

EFSD/Boehringer Ingelheim European Research Programme on "Multi-System Challenges in Diabetes"

Deadline Date: 1 April 2020

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 on "Multi-System Challenges of Diabetes" to encourage projects aimed at advancing current knowledge in the inter-organ crosstalk and related pathophysiology in Diabetes and its complications 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 on the interrelation and crosstalk of different organs e.g. heart, kidney, pancreas, gut, liver and brain and related pathophysiology in diabetes and its complications and the impact of therapeutic interventions for this complex condition.

Mechanism of Support and Review

Research will be supported through the award of research grants up to Euro 100,000 for basic and/or clinical research projects with the exclusion of clinical trials.

Projects requiring higher funding than that specified above are also invited to apply to this Programme, i.e. applications may be submitted to complement funding for a larger project.

All projects need to provide comprehensive justification of their budget and a clear description of both, the requested amount from EFSD as well as the available funding for the project from other sources, if applicable (see Review Considerations).

In exceptional cases, applications for funding in an amount larger than Euro 100,000 and up to Euro 300,000 may be considered for funding. Here the additional relevant financial requirements need to be clearly justified and applicants should also indicate which part of the study will be feasible in the case of a Euro 100,000 award.

The duration of each award may be one year or longer, depending upon the needs of the project and as justified in the application.

Applications for an EFSD grant are invited from single non-profit institutions or groups of such institutions from Europe or associated countries (for detailed country list, please see here). 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 in Europe or an associated country.

Applications will be subject to scientific review by a specialised independent *ad hoc* committee. It is anticipated that applications will be received, reviewed and approved for funding by July 2020.

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.

EFSD may, at the suggestion of the Review Committee, recommend an award in a different amount from that requested, but which is considered more appropriate for the proposed studies.

Research Grant Applications

Applications for research grants may be subjected to pre-review (or triage) procedures. In this event, any application rejected at pre-review will not be subject to a complete scientific review, and no feedback report will be provided to the applicant.

The deadline for receipt of research grant applications for funding this year is 1 April 2020.

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".

Applications for this programme must be submitted in the EFSD online Application System which is available via the MyEASD platform.

Members of EASD or owners of an account for the EASD Virtual Meeting or Annual Meeting registration, are asked to use the login details from their existing account (email address and password) to login to MyEASD and access the EFSD Application System.

All applications must be prepared on the official application form in the EFSD online application system and completed in strict accordance with the detailed instructions to be found there. Applications which do not comply with the instructions given in the application system will not be considered for review.

Applications must be submitted in the EFSD online application system before 23:59 CET on the deadline date 1 April 2020.

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? Can financial feasibility be assessed (was a clear description given of the total costs of the whole project, the funding from other sources and the amount and purpose of the requested EFSD funding)?

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 in instalments, 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 2019
Application Deadline	1 April 2020

Anticipated Award

July 2020

Enquiries should be directed to:

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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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