



To
Universities and academic institutions
in the Nordic countries

Oslo, April 30 2019
Ref.: (3/2019)
Your ref.:

The Olav Thon Foundation – support for Nordic research projects in medicine 2020

The Olav Thon Foundation was established in December 2013. Section 7 a) of the articles of association includes the following statement:

Funding may be awarded for purposes within the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences and medicine.

Against this background and in addition to its other announcements, the Foundation will reserve NOK 20 million for grants to *Nordic research collaboration in the field of medicine* for 2020. Only researchers associated with universities or academic institutions in the Nordic countries are eligible for support. Previous collaboration will be regarded as an advantage and should be documented (by co-publications or similar). The collaboration must include specific research groups in at least two Nordic countries and be led by personnel holding professorships or equivalent permanent academic positions.

Applications will be assessed in light of their academic quality and the projects' potential for development of new and groundbreaking knowledge in medicine. For 2020, the Board of the Foundation has decided to invite applications for research on *reparative medicine targeting diseases in the musculoskeletal and peripheral and central nervous system*.

Projects should be based on the use of stem cell biology, genetic approaches, tissue engineering, biotechnology, or regenerative medicine with the aim of repairing, regrowing or replacing damaged or diseased cells or tissues.

Research support for each project is restricted to a maximum of NOK 2.5 million per year for a maximum of four years.

**Practical issues**

The application for research support must be submitted by the project leader and signed by the heads of all academic institutions/departments participating in the project. The application must be accompanied by a letter of endorsement signed by the heads of the institutions involved. The letter of endorsement (max. 1 page) must give an account of how provisions will be made for the research collaboration. The application must include a project justification, a project description, a work plan with deliverables and a budget, as well as CVs for all main project staff (max 2 pages pr. CV). The amount applied for - the purposes which the funding is foreseen to be used and for how long - must be clearly stated.

Proposals must be in PDF format – one (1) file, attachments included, pr. project - file size should not exceeding 4 MB. Please, use a 12 pt. font size.

Proposals must be sent by **email** to Special Adviser Bjørnar Vold-Sarnes
Email address: bjornar.vold-sarnes@admin.uio.no

Deadline: 15 September 2019.

All submitted material must be in English.

All proposals submitted will be assessed by an academic council, which will enlist international expert advisers. The Foundation's board of directors has appointed the academic council. The academic council's recommendations for grant allocation will be deliberated and finally decided by the board of the Olav Thon Foundation. The board will announce their decision on 16 January 2020.

The recipients of project support will be invited to the Olav Thon Foundation's award ceremony, to be held on Thursday 5 March 2020 at 18.00 in the University Aula in Oslo.

The board has decided to keep the identity of applicants strictly confidential. We kindly request, that this be respected.

If you have any questions - by email only - please contact Mr. Bjørnar Vold-Sarnes. Email address: see above.

Yours sincerely,
Ole Petter Ottersen /s. /
Professor MD, PhD
Head of the Academic Council - The Olav Thon Foundation