with the instructions given in the application form will not be considered for review.

Please send your application as one complete PDF email attachment to the following address before 12:00 midday (CET) on the deadline date:
foundation@easd.org

Review Considerations

Completed applications will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria stated below for scientific/technical merit by an appropriate scientific committee.

Review criteria are as follows:

- **Significance:** Is the study relevant to the programme? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge be advanced? What will be the effect of the proposed studies on the concepts or methods that drive this field?
- **Approach:** Are the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?
- **Innovation:** Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches or methods? Are the aims original and innovative? Does the project challenge existing paradigms or develop new methodologies or technologies?
- **Investigator:** Is the investigator appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers (if any)?
- **Environment:** Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Do the proposed experiments take advantage of unique features of the scientific environment or employ useful collaborative arrangements? Is there evidence of institutional support?
- **Budget and feasibility:** Is the requested budget appropriate for the proposed study? Is the requested duration suitable for completion of the project?
- **Contribution towards a larger research project:** Is the work described in the application intended as part of a larger project? If so, is there any overlap? Is there a clear explanation how the new work will contribute towards the overall success of that larger project?

Reporting Requirements and Approval of Funding

All investigators funded by this Programme are required to submit a scientific progress report at the end of the project period. For those projects where funding is distributed over a period of more than one year, interim progress reports will also be required. Such reports will be subject to assessment prior to the release of any further funds.

Investigators must provide EFSD with copies of papers accepted for publication, and must acknowledge the support of the Programme in all written material by use of the phrase: "supported by an EFSD/Boehringer Ingelheim grant".

Competitive Renewal

Applications for a grant renewal will be accepted on a competitive basis, with the same review process as described in this Announcement. Such applications will thus be considered in the same fashion as all other new applications received for review and without any special priority.

Schedule

Announcement	December 2017
Application Deadline	1 April 2018
Anticipated Award	July 2018

About us

The aims of the Foundation are to encourage and support groundbreaking diabetes research and to promote the next generation of leading diabetes researchers.

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The EFSD logo consists of the letters 'EFSD' in a bold, blue, serif font.