



Call for faculty-funded funds for interdisciplinary and innovative research 2021 (for 2022-2023)

The Faculty of Medicine announces two (2) two-year research grants of SEK 0.8-1.6 million/year. The aim of this initiative is to stimulate innovative, interdisciplinary research of a high-risk nature where collaboration between two or more research groups with complementary competencies is expected to provide clear synergy effects of great added value and thereby a prerequisite for future research breakthroughs. Through this initiative, the Strategic Board for Research (FON) and the Faculty Board (FN) aim to strengthen the competitiveness of the faculty's researchers in order to receive large national and international grants (such as KAW's and SSF's project/framework grants, VR's environmental grants, Forte's program grants, ERC, NIH).

The research grant must be used to employ a postdoctoral fellow, recruited for the project (approximately SEK 0.8 million/year). In addition to funding for a postdoctoral fellow, the application may involve additional funds of up to SEK 0.8 million (i.e. a total of SEK 1.6 million/year) for funding for other types of employment, infrastructure or running costs. The need for funds in addition to the salary of a postdoctoral fellow must be clearly described and justified in the budget. Postdoctoral employments for approved projects will be announced jointly.

General information

The call is aimed at researchers in all the faculty's research areas, with the urge to identify research partners with complementary competence for starting new projects with high potential. The application must clearly describe the project's innovative research and interdisciplinary approach, as well as expected synergy effects and added value for the Faculty of Medicine and Umeå University. Funds will not be allocated for already established projects.

The faculty intends to carry out this call in two rounds (2021 and 2022, respectively). The quality of the proposed projects and the faculty's budget situation will determine whether further announcements will be made. An evaluation of this strategic investment will be carried out with a focus on strengthened research and improved competitiveness with regard to external grants applied for in competition.

The application should be written in English (as the reviewers *may* be English-speaking); must be signed by the applicant and co-applicant and certified by the heads of the participating departments and for clinically active applicants by the head of division at the county council (*verksamhetschef*) and first line manager (*första linjen chef*) or equivalent, where they certify the researchers' access to time for research and premises for the project's described activities.



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Eligibility to apply

Eligible to apply are teachers/researchers/clinicians, holding a PhD, of which at least one of the applicants/co-applicants at the end of the application period holds one of the following positions at the Faculty of Medicine:

- permanently employed professor/associate professor (*universitetslektor*)/research fellow (*forskare*)
- assistant professor (*biträdande universitetslektor*) (both permanently and not permanently employed - *både tillsvidareanställd och ej tillsvidareanställd*)
- adjunct professor/associate professor (*adjungerad professor/universitetslektor*)

The disposition presupposes continued possession of any of the specified forms of employment during the entire period 2022-01-01--2023-12-31. Other collaborators may have their main employment at another faculty at Umeå University or within the Northern Healthcare Region (*Norra sjukvårdsregionen*).

Review panel and grant decisions

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

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

- Project originality, quality and interdisciplinary potential (**Excellence**) (1-7)
- Impact of the project, synergy effects and added value (**Impact**) (1-7)
- Applicants' weighted skills and project feasibility (**Implementation**) (1-7)

Based on the assessment, all members of the review panel will rank the reviewed applications. The individual ranking of each reviewer will be combined to give a preliminary ranking for further discussion at the review panel meeting. The chairperson of the review panel presents the panel's final ranking for the Strategic Board for Research, which proposes to the Faculty Board a final distribution of this research resource.



The application must include the following attachments

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

Attachment A Summary (Abstract)

Maximum 1 500 characters including spaces, single line spacing.

- General description of the research's purpose and goals and how the research will be carried out. Abstract must be written in such a way that persons with different scientific backgrounds can understand the information.

Attachment B Research plan

The research plan in its entirety must encompass no more than 10 pages, (font Arial 12, or larger, single spaced, 2.5 cm margins) and must be prospective (*framåtblickande*) and structured as follows:

- **Project title**
- **Purpose and aims:** State the overall purpose and specific goals of the research project.
- **State-of-the-art:** Briefly summarize the current research frontier within the field/area. Indicate key references.
- **Significance and scientific novelty:** Describe briefly how the project relates to previous research within the area, and its importance in the short and long term. Describe also how the project moves forward and innovates the current research frontier.
- **Preliminary and previous results:** Describe briefly the participating research groups' previous research and pilot studies within the research area that make it probable that the project will be feasible. State also if no preliminary results exist.
- **Project description:** Describe the project's design, including the following items:
 - *Theory and methods.* Describe the underlying theory and the methods that will be applied to achieve the project's goals. If relevant to the current project, describe 1) Data analysis and statistics: Describe how data within the project will be analysed and which statistical methods will be used. Include power analysis if relevant. 2) Equipment and needs for infrastructure: Describe the basic equipment available to the project and specify any needs for local, national and international infrastructure.
 - *Time plan and implementation.* Describe an outline of the time plan for the project during the grant period, and how the project will be implemented.
 - *Project organisation.* Clarify the competence and contributions of yourself and the co-applicant to the implementation of the project (including the time for research that is available). Describe clearly the role of and the tasks for the postdoctoral fellow that will be recruited. Also describe any other researchers or equivalent who are important for the implementation of the project, including national and international collaborations.



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- *Ethical considerations.* Describe the ethical issues raised by your project and how you plan to address ethical dilemmas that may arise. If no ethical issues exists, please justify this.
- *Sex and gender perspective.* State whether sex and gender perspectives are applicable in your planned research, and justify your decision. If you state "Yes": Justify your answer and describe how gender and gender perspectives relate to the choice of design, issues, method and material, population/study participants and data processing and analysis. If you state "No" – justify your answer.

Attachment C CV from the main applicant and the co-applicant

The CV should consist of no more than 2 A4 pages, Arial font 11, single spaced, 2.5 cm margins.

Specify the details in the CV according to the structure below. (Details that are not relevant to the application should be left blank).

- **Higher education qualification(s):** Year, subject area, university.
- **Doctoral degree:** Year, discipline/subject area, university, title of dissertation and name of supervisor.
- **Postdoctoral positions:** Year and location.
- **Qualification required for appointment as a docent:** Year.
- **Current position:** Term of appointment, dates for that employment and % time for research within that employment.
- **Previous positions and periods of appointment:** Describe the type of employment and specify dates of employment.
- **Interruption in research:** In this section you have the opportunity to list reasons for any longer interruptions that may have affected your opportunity to improve your career; for instance maternity/paternity leave, clinically active professions, positions of trust in trade union organisations, or other reasons. Also state number of months or years of the interruption.
- **Supervision:** Name the doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows that you have been principal supervisor for and specify the dates.
- **Other information of relevance to the application**

Attachment D Publications from the main applicant and the co-applicant

Add your lists of publications, according to the headlines and information below. Add only articles that have been published or accepted for publication. The list cannot be longer than five numbered A4 pages (corresponding to Arial, font 11, single spaced). Publications listed beyond these five pages will not be considered in the review process.

1. **Selection of publications:** List (at the most) the ten most important publications to the application. You should state, for each of the ten most important publications, your contributions to the publication and in which context the publication contributes to the intended project. (This must not exceed four lines per publication.)



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Mark your name in the list of authors in bold. Include number of citations for the publication, and the Impact Factor for the journal during the year of the intended publication.

2. Total number of publications of the latest eight years: Sort the publications, with your name highlighted in bold in the authors list, under each heading (category of publication) in the following order.

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

Note! Please 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 lists must be identical to that of the published work.

Attachment E Received funding (*erhållna intäkter*)

List the main applicant's and co-applicant's received **funding** for 2019-2023.

Attachment F Budget and financial resources

- List briefly personnel costs (in addition to the cost for the postdoctoral fellow) and other costs of the project for Year 1 – Year 2.
- Justify briefly each cost in the budget stated.
- Other funding. Please state any funding for the project in addition to the amount applied for in the application. Please state rounded amounts in SEK.

Attachment G The interdisciplinary potential of the project (maximum 2 pages)

- Describe the new collaboration and the project's overall, **interdisciplinary approach** and explain how this is expected to be decisive for the success of the project.
- Describe the **synergy effects** that are expected to be achieved within the project and what **academic added value** the project will provide to the Faculty of Medicine and Umeå University.
- Explain if and if so how the project's results are expected to come into practical use in the field of medicine and health (**Clinical or societal significance**).

Attachment H Attestation

Attach a certificate signed by the heads of the participating departments and for clinically active applicants also the head of the division at the county council (*verksamhetschef*) and first



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line manager (*första linjen chef*) or equivalent where they approve the application and that the applicants are guaranteed the time for research specified in the application for the current period (2022-2023).

The application must be sent electronically as one single PDF file to medel@diarie.umu.se **no later than September 30, 2021**. Name your file: *Fakultetsfinansierade medel för tvärvetenskaplig och nydanande forskning _Your name*. Write the registration number FS 2.1.6-506-21 in the subject line of the email.