



Special initiative in radiation therapy research

The Swedish Cancer Society, organization number 802005-3370, 101 55 Stockholm, is the body responsible for the collection and processing of personal data in connection with grant applications.

Information regarding the “Fenix” grant application system

The Swedish Cancer Society has a digital grant application system called Fenix. Fenix uses BankID and Swedish social security numbers for both identification and signing. The application is signed digitally by both the Head of Department and the applicant directly in Fenix. Applicants sign the application last, i.e. after the Head of Department has signed.

Note that if you make changes to the application after sending it to the Head of Department for signing, you must send a new request for signing by your Head of Department, as the application has changed. This applies regardless of what changes have been made.

The signing deadline for applicants in Fenix is 2nd May 2022 at 3pm.

Background

Almost half of all cancer patients will at some stage receive radiation therapy as part of their treatment. This therapy is therefore a vitally important factor in the success achieved in relation to survival for today's cancer patients. However, the enormous development that has taken place, and is now taking place in other areas of treatment (for example, immunotherapy and precision medicine) is absent from the field of radiation. Sweden has lost its leading position internationally in radiation therapy research, and this fact has attracted attention in several recent reports. Our country has strong research groups, but the number of clinical projects has decreased, fewer clinically active people have time to engage in radiation therapy research, and this is also true for radiation therapy in combination with other types of cancer therapy. There is therefore a risk that Sweden will lose further ground, and that patients in the future will not be able to receive the most effective treatment for their cancer. Against this background, the Swedish Cancer Society is determined to improve the conditions for this type of research in both a short- and long-term perspective.

Objectives and Eligibility

With the aim of stimulating research in radiation therapy, the Swedish Cancer Society's Research Board again announces funding for research projects in radiation therapy with particular focus on the treatment of cancer patients. Projects may also relate to radiation therapy in combination with other therapies. The application must be made by an individual researcher (principal investigator, PI), but may also involve individual research groups and larger or smaller constellations of research groups at the same or different universities. However, the grant will apply to translational or



clinical studies with defined issues, and not simply the creation of networks or research environments. Basic research can be included in the projects, but this research must have clear clinical connectivity and the potential for development in collaboration with clinical researchers within the constellation. The term radiation therapy research includes research on radiotherapy in a broad sense: external radiation with ions, protons, x-rays or other modalities, brachytherapy, radionuclide therapy, radiopharmacy etc.

Project funds are granted as framework grants and can be used for personnel, operating and other ancillary costs (such as equipment) specified in the project budget. Funds for staff can be used to recruit senior researchers as well as Postdocs and doctoral students, and to enable research time for healthcare professionals. Funds may not be used for the salary of permanently employed senior lecturers or professors.

The Research Board will pay special attention to the project's scientific quality, collaboration between disciplines, groups and/or researchers that can lead to cross-fertilization between different therapeutic areas, and potential benefits for Swedish radiation oncology in both short and long term. The Research Board also expects the application to include documented support from the relevant healthcare principal, where the project's conditions are taken into account, such as, for instance, that research time can be set aside for those in the project who are clinically active, and that appropriate infrastructure can be ensured.

To apply for and receive grants for Projects, employment is required at a Swedish educational establishment or care department with a salary corresponding to at least 20% of full-time employment. This employment must already have started at the time of application. In certain circumstances exemptions from this rule may be allowed for applicants who have held grants for at least 5 years at the time of application. This can apply for example to work for a different employer (foreign or Swedish) under conditions that enable the project to proceed through continued research activities and affiliation with a Swedish university. This must be specifically justified and assessed for each new application, and also in the event of a change in employment conditions during the current grant period.

Applicants who have retired after employment at a Swedish university are not included in the 20% employment requirement, but affiliation with a Swedish higher education department must be endorsed by the head of department's signing of the application.

Project grants are primarily intended for PhD, independent researchers ("PI") with a scientific qualification that corresponds to docent competence. Applicants must have completed their doctoral before 1 January 2020.

One applicant (PI) - one project grant is the normal practice for Projects. For this special initiative, however, the application can be made by researchers who already



hold, or are currently applying for, project grants from the Swedish Cancer Society in the regular application call, provided that it describes a new approach. The research program should then include a section describing how the application in this special initiative differs from the research programs in the regular application round (for example, completely new issue / patient group / treatment methodology, or distinct extension of the project applied for in the regular application round). Researchers who do not hold, or are not applying for, regular project grants from the Swedish Cancer Society may also apply within this special initiative.

A PI that holds a grant approved from this special initiative in 2021 is, however, not eligible to apply for project grants in the call for 2022. Provided that a project applied for in 2022 describes a new approach, a PI can, however, be a co-applicant, and a co-applicant 2021 may apply this year as PI. The new application should then include a section describing how the application in the special initiative of 2022 differs from the research programs in the application round of 2021.

Grant period

The grant period for Projects is 1 January - 31 December. The project is granted for three to five years. The period of performance is the grant period plus a further 12 months. If there are special circumstances, the grant recipient may, after a written request to the Research Board, be granted an extension to the performance period.

Framework grants

Project grants are awarded as framework grants for personnel and operating costs.

The grant may be used as a grant for scholarships, doctoral positions, etc, according to local regulations at each department. Please note that the grant may not be used for the applicant's own salary or for the salary of a permanently employed senior lecturer or professor.

One or more projects can be awarded SEK 2-10 million per year for 3-5 years.

Administrative authority

The Swedish Cancer Society pays grants for research only to Swedish educational institutions.

The Swedish Cancer Society approves deductions for indirect costs up to a maximum of 15.25 percent of the grant. In the application, indirect costs must be entered as operating costs in the amount applied for.

When confirming the application, the head of department's signature guarantees co-financing of the project, in case the above deductions are insufficient.

Basis for assessment

Qualifications

Qualifications must be declared in the relevant application in Fenix.

Research program

The research program may comprise a maximum of ten pages including references (12pt, single line spacing, 2.5 cm margin).

The research program must be written in English.

The following is the recommended outline for the research program:

Specific objectives	A brief account of the aim of the proposed research.
Background	Summary of your own and others' results in the research area.
Work plan and preliminary results	Detailed description of hypotheses and planned work. The work plan should also include a methodological description where it is made clear that current technology/methodology, including statistical considerations, power analysis, etc., is in place and mastered, or is otherwise available for the project in question. Preliminary results are of vital importance in applications for grants for new projects. State clearly how the researchers / research groups participating in the project will work together to achieve the desired result.
Significance	Brief account of the expected significance for cancer research. Indicate how the project can contribute to the development of collaboration between disciplines, groups and/or researchers that can lead to cross-fertilization between different therapeutic areas. Indicate the way(s) in which the project can be useful for Swedish radiation oncology activities in the short and long term perspectives.
Literature references	Author, title of work, publication name, volume, page and year of publication. Include only the absolutely essential references.

If the project applied for is closely linked to a project that is already supported by the Swedish Cancer Society, the project description must state in what way the project applied for in this call constitutes an extension, and what role is held by the applicant or principal in the project already supported by the Swedish Cancer Society.

Cancer relevance

According to the Swedish Cancer Society's statutes, the Society must "support, organize and coordinate cancer research ...". There is a special field in the application form where the applicant must justify the cancer relevance.



Collaborator and research group structure

When applying for a project, a description of collaborators and key people related to the project is mandatory. The purpose of this description is to provide an overview of all participants in the project, their skills and special areas of responsibility.

In large multicenter studies, the names of all participants do not have to be stated, but only the number of centers and the key people involved.

Popular scientific description

This text will be published on cancerfonden.se if your grant is approved and can be read by people who donate to the Cancer Foundation, who have been affected by cancer, are relatives and others interested. Therefore, feel free to write simply and concisely. The text must be in Swedish and a maximum of 650 characters per question / section. Your text will not be edited but will be published as you type it.

1. Write a title that is easy to understand.
2. What is the background of the project?
3. What is the project about? Describe, for example, which cancer diseases are being studied, what treatment it is about, whether it is in diagnostics, epidemiology, prevention or care of cancer patients, or whether it is about how cancer arises.
4. What do you hope to achieve with your research?
5. Write a brief summary of the project for those who want to know quickly what it is about.

Amount applied for

All amounts in the application must be stated in SEK, i.e. not abbreviated to thousands.

The framework grant may include personnel costs for the project, the recruitments of senior researchers, doctoral students, postdocs, visiting researchers, BMA or research nurses. For staff who are not yet employed, the average salary of the personnel category should be stated (see www.lönestatistik.se).

The Swedish Cancer Society allows deductions for indirect costs up to a maximum of 15.25 percent of the grant.

Other grants

The Swedish Cancer Society attaches great importance to ensuring that project applications contain accurate budget information. A complete picture of all the applicant's grants relating to the project applied for and any other funding is



important both for assessing the project's chances of successful implementation and in calculating the need for funding.

Please note that applications with incomplete financial statements may be rejected because the information is insufficient to enable a decision to be made.

Practical guidelines

Application

Holders of grants or assignments from the tobacco industry may not at the same time hold grants from the Swedish Cancer Society.

Applications are made in the Swedish Cancer Society's new grant application system Fenix. Applications can be saved and altered until you have pressed the button "Request signing/*Be om signering*". Applications cannot be signed and submitted unless all the tabs in the application form are marked in green. The application cannot be altered or added to after the application deadline.

Appendices

- *Meriter/Qualifications* tab: 10 selected original articles, not overview articles, book chapters etc.
- *Meriter/Qualifications* tab: Max 3 x unpublished manuscripts with original data. (Attached as Pdf)
- *Meriter/Qualifications* tab: Complete list of publications. (Attached as Pdf)
- Proj Info tab: Research program, max 10 pages. N.B. Must be in English. (Attached as Pdf)
- Warranty from the healthcare principal (operations manager, division manager or equivalent) making clear that conditions for the project are taken into account, for example that research time can be made available for those who are clinically active in the project, that appropriate infrastructure is assured, etc. (Attached as Pdf)

Signing the application

When you have completed your application, you must send it to your Head of Department by going into the "Preview/*Förhandsgranska*" tab. At the bottom of the page you click on "Request signing/*Be om signering*". This sends the application to your Head of Department, who receives it and signs it digitally with BankID.

Note that if you make changes to the application after sending it to the Head of Department for signing, you must send a new request for signing by your Head of Department, as the application has changed. This applies regardless of what changes have been made.



When the Head of Department has signed the application digitally with BankID, you as the applicant will receive an email and can then log in and in turn sign the application digitally with BankID.

Application signing period

The deadline for signing the application is 2 May 2022, at 3pm.

Decisions

Decisions will be made at the meeting of the Research Board in November 2022.

Decisions and accompanying statements are sent out approximately 2 weeks after the decision meeting.

Applications that have been started but not finalized will be deleted after the end of the application round.

Triage

All applications receive the same assessment regarding scientific quality and are reviewed individually by all members of your selected committee. A certain proportion of the applications that receive low grades are not discussed in detail at the panel meeting and will thus not receive detailed written comments in the final assessment. The purpose of this process is to enable more in-depth discussions of applications that have a reasonable chance of being funded.

Miscellaneous

Change of address

The applicant/grant holder is responsible for ensuring that up-to-date personal and department contact information is entered into the Fenix application portal.

Change of administrative authority / department

When transferring grants to another administrative authority or to another department within the current university or high school, the application for transfer must be made in Fenix with digital signing / approval from both the current and receiving Heads of Department.

Reports (financial and scientific)

Not later than three months (see contract) after the end of the period of performance, a report must be submitted via Fenix. Unused funds must be repaid. For this special initiative, the Swedish Cancer Society may evaluate the project's progress on several



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occasions during the grant period. In addition, the Swedish Cancer Society may request a special oral and written presentation of the project's results after the end of the performance period.

Queries

Contact the Research Unit for information, telephone number (exchange) 010-199 10 10 or email us at forskning@cancerfonden.se.

Use of personal data

Read more about the Swedish Cancer Society's handling of personal data in the Swedish Cancer Society's privacy policy.