

PPP programme Immunology: Immune system off balance

The Association of Dutch Health Foundations ([SGF](#)) and Top Sector LSH ([Health~Holland](#)) are jointly making €2.75 million available for a public-private research initiative in the area of immunology. This initiative is to lead to a sustainable collaboration between companies, research and knowledge institutions, and health foundations. The call for PPP proposals within this programme is being published via the Dutch Society for Immunology ([NVVI](#)).

Disruption of the immune system plays a key role in many different diseases, including infectious diseases, cancer, allergies, and autoimmune diseases such as diabetes and rheumatoid arthritis. SGF therefore wants to realise a joint effort in a disease-overarching PPP programme for immunology so that solutions can be realised. SGF, in collaboration with Health~Holland, is therefore making €2.75 million available for at most 75% co-funding of a public-private research initiative in the field of immunology. The PPP programme Immunology must contribute to bringing the immune system back into balance for a range of diseases.

Aim PPP programme: bringing the immune system back into balance

This programme is intended **only** for disease-overarching PPP proposals that have an impact on various patient groups whose immune system is off balance. The ultimate aim of this disease-overarching research programme is to bring the deregulated immune system back into balance. The preference is for **potentially long-term new collaborations**.

For definitions of the various types of research (in Dutch), please refer to the website of Health~Holland via <http://www.health-holland.com/public/downloads/match/regulation-clarification-eu-pdf-.pdf>.

In recent years, tremendous progress has been achieved in the treatment of cancer, autoimmune diseases, infections and allergies. Research has demonstrated that, in the case of immune-mediated diseases, intervening as early as possible gives the best results. When treatment is started early on, the probability of permanent tissue damage is much smaller. Despite the improvement in treatment methods, the disease often cannot be cured. Patients die due to the consequences of the disease or the treatment, or they end up suffering from a chronic disease as a result of which they depend on medicines and have a high risk of cardiovascular disorders, for example. This has a considerable impact on how people can lead their lives. What do we know about the aetiology, progression and treatment or cure of a disrupted immune response in the case of these diseases?

For whom?

A consortium of at least four research organisations (including universities, university medical centres and universities of applied sciences) and at least two companies.

PPP allowance that can be applied for

A PPP proposal can be applied for with a budget of at least €1.5 and at most €2.75 million funded with a PPP allowance (max €2.75 million), with the contribution of consortium partners and the financial contribution from third parties (such as knowledge institutes, public organisations or health foundations) in addition to this. For further information about these contributions, please refer to the table below and the PPP conditions on the Health~Holland website (<https://www.health-holland.com/public/downloads/tki-lsh/tki-lsh-match-call-2017-en.pdf>).

If you have any questions about the regulation or the conditions, you are advised to contact Laila El Aziz directly and at an early stage, via Aziz@health-holland.com or +31 70 349 5440.

Use of PPP allowance

Type of research	Fundamental	Industrial	Experimental development
Maximum % PPP allowance	75%	50%	25%
Research organisation/ knowledge institute	min. 10%*	min. 15%*	min. 20%*
Company - Large - SME	min. 15% - min. 10% in cash - min. 15%*	min. 35% - min. 20% in cash - min. 35%*	min. 55% - min. 30% in cash - min. 55%*

* This may be entirely in-kind, but it is not the preferred option. In the case of an SME, a cash contribution is encouraged.

Procedure PPP programme Immunology: Immune system off balance

Procedure

Pre-proposals for this PPP programme can only be submitted via the NVVI. The NVVI has selected quartermasters at the eight university medical centres (UMCs) in the Netherlands. The quartermasters act as advisers and facilitate possible collaborations between different institutes. These quartermasters can also advise the merging of small consortia to realise large consortia.

Quartermasters can also be part of a consortium. Quartermasters and the NVVI play no role in the selection of the pre-proposals and full proposals submitted. Proposals are submitted in an open competition. If more than three pre-proposals are submitted, then SGF will rank these and select three projects for further elaboration. Companies should be involved in the design of the proposals from an early stage onwards.

You should first read the PPP conditions that the proposal must satisfy. These can be found via [this link](#) (in English) or via [this link](#) (in Dutch)

Pre-proposal PPP application

This should be submitted to the NVVI no later than 19 February 2018 at 13:00 hours CET via nvvi@umcutrecht.nl. The NVVI coordinates the submissions and submits these for assessment to the SGF and Health~Holland. SGF and Health~Holland will appoint an expert committee to assess the pre-proposals and full proposals.

For this pre-proposal, neither a finalised consortium nor the active involvement of individual health foundations, care providers, patient organisations or other parties is required. There must be a real chance of possible collaboration with at least two companies.

Statements of intent from these companies can be submitted with the pre-proposal; these will weigh positively in the assessment as to whether the proposal can be elaborated. The budget stated with the pre-proposal is provisional and indicative. A good detailed budget only needs to be drawn up during the elaboration of a PPP application.

Assessment of pre-proposal by expert committee

In late February 2018, the PPP pre-proposals will be assessed by an expert committee made up of:

- Health~Holland: they will estimate whether the PPP conditions can be satisfied at the start of the project;
- SGF: they will check whether the content-specific conditions (especially the disease-overarching approach) are satisfied;
- patient representatives: they will assess the societal relevance;
- a team of national and international subject experts: they will assess the scientific content.

The expert committee also has the option to advise the merging of different consortia.

The final decision about which three proposals may be further elaborated into full research initiatives, based on the aforementioned assessments, lies with the SGF board. In mid-March 2018, the applicants will be informed about whether their PPP applications may be elaborated further.

Submission full PPP proposal

The full proposal should be submitted no later than 16 May 2018 at 13:00 hours CET via the NVVI. The NVVI will coordinate the submissions and SGF will submit these for assessment to the expert committee. The expert committee will search for appropriate reviewers for the proposals submitted and Health~Holland will assess whether each proposal satisfies the PPP conditions. Based on this information, the expert committee will issue a recommendation after which the final decision about funding will be taken by the SGF board.

Important deadlines

DATE	
19 FEBRUARY 2018 (13:00 HOURS CET)	deadline for submitting completed form PPP application
FEBRUARY 2018	assessment by an expert committee (consisting of SGF, Health~Holland, patient representatives and subject experts)
MID-MARCH 2018	selected applicants are informed
16 MAY 2018	submission full PPP application
17 MAY 2018	PPP proposals sent to reviewers
31 MAY	reviewers return their assessments
LATE JUNE	meeting expert committee and decision-making
SUMMER 2018	awarding of funding to the PPP proposal by Health~Holland and completion of the agreements
LATE 2018	start PPP project, end date May 2022

Conditions

- The proposal must satisfy all PPP conditions set (these can be found via [this link](#) (in English) or via [this link](#) (in Dutch));
- The €2.75 million PPP allowance is public money that has been made available to Health~Holland by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy to facilitate public-private partnership. A PPP proposal can be funded to a maximum of 75% with this allowance. Industry must also make a financial contribution (at least 15% of the total costs *in cash and/or in-kind*), as equally the research organisations (at least 10%, *usually in kind*) and possibly other parties involved including the individual health foundations;
- Patients must be involved in both the realisation and carrying out of the project;
- The consortium must consist of at least two companies and four research organisations (universities, university medical centres, universities of applied sciences, knowledge institutes).
Other parties, such as individual health foundations, care providers, health insurers, patient organisations or other parties, may also be members of the consortium;
- A consortium is put together in which research organisations and private parties, while retaining their own identity and responsibility, jointly realise a project on the basis of a clear and optimum allocation of tasks and risks. All parties make a financial and research contribution to the project;
- The main applicant must be employed at a Dutch research institution and will be the point of contact for SGF and Health~Holland throughout the entire procedure. Every other party within the consortium is a co-applicant. Foreign institutes or companies can be co-applicants, but the research must largely (>50%) be carried out in the Netherlands;
- The PPP proposal must be in line with the challenges as described in the [Knowledge and Innovation Agenda \(KIA\) 2018-2021](#);
- The proposal must be interdisciplinary;
- The project must be disease-overarching;
- The PPP initiative must lead to concrete starting points for interventions;
- The project must realise an impact for a large and broad group of patients;

- The initiative must have been completed in May 2022 (there are no possibilities for an extension).

Contact persons NVVI

A quartermaster has been appointed as the contact person at each UMC:

UMC	Quartermasters	E-mail address
UMCG	Jon Laman	j.d.laman@umcg.nl
UMC Utrecht	Linde Meyaard	L.Meyaard@umcutrecht.nl
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