



Call for faculty-funded funds for interdisciplinary and innovative research 2022 (for 2023-2024)

The Faculty of Medicine announces two (2) two-year research grants of SEK 0.95-1.9 million/year including funds for overhead (*indirekta gemensamma kostnader*). 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 in the field of medicine and health and with regard to societal relevance. Through this initiative, the Strategic Board for Research (FON) and the Faculty Board (FN) aim to strengthen research and competitiveness of the Faculty's researchers in order to receive large national/international grants.

The research grant must be used to employ a postdoctoral fellow, recruited for the project (approximately SEK 0.95 million/year). In addition to funding for a postdoctoral fellow, the application may involve additional funds of up to SEK 0.95 million (i.e., a total of SEK 1.9 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 initiative will be carried out with a focus on strengthened research and improved competitiveness regarding 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.

Eligibility to apply

Eligible to apply are teachers/researchers/clinicians¹, holding a PhD, of which at least one of

¹ Researchers with a Ph.D. and a permanent employment at the Faculty of Medicine on a teacher/researcher position according to the *Appointments Procedure for Teachers at Umeå University*, valid as of 2022-02-18 (FS 1.1-129-22), including persons with permanent positions as assistant professors (*biträdande universitetslektorer*) or research fellows (*forskare*).



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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 2023-01-01--2024-12-31. Co-applicants may have their main employment at another faculty at Umeå University or within the Northern Healthcare Region (*Norra sjukvårdsregionen*).

Main applicants and co-applicants who were granted funding in the first round of this call, i.e., for the years 2022-2023, are not eligible to apply. An applicant/co-applicant should only be part of one (1) application in this call.

Review panel and grant decisions

Applications will be evaluated by a review panel appointed by the Strategic Board for Research. The chair will be externally recruited, and the vice chair will be internally recruited; they 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 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:

- The project's originality **(1-7)**
- The project's scientific quality **(1-7)**
- The project's interdisciplinary potential (synergy effects, added value, and potential to influence in the field of medicine and health, as well as any societal benefits) **(1-7)**
- The applicants' weighted skills and project feasibility **(1-7)**
- Projects feasibility **(1-3)**

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 appendices and be sent in via the Faculty's application portal Researchweb (see further instructions in the application portal)

Appendix A CV from the main applicant and the co-applicant

Make sure your CVs are updated in your profiles in Researchweb.

Appendix B Publications from the main applicant and the co-applicant

Your publication lists can be added to your application from your profiles in Researchweb.

1. Total number of publications of the last 8 years: These publications will be uploaded from DiVA, include number of citations for the publication and the Impact Factor for the journal during the year of the intended publication for those publications of most importance for the application. See further instructions in Researchweb.

2. Selection of publications: Select (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).

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. (Attach as an appendix in Researchweb).

Appendix C Received funding (*erhållna intäkter*)

List the main applicant's and co-applicant's granted **funding** for 2020-2024.

Appendix D 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.
- Briefly justify 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.

Appendix E 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.

Appendix F 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:



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- **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:** Briefly describe 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). Clearly describe 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.
 - *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 exist, please justify this.
 - *Sex and gender perspective.* State whether sex and gender perspectives are applicable in your planned research, 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.

Appendix 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. Explain the different scientific backgrounds of the constituent groups and



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why expertise and methods from the different disciplines are necessary and how they will be combined.

- 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 how the proposed research can be expected to lead to innovative knowledge and open up for new research areas and research initiatives.
- 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**).

Appendix 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 Regions (*verksamhetschef*), and first 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 (2023-2024).

The application must be submitted via the Faculty's application portal in Researchweb, www.researchweb.org/is/umu **no later than 31 August, 2022, at 2 pm (14.00 CET)**.

Please note that applications that are not submitted via Researchweb, that are incomplete or that do not meet the format and length requirements are *not* valid and will therefore not be assessed.

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This document has been translated into English. In case of divergence of meaning between the English and Swedish wording of this document, the Swedish wording shall prevail.