

## **Special initiative: Fellowship in Cancer Research within primary prevention (3 years) - guidelines**

*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.*

The Swedish Cancer Society has a digitized 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 Friday 15th June 2021 at 3pm.**

### **Background**

Cancer cases in Sweden continue to rise. Since the 1970s, the number of cancer cases has more than doubled. Even taking into account increased population and a changing age structure, the incidence of cancer has increased by about 40 percent. To some extent, the increase in cancer cases is due to improved diagnostics and more extensive screening for certain cancers. Contributory factors such as the environment, infections, smoking, alcohol consumption, unhealthy diet, lack of physical activity, excess weight, obesity and sun habits are also believed to be behind the observed increase. The World Health Organization's Cancer Research Agency (IARC) estimates that at least one in three cancer cases in the world could be prevented by making full use of current knowledge. For example, excess weight and obesity are linked to an increased risk of at least thirteen different cancers and are the second leading cause of cancer after smoking. Despite this, the underlying reasons why excess weight and obesity increase the risk of cancer are not yet fully understood. It has also been difficult to develop effective methods for prevention, for example for smoking, which today causes about 6,000 cancer cases annually in Sweden.

### **Objectives**

To promote cancer research in the field of primary prevention by giving researchers at Swedish departments the opportunity to engage in research in this field for a period of three years. The grant can also be used to conduct research studies at a department abroad during the whole or part of the three years. The applicant's research project must be focused on primary prevention, i.e. it should target expertise or measures that can counteract or prevent individuals from developing cancer.

Researchers from different disciplines are welcome to apply within this broad area, which may for instance include studies of: 1) factors affecting the risk of developing cancer, **such as lifestyle and environmental factors, including workplace environments, heredity and infections;** 2) interactions between these factors, together with their associated mechanisms and biomarkers; 3) implementation of expertise related to already known factors in order to achieve effective primary prevention in society. **The call does not, however, include projects that have a focus on secondary or tertiary prevention, i.e. early detection of cancer or prevention of relapse.**

This special initiative is a call for projects in all these areas, where the significance for potential implementation within primary prevention in the foreseeable future will be a high priority in making our assessment. The Swedish Cancer Society strives to finance all applications that are judged to be of high quality, but if this is not possible, the research board will in its final assessment give particular weight to applications where the research program focuses on lifestyle factors and/or includes intervention studies or the development of effective prevention methods.

Fellowships can be applied for to cover either the applicant's own full-time salary, or a part-time salary corresponding to 50–70% of full-time where the remaining time is taken up by, for example, clinical work, teaching, etc. The application can be made by researchers who are already active in the field, but also by those who, with specialized methodology or expertise in another area, can conduct projects that are important for cancer research in the area of primary prevention.

For legal reasons, the Swedish Cancer Society pays grants only to Swedish universities and colleges.

### **Formal eligibility requirements**

Holders of senior lecturer or professor posts are not eligible to apply for the Fellowship in Cancer Research in the field of primary prevention. Exceptions can be made for applicants who hold an appointment as associate lecturer (BUL), research assistant or adjunct professor.

Applicants must have been awarded their doctorate after 1 July 2006.

### **Exceptions to the eligibility rule regarding the date of the completion of the doctoral degree:**

The following exceptions must have taken place after the completion of the doctoral degree. Complete your request in the application system.

### **Exceptions can be granted after absence due to:**

1. **Sick leave;** exceptions may be granted if the applicant has been on at least 50% sick leave for at least 30 consecutive calendar days. A certificate from the employer's HR/payroll department or the Swedish Social Insurance Agency (*Försäkringskassan*) must be attached.

## **2. Parental leave;**

a. Applicants who have had children and been on parental leave may be granted an exception with a standard 275 calendar days per child.

Certificates may be requested.

b. Alternatives to the standard deduction above can be granted to applicants who have had 100% continuous parental leave exceeding 275 calendar days. This must be attested by a certificate from the employer's HR/payroll department or the Swedish Social Insurance Agency, covering the entire parental leave in question from day one.

**3. Internship or equivalent compulsory work experience required to obtain professional certification;** a certificate stating the date, scope and type of internship must be attached to the application.

Certificates from the Swedish Social Insurance Agency must not contain personal data for children.

## **Grant period**

Fellowships are awarded for a maximum of three years. The grant period begins on 1st January the year after the award has been granted. For exceptional reasons the start of the grant period may be postponed, though no later than 1st July of the year following the formal decision of the award.

## **The size of the grant**

The size of the grant is calculated at 100% of the stated salary (to a maximum of SEK 104,800 / month), holiday pay (1.3%) and payroll taxes (51.7%). The grant also includes the managing authority's deduction for indirect costs (15.25%).

Grants for part-time Fellowships are calculated on the basis of the specified research time (50–70%), where the remaining time is taken up by, for example, clinical work or teaching.

Fellowship grants for full-time researchers within, for example, basic research can be combined with a maximum of 20% secondary employment, for example clinical service.

The Swedish Cancer Society will reimburse travel expenses for the grant holder and any accompanying family members for one round trip per grant period in the event that part of the Fellowship is spent at a department abroad. The Swedish Cancer Society's travel regulations must be followed.

The grant holder's actual salary is determined by the employer.

## **Basis for assessment**

The application is assessed in accordance with the following assessment criteria:

Fellowship with primary prevention 2021

- Scientific quality
- Applicant's qualifications
- Relevance for primary prevention
- The Research Board will also give special consideration to applications where the applicant intends to spend part of the Fellowship at an department abroad.

### **1. The Swedish department**

In addition to the usual assessment of the department, the department's focus with regard to research into primary prevention is also taken into account.

#### **Where relevant:**

### **2. The Foreign Department**

The assessment will take into account the foreign department's current and potential significance for cancer research within primary prevention.

The application must be accompanied by a certificate or invitation from the foreign department, which must be attached to the application as PDF files. They must be signed by the head of department in question and attached to the confirmation.

The assessment board may call some applicants to interview.

### **Research program**

The research program may be written in Swedish or English and may comprise a maximum of ten pages including references (12pt, single line spacing, 2.5 cm margin).

The following outline is recommended:

Specific objectives	A brief account of the aim of the proposed research work.
Background	Summary of your own and others' results in the research area.
Work plan and preliminary results	Detailed description of hypotheses, planned work and any preliminary results. The work plan should also include a methodological description where it is made clear that current technology/methodology is in place and mastered, or is otherwise available for the project in question.
Significance	Brief account of the importance that the study and the new expertise are expected to have to mitigate or prevent the onset of cancer and when this may be implemented.

Literature references	Author, title of work, publication name and year of publication. Include only the absolutely essential references.
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## Practical guidelines

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

### 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. You should then log in and sign the application digitally with BankID.

### Application signing period

The deadline for signing the application is 15th June 2021 at 3pm.

### Decisions

Decisions will be made at a meeting of the Research Committee in November 2021.

### Applications

Applications are made in the Swedish Cancer Society's 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.

Applications cannot be altered or supplemented after the end of the application period.

### If applicable, an invitation from a foreign host department

is mandatory if a stay at a foreign host department is included and attached to the application.

### Attachments

- Complete list of publications. A maximum of 10 original articles should be uploaded to the application from the selected publication database.
- Research program, max 10 pages.
- Max. 3 x manuscripts with original data.
- If applicable, basis for requesting an exception concerning the date of the completion of the doctoral degree.
- Invitation from the host department in the case of stays abroad.

## Miscellaneous

### Changed circumstances during the grant period:

- Changed employment and financing circumstances must be reported immediately to the Swedish Cancer Society for reassessment of the grant.
- A researcher who has been awarded funds for salary can retain these funds if the person in question continues their activities but is promoted in the meantime.
- Researchers who have been awarded a grant for the Fellowship in Cancer Research within the field of primary prevention and during the grant period apply for and are appointed to a position at the higher education department (senior lecturer, professor) cannot retain funding from the Swedish Cancer Society.

*Exceptions to the above rule are researchers who during the grant period:*

- are appointed associate university lecturer (BUL) or research assistant, in which case funding from the Swedish Cancer Society can be retained.

### Change of address

The applicant/grantee is responsible for ensuring that up-to-date personal and departmental 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 college, 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. The Scientific Report must be attached as a PDF file.

### Queries

Contact the Research Unit for information, telephone number 010-199 10 10 or email

us at [forskning@cancerfonden.se](mailto:forskning@cancerfonden.se). We will answer your questions during normal office hours on non-holiday weekdays.

**Feedback regarding decisions**

Written feedback reports for **short-listed candidates** will be available in the corresponding applications.

**Use of personal data**

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