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Call for *Faculty-funded time for research*

Background

The Faculty of Medicine has in recent years launched several initiatives aimed at increasing the competitiveness of researchers that are close to obtaining national research funding (“*Strategisk forskningsresurs*”/*Strategic research grants*). The initiatives also aim to raise the scientific competence within certain clinical units, in order to maintain university hospital status (“*Klinisk forskningsresurs*”), as well as an effort to strengthen research in specific departments/divisions/subjects (“*Forskningslyftet*”). In addition, the faculty has increased the funding for research infrastructures.

There is currently, however, no strategic investment towards researchers at the faculty who can compete for national and international grants for large innovative projects - such as KAW's and SSF's project grants, VR's environmental grants, Forte's programme grant, ERC and NIH. For those researchers, limited time for research planning is usually a limiting factor.

In order to strengthen innovative research at the Faculty of Medicine and strengthen the competitiveness of the faculty's researchers, to obtain larger national and international funds, the strategic investment "*Faculty-funded time for research*" is announced. The aim is to give the individual researcher time and opportunity to, during a two-year period, develop new projects, write applications and/or carry out research sabbaticals at other universities to collect data and materials/learn new methods/establish contacts, etc.

General Information

Four (4) two-year faculty-funded grants of 500 000 SEK/year for time for research is hereby announced.

The funding enables the individual researcher to engage in his/her research basically full-time. The faculty reimburses the researcher's GU-part (“GU-del”) of the salary by up to 500 000 SEK per year. For a professor (without clinical service), this entails approximately 90% of university-funded working hours that can be spent on research. The remainder of the working hours can be spent on other assignments within the department/faculty/university such as teaching and/or assignments in boards. For a clinically active professor with three-part service, the funds will cover the GU-part (“GU-del”) of the salary, i.e. 33%. If applicable, there may be a surplus of funds (if, for example, 400 000 SEK out of 500 000 SEK is used per year). In such cases, it's possible to use this surplus to extend the faculty-funded research period. However, the time for using the funds can be extended by a maximum of six (6) months.

Eligibility to apply

This strategic research initiative is open for all tenured researchers/teachers (associate professors/professors) at the Faculty of Medicine whose salary is partly financed via the GU-budget. Please note that employees who have employments allowing 100% time for research *are not* eligible to apply.

Since the initiative is primarily aimed at researchers at the faculty who lead competitive research, applicants should hold or have held research grants as main applicants/coordinators from one or more of the major research funders (VR, Forte, Formas, Cancerfonden, ERC, KAW, SSF, NIH, Vinnova, etc.). Applicants must hold employment at the Faculty of Medicine, Umeå University, throughout the grant period.



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During the assessment of the application, the innovative potential of the project and the applicant's competence (primarily the ability to lead competitive research) will weigh most heavily.

The application should be written in English (as the reviewers may be English-speaking); must be signed by the applicant, and attested by the head of department and, where applicable, head of division at the county council ("verksamhetschef"). The head of department thus certifies that the applicant will be granted time for research as applied.

Review panel and grant decisions

Applications will be evaluated by a review panel appointed by the Faculty Board (FN) and the Strategic Board for Research (FON). The chairperson and the vice chairperson of the review panel will be recruited internally and should have extensive experience from review panels at national research councils. The panel members will mainly be recruited among external researchers with experience from work in review panels in national and international research councils. The aim is to appoint panel members who have the competence to assess applications from all research areas at the faculty. If the review panel finds that it needs to be supplemented with additional members in order to evaluate all applications, the panel will be complemented accordingly. Two persons, one member from FON and one member from FN, are appointed as observers.

The review panel will assess applications and will score according to the following assessment criteria:

- Project originality (50%), quality (30%) and impact (20%) **(Excellence) (1-7)**
- Applicant's competence (75%) and feasibility of the project (25%) **(Implementation) (1-7)**

Scoring according to these criteria aims to facilitate reviewers' assessment of individual parameters. As the initiative aims to promote progress and bold research with a reasonable possibility of implementation, the assessment criteria are weighted (% weight). Thus, innovation and originality and the applicant's competence will weigh most heavily. Based on the assessment, all reviewers will make an individual ranking of the applications that have been assessed. The individual ranking of applications by all reviewers are weighted together into a joint ranking which will be discussed at the meeting of the review panel. When two or more applications are deemed equivalent based on total scores, the scientific quality of the project is valued as highest. The chair of the review panel presents the final ranking for FON, which in turn proposes to the Faculty Board (FN) the final allocation of the four (4) research grants.

Report

Within one year after the completion of the project, applicants must submit a short report (maximum 1 page) in which the results obtained are reported (for example sabbaticals and submitted/granted grant applications).

Evaluation

The faculty's strategic initiative will be evaluated; the evaluation will focus on efforts made possible by the grant (for example the research groups' received funding from major research funders, new collaborations, synergy effects for the faculty, implementation of new



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technologies, etc.).

The application must include the following attachments:

The attachments should be written in a font size of minimum Arial 11, with single line spacing and 2.5 cm margins.

Please note: Applications that do not meet the format and length requirements will not be assessed.

Attachment A Description of your research

A research plan of a maximum of 4 pages (including references) describing the research conducted in the applicant's research group. The research plan shall include the purpose and objectives, state-of-the-art, general project description and previously achieved results.

Attachment B Project plan

A project plan of a maximum of 5 pages (including references) that specifically describes the proposed project in relation to the applicant's previous/ongoing projects, including an approximate time plan of maximum 1 page. The project plan must clearly state innovation and originality and how the funds applied for can generate scientific height. Also include a time plan for (for example) external research sabbaticals, potential collaborators for major joint project applications, materials to be included, new methods and/or when/where an application is planned to be written and submitted.

Attachment C CV

Please specify according to the headings below and in that order (leave blank where not applicable):

Higher education qualification(s): Year, subject area and university.

Doctoral degree: year, discipline/subject area, university, the title of the dissertation and name of supervisor.

Postdoctoral positions: Years and location.

Qualification required for appointment as docent: Year.

Current position: Term of appointment and proportion of time for research in the position.

Previous positions and periods of appointment: Type of employment and appointment periods.

Interruption in research: Here you may account for any longer interruptions in your active research time that have affected your merit opportunities, for example due to parental leave, clinical work as either "AT- or ST-läkare", positions of trust in union organisations or other reasons of similar nature. Also state number of months or years of each interruption.

Supervision: PhD students and postdocs for whom you have been the main supervisor; names and years.

Other information of relevance to the application: Please note that CVs and publication lists of possible collaborators are *not* to be sent in with the application. The



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roles of the possible collaborators should be described in the project plan.

Attachment D Publications

Attach your publication list designed according to headings and information below. Include only articles that are published or accepted for publication. The list should include a maximum of 5 numbered A4 pages in font size equivalent to Arial 11, with single line spacing. Publications listed beyond these five pages will not be considered in the review process.

1. **Selection of publications:** First, list up to ten publications that are most important for your application. For each publication, you should describe how you have contributed to this and its relevance to the described research project (maximum 4 lines per publication).

Mark your name in bold in the author list. Include the number of citations and the Impact Factor for the relevant journal in the year the article was published.

2. **Publications during the latest eight years:** Sort these publications with your name highlighted in bold in the author list, under each title (publication type) in the following order:

- **Peer-reviewed original articles.**
- **Peer-reviewed conference contributions**, the results of which are not available in other publications.
- **Peer-reviewed edited volumes.**
- **Research review articles.**
- **Peer-reviewed books and book chapters.**
- **Other publications including popular science books/presentations.**

Please note! Sort the publications under each heading in *reverse chronological order* so that the latest publication is at the top of the list. Please include only articles or corresponding that have been published or accepted for publication at the time of applying. The order of authors in the publication list must be identical to that of the published work. Also note that the publication list cannot exceed 5 pages.

Attachment E Received funds

A list of awarded research funding for 2017-2021. Specify the research funder and the entire amount in SEK and whether you are a co-applicant or main applicant. If you, before 2017, received multi-year grants which ran throughout 2017 *or* grants that extend beyond 2021, you must state the allocation for each year.

Attachment F The project's synergy effects for the faculty

Describe on a maximum of 1 page how faculty-funded time for research can strengthen research within the faculty (for example how a sabbatical can promote the faculty's research through new methods and/or new research collaborations, how a new technique can be used by several research groups at the faculty, etc.).



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Attachment G Signed certificate

A certificate signed by the head of department (where applicable, head of division at the county council (“verksamhetschef”)) in which he/she approves the application and affirms that you will be granted time for research as stated. The certificate must state how much of your GU-part (“GU-del”, in percent) you ask for in your application

The application must be sent electronically as a cohesive PDF file to medel@diarie.umu.se no later than January 18 2021. Name your file *Faculty-funded time for research_your name*.

Write the registration number FS 2.1.6-2198-20 in the subject line of the email.