

Program description

Background

Diabetes is the most common chronic disease in the Netherlands and a growing burden on society. Despite the large number of people affected, diabetes remains an underestimated chronic disease with victims in all age ranges. Diabetes has a big impact on the lives of patients and their families: day in day out patients need to monitor their glucose levels, their food intake, their activity pattern, their medication, their insulin requirements. But even with optimal self-management there is always the fear of developing complications such as the loss of eyesight, kidney failure and heart problems.

It is the mission of the Dutch Diabetes Research Foundation (in Dutch: '*Diabetes Fonds*') to stop this. Because everyone has the right to live a healthy life. We believe that scientific research will result in better treatments, better prevention and ultimately a cure for diabetes.

The Dutch Diabetes Research Foundation is able to finance research thanks to numerous donations from patients, their friends and families and the public at large. It is our goal to spend these donations on research and innovations that will ultimately lead to the dream of many: a world without diabetes.

Purpose

The Diabetes Fonds Fellowships aim to encourage promising scientists to further their career in diabetes research. The Dutch Diabetes Research Foundation will award funding to exceptional candidates who have the capacity to further the field of diabetes research. The goal of the Dutch Diabetes Research Foundation is to give people living with diabetes now and those in the future a better quality of life. To achieve this goal, the Dutch Diabetes Research Foundation needs to ensure that the outcomes of scientific research will be transferred to potential users and benefits patients. Therefore, applicants will be assessed not only on their curriculum vitae and research plan, but also on their ability to make their results accessible for a wide audience and to implement and/or anticipate ways to implement the outcomes of their study into practice.

Available funding

The Diabetes Fonds Fellowships provide two types of funding:

Diabetes Fonds Junior Fellowships

Junior Fellowships are available for junior researchers who have the ambition to further their career in diabetes research and do so in close collaboration with an established researcher. The junior researcher is the first applicant of the grant and the established researcher acts as a 'coach' during the research project. Junior researchers have obtained a PhD in diabetes or

closely related research and may have some experience as a post-doc researcher. From their curriculum vitae and scientific achievements it should be clear why the candidate deserves a Junior Fellowship to further his career in diabetes research. Through his or her support, the established researcher should make clear why the junior researcher is the best candidate to work on the proposed project and what (future) contribution the candidate is expected to make to the particular area of interest. In addition, it should be stated in the application how the proposed work and the applicant are embedded in the research group of the established researcher.

Besides the curriculum vitae and scientific achievements of the junior and established researcher, the scientific quality and (potential) relevance of the proposed work for people with diabetes will be important criteria in the review process. More information on these criteria is mentioned below. PhD defence of the junior candidate has taken place after 31-12-2013 or will take place ultimately the 1st of April 2018.

In 2017 we aim to support 3 Diabetes Fonds Junior Fellowships with a maximum of **€ 275.000** each for a maximum of **4 years**.

Diabetes Fonds Senior Fellowships

Senior Fellowships are available for senior researchers at post-doc level who have the ambition to further their career in diabetes research and are close to starting their own research group. Applicants have a proven track record in diabetes research and can show that they are able to independently conduct research, bring innovative ideas from research plan to published results, contribute to the (international) diabetes research community, communicate outcomes to a wide audience, anticipate opportunities for the implementation of study results, and have the potential to become one of the future leaders in a particular area of diabetes research. The Diabetes Fonds Senior Fellowship should enable the recipient to start and develop their own line of research. This should not only include excellent scientific work but also the ability to collaborate with fellow researchers, companies and potential investors, present and promote their own work to a wide audience, encourage and facilitate young researchers and place academic results in the context of people with diabetes.

Besides the curriculum vitae and scientific achievements of the researcher, the scientific quality and (potential) relevance of the proposed work for people with diabetes will be important criteria in the review process. More information on these criteria is mentioned below. Senior postdoc received his/her doctorate before 31-12-2013 and has a maximum of eight years of experience in research after the doctorate.

In 2017 we aim to support 2 Diabetes Fonds Senior Fellowships with a maximum of **€ 325.000** each for a maximum of **4 years**.

Procedure

To apply for a Diabetes Fonds Fellowship you first need to submit a Letter of Intent. If you receive a positive advice about this Letter of Intent, you are invited to write a Full Application.

Letter of Intent Diabetes Fonds Fellowships

The deadline for the electronic version (Word file) of the Letter of Intent for a Diabetes Fonds Junior or Senior Fellowship is **Monday February 13, 2017 at 13:00hrs**. The Dutch Diabetes Research Foundation will check whether the Letters of Intent meet the conditions of the program description. The Scientific Advisory Board of the Dutch Diabetes Research Foundation evaluates the Letters of Intent based on the evaluation criteria, mentioned below. After a written evaluation the Scientific Advisory Board will discuss the submitted Letters of Intent and reviews in a meeting. The Scientific Advisory Board advises the Executive Board whether or not to invite an applicant to write a full application. The Executive Board of the Dutch Diabetes Research Foundation makes the final decision on who will be invited to write a full application.

Full application Diabetes Fonds Fellowships

The deadline for the electronic version (Word file) of the full application is **Monday June 12, 2017 at 13:00hrs**.

(Inter)national reviewers

Several (inter)national researchers with expertise on the specific topic are invited to write a review. The reviewers will remain anonymous. All applicants are given the opportunity to write a rebuttal. Based on this rebuttal the reviewers will give a final score.

Societal Advisory Board

The Societal Advisory Board will review the lay abstracts based on (potential) relevance of the proposed work for people with diabetes. Their reviews will be discussed in a meeting and representatives will be selected to attend the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Board in November.

Scientific Advisory Board

During the Scientific Advisory Board Meeting, the Junior and Senior applicants are invited to introduce themselves, discuss their future career plans and provide in-depth information on the research proposal. The members of the Scientific Advisory Board will discuss all full applications, reviews and rebuttals. Based on this discussion and the presentation, the Scientific Advisory Board and the representatives of the Societal Advisory Board come to a final advice for the Executive Board.

Executive Board

Based on the advice of the Scientific and Societal Advisory Boards, as well as the current financial resources, the Executive Board decides which applications will be approved. If

finances allow, subsequent applications, that are found eligible for funding by the Scientific and Societal Advisory Boards, from the ranking list will be granted. This ranking is based on the review of the (inter)national reviewers, the presentation and the discussion during the Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Board and the Societal Advisory Board.

Deadlines

Diabetes Fonds Fellowships	
Monday February 13, 13:00	Deadline Letter of Intent
April	Evaluation Scientific Advisory Board
April	Decision Executive Board
Monday June 12, 13:00	Deadline full application
July/ August	Review (inter)national experts
July/ August	Reviews to applicants
Monday August 21, 13:00	Deadline rebuttal
September	Final review (inter)national experts
October	Meeting Societal Advisory Board
November	Meeting Scientific Advisory Board and representatives of the Societal Advisory Board
December	Decision Executive Board

Review criteria

The members of the Scientific Advisory Board, the members of the Societal Advisory Board and the (inter)national reviewers will evaluate the Letters of Intent and Full Applications of the Diabetes Fonds Fellowships based on the following criteria. The presentation will also be reviewed based on these criteria.

- I. Quality of candidate
- II. Quality, originality and innovative character of the research proposal
- III. Knowledge utilisation

I. Candidates:

Diabetes Fonds Junior Fellowships

Junior postdoc

- ✓ Past performance (e.g. publication record, presentations, prizes, awards granted, international experience, etc.);
- ✓ Track record is relevant for the field of diabetes;
- ✓ Candidate's potential for establishing a successful and independent career in the scientific field of diabetes;
- ✓ Candidates' ability to be a passionate advocate of his research for a wide audience;
- ✓ Candidates' potential for seeking opportunities to implement the outcomes of the research;
- ✓ A Diabetes Fonds Junior Fellowship will accelerate the diabetes career of the candidate.

Established researcher / Coach

- ✓ Past performance (e.g. publication record, presentations, prizes, awards granted, international experience, etc.);
- ✓ The track record of the established researcher and standing in the field of diabetes is excellent;
- ✓ There seems to be a good fit between the junior's research proposal and the supervisor's research program and the established researcher will be able to coach the junior to a successful conclusion of the proposed project and stimulate the personal and professional development of the junior researcher.

Diabetes Fonds Senior Fellowships

Senior postdoc

- ✓ Past performance (e.g. publication record, presentations, prizes, awards granted, international experience, etc.);
- ✓ The track record of the senior postdoc and standing in the field of diabetes is excellent;
- ✓ The candidate will be a promising contributor to the scientific field of diabetes;
- ✓ Candidates' ability to be a passionate advocate of his research for a wide audience;
- ✓ Candidates' potential for seeking opportunities to implement the outcomes of the research;
- ✓ A Diabetes Fonds Senior Fellowship will enable the candidate to establish his/her own line of research in the field of diabetes.

II. Research proposal:

- ✓ The proposal addresses innovative concepts, approaches and methods;
- ✓ The work plan is of high scientific quality and ethically acceptable;
- ✓ The study will have an impact on current concepts and methods;
- ✓ The project clearly contributes to the goal of the Dutch Diabetes Research Foundation to achieve and develop scientific insights on how diabetes and diabetes complications can be prevented or cured. The Dutch Diabetes Research Foundation wants to give people living with diabetes now and those in the future a better quality of life;
- ✓ In case of comparable research questions the Dutch Diabetes Research Foundation prefers the use of human above animal materials. If animal testing is necessary, the design takes into account the recent developments in reducing, refining and replacing animal testing.

III. Knowledge utilisation

- ✓ People with (high risk of) diabetes will benefit directly or in the near future from the proposed work;
- ✓ The proposed project is promising in terms of future implementation;

- ✓ Action plan to allow the outcomes of the project to benefit the potential knowledge users, such as patients, healthcare professionals, companies and other academic disciplines.

Conditions for writing a proposal

The Dutch Diabetes Research Foundation evaluates the applications based on the following conditions. Applications **not** meeting these conditions will be **excluded** from the procedure.

- Use of the correct form (available www.diabetesfonds.nl/voor-onderzoekers);
- The form is filled out completely and correctly and the deadline is not exceeded;
- The project has a direct relation with diabetes;
- The project takes place in the Netherlands for more than 50% of the duration and resources;
- If a clinical study is included, it needs to be performed under the surveillance and responsibility of an academic institute, university or non-profit research institute;
- The main applicant is affiliated to a university, academic center, university of applied sciences or non-profit research institute;
- The budget meets the guidelines in the document '*Regeling Subsidieverlening*' and the '*Algemene Subsidievoorwaarden*';
- The project concerns independent research activities. Applications for additional finances will be excluded from the procedure;
- The project does not concern a pilot study;
- The maximum amount requested should not exceed € 275.000 (Diabetes Fonds Junior Fellowship) or € 325.000 (Diabetes Fonds Senior Fellowship) for a period of maximum 48 months. For medical researchers, the duration of a Diabetes Fonds Fellowship may be extended in agreement with the Dutch Diabetes Research Foundation.

Extra information is needed in case of:

- Proposals resulting from ongoing projects. Please indicate how the application differs from the current activities and whether there is an overlap or connection between the ongoing and proposed projects;
- Proposals that are simultaneously offered for funding elsewhere. Please inform us which organization the proposal is offered to, when the decision on granting is expected and the amount of funding requested. If the research proposal is granted elsewhere, the proposal will be excluded from the procedure;
- Research proposals that have been previously denied by the Dutch Diabetes Research Foundation. Motivate why the grant is applied for again and inform us precisely how the current proposal differs from the earlier proposal.
- In case a doctorate has not yet been awarded. No later than November 1 2017, we need to receive an official declaration by the entire manuscript committee that the manuscript of the thesis had been approved.

Contact information

Send your electronic application to:

Diabetes Fonds
Kennis & Innovatie
Stationsplein 139
3818 LE Amersfoort
research@diabetesfonds.nl

For further questions or remarks please contact Jeanette Rothuizen. Phone: 033 462 20 55
or e-mail: research@diabetesfonds.nl.