

## Program description

### Purpose

The Dutch Diabetes Research Foundation (DDRF) works towards a world without diabetes and the concerns associated with this chronic disease. That is why the DDRF finances promising scientific research towards innovative diabetes treatment and cure.

Type 1 diabetes is a serious disease that affects more than 100,000 people in the Netherlands alone and over 30 million people worldwide. It is one of the most common chronic diseases among children in the Netherlands and has a major impact on people's lives, and that of those around them. Every day, people with diabetes need to monitor their glucose levels, food intake, activity pattern, medication and insulin requirements. But even with optimal self-management, there is always the risk of developing complications such as the loss of eyesight, nerve and vascular damage, kidney failure and heart problems.

### Call for proposals

Because of the severity of living with type 1 diabetes, the theme of the research grant this year is: **Type 1 Diabetes: Quest For A Cure**. With this call for proposals, we aim to work towards a practical or a perfect cure for people with longstanding type 1 diabetes (diagnosis >5 years ago) within the next 15 years.

### Scope and focus

The Dutch Diabetes Research Foundation invites all scientists working on **type 1 diabetes** to apply for a grant in this call. The call is open for both fundamental and applied scientific research. The research can be done in any field, including but not limited to cell biology, immunology, biochemistry, patient-driven research, and technological innovations.

It is essential that the research project is focused on finding **a practical or perfect cure for people with longstanding type 1 diabetes within the next 15 years**, and should work towards a solution that will eliminate the **daily burden of living with the disease**. The cure should aim to restore or provide normal glucose metabolism in people with longstanding type 1 diabetes (and prevent the development or progression of complications such as the loss of eyesight, kidney failure, and heart problems). The results and outcomes of the project need to benefit knowledge users, e.g. people with type 1 diabetes, care providers, policymakers, and companies in the short term and/or in the long term.

We welcome proposals **for both practical cures and perfect cures**. A practical cure being any solution that will eliminate the daily burden of living with the disease. While it may not fully reverse or eliminate the disease, a practical cure will provide proper glycemic control, and allow people with type 1 diabetes to feel that their life quality and longevity are not compromised. A perfect cure, on the other hand, will fully eliminate the disease and restore normal glucose metabolism.

With the awareness that the field of type 1 diabetes has many different paths that still need exploring, **we will also consider research that provides partial solutions for cure** for this call. In this case, we ask applicants to elaborate how this partial solution (in the future) can be complemented or completed to obtain a full solution for cure. In this case, it is essential that applicants provide us with a

description of a proposed follow-up, who will execute this follow-up, and what the path towards clinical integration looks like, to come to a full solution.

In case of research into **adjuvant or adjunctive therapies** (i.e. existing medication which can help/improve current therapies), we aim for a shorter route (<15 years) towards the clinic.

The scope and focus of the '**Type 1 Diabetes: Quest For A Cure**' call stem from the vision and strategy of the DDRF and is complementary to our other activities. As a consequence, a number of questions and topics fall beyond the scope of this specific call, e.g. prevention of type 1 diabetes, presymptomatic (early) detection of type 1 diabetes, lifestyle management interventions for type 1 diabetes, or projects with topics similar to those already being funded by the DDRF (although follow-ups of already funded projects *will* be considered). The objective of the call is to stimulate scientific research with the aim of realizing scientific and/or societal breakthroughs on a practical or perfect cure for type 1 diabetes.

### **Collaboration**

In this call, the DDRF welcomes and has a preference for research projects in which there is collaboration on an intra-, inter- and/or multidisciplinary level. We believe that these types of collaborations are key to curing people with type 1 diabetes. Collaboration can take place on a national and international level. Importantly, the proposed project needs to take place in the Netherlands for more than 50% of the duration and resources.

### **Available funding**

The **Type 1 Diabetes: Quest For A Cure** call for proposals offers research grants for scientific research. Based on the quality of the applications, we aim to support 1 project with a maximum of € 750.000 for a maximum of 5 years.

Review criteria and conditions for writing a proposal can be found in Annexes 1 and 2 in this document. Advice for writing the Dutch part of the application ("Samenvatting voor Ervaringsdeskundigen") can be found in Annex 3 - Tips voor het schrijven van een goede samenvatting.

## **Procedure and deadlines**

### **Mandatory Registration**

In order to apply for the **Type 1 Diabetes: Quest For A Cure** grant, **registration of an application is mandatory**. The deadline for submitting the electronic version (in Word) of the registration form is **Tuesday April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 at 13:00 CEST**. Required information includes a general summary of administrative details, a statement of relevance, a scientific abstract (also containing a succinct work plan of your proposed research), and a list of potential international reviewers. The registration form can be found at <https://www.diabetesfonds.nl/speciaal-voor/onderzoekers>.

In case a large number of applicants register to send in an application, the DDRF is at liberty to make a selection. In this instance, not all applicants that have registered will be invited to submit an application. As part of the selection procedure, the DDRF will evaluate the application based on the review criteria (mentioned below). The DDRF aims to inform applicants within a week after the registration deadline whether they are allowed to submit a complete application or not.

### **Application**

When invited, applicants can complete the application process by submitting an application. The deadline for the electronic version (Word file) of the application is **Tuesday May 7<sup>th</sup>, 13:00 CEST**. The DDRF will check whether the application is eligible. If the application does not meet the criteria, your application will not be taken into consideration.

Of note, the application form consists of two sections. Section A entails the scientific part of the application, which needs to be written in English. Section B entails the laymen summary (samenvatting voor ervaringsdeskundigen) that needs to be written in Dutch.

### **Review of the application**

A number of (inter)national scientists with expertise on the specific topic are invited to review the scientific section of the application based on the review criteria listed below. In addition, a statistician will review the scientific section of the application.

The Dutch 'laymen summary' will be reviewed by the Societal Advisory Board of the DDRF (Maatschappelijke Adviesraad - MAR) based on the review criteria listed below.

All reviewers will remain anonymous at all times.

### **Rebuttal**

The applicants are given the opportunity to write rebuttals to issues raised by the reviewers. There will be three rebuttals. A rebuttal to:

- the comments and issues raised by the (inter)national scientists
- the comments and issues raised by the statistician
- the comments and issues raised by the Societal Advisory Board

The deadline for the rebuttals is **Tuesday July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 13:00 CEST**.

### **Advice and decision**

In August and September, the members of the Scientific (WAR) and Societal (MAR) Advisory Boards will review and discuss the applications, the reviews and the rebuttals. Based on the reviews and discussion, they will advise the executive board of the DDRF which application to fund. Additional recommendations concerning the applications can be included in this advice. Based on the advice of the members of the advisory boards, the executive board decides which application will be granted.

<b>Time schedule</b>	
<b>March 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Call open</b>
<b>April 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Deadline registration</b>
Between April 2 <sup>nd</sup> – April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Review of registration by DDRF, applicants are invited (or not) to submit an application
May 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Deadline application</b>
Mid-June	Review of the application by international experts and Societal Advisory Board
Between June 10 <sup>th</sup> - June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Reviews to applicants for rebuttals
July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Deadline rebuttals</b>
September	Meeting advisory boards
Mid-October	Decision Executive Board

The Dutch Diabetes Research Foundation reserves the right to change timelines due to unforeseen circumstances.

### **Contact information**

Send your electronic registration and application to: [research@diabetesfonds.nl](mailto:research@diabetesfonds.nl)

For further questions or remarks please contact Fransje Boot  
Phone: 033 303 13 27 or e-mail: [f.boot@diabetesfonds.nl](mailto:f.boot@diabetesfonds.nl).

## Annex 1 - Review criteria

The review criteria are aligned with the objective of the call: to stimulate scientific research with the aim of realising scientific and/or societal breakthroughs. It is essential that the research project is focused on accomplishing advances in the practical or perfect cure for people with type 1 diabetes.

Upon **registration**, the proposed project will be assessed against the following two criteria:

- I. Alignment with the scope, objectives and criteria of the *Type 1 Diabetes: Quest For A Cure* call, which can be found in this program description
- II. Relevance of the proposed project for people with longstanding type 1 diabetes

**Applications** will be assessed against the following three criteria:

- I. Rationale (problem analysis)
- II. Scientific quality
- III. Knowledge utilisation (impact pathway)

These criteria are specified below.

### I. Rationale

- a. The main problem is important from a scientific and/or a societal perspective (perspective of people with type 1 diabetes).
- b. The causes underlying the main problem and the proposed route to the solution(s) for people with type 1 diabetes are convincingly described.
- c. It is well motivated that research into the underlying (knowledge related) causes is essential at this moment in time to progress towards the solution of the main problem.
- d. In case of adjuvant or adjunctive therapies, be aware that (future) application of therapy will not be limited by Dutch laws and regulations of healthcare.
- e. In case of partial solutions, motivate necessities in terms of time and resources to reach a complete solution.

### II. Scientific quality

- a. The scientific problem is clear and concise. The research question(s) and objectives associated with it are clearly defined and specific.
- b. The proposed approach and methodology are highly suitable to achieve the intended objectives and to answer the research question(s). The approach and methodology are coherent and well-formulated. Progressive (state-of-the-art) methodology and techniques are preferred.
- c. The feasibility of the proposed research is convincingly described, including risk analysis and a backup plan.
- d. The main applicant has the appropriate background and expertise, and works in the right environment, to make the proposed project into a success.
- e. The collaboration(s) within the project will positively impact the results and outcomes of the project.
- f. The budget is appropriate for the proposed research activities. Costs are clear and tangibly justified. The right type of personnel contributes to, or executes the project.

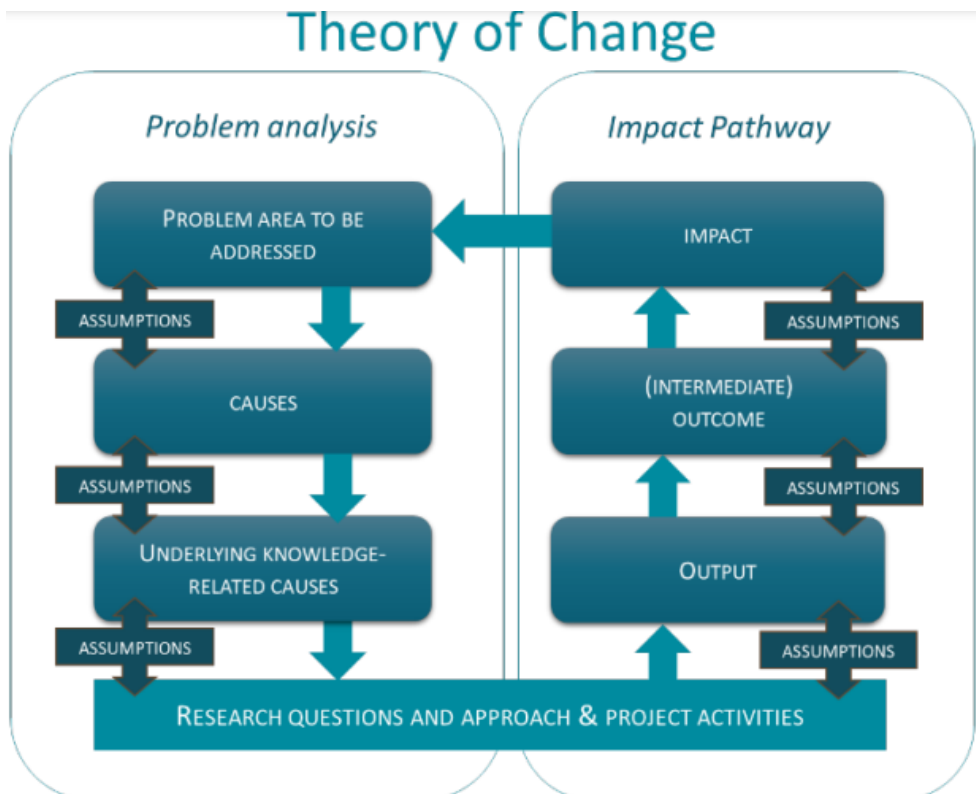
### III. Knowledge utilisation

- a. The intended scientific and societal outcomes/breakthroughs are clearly defined and logically follow from the problem or question identified.
- b. The action plan follows logically from the problem description, breakthroughs, research plan, outputs, and outcomes as described in the previous sections.
- c. A detailed action plan is presented, including specific steps and actions, identification and contribution of relevant stakeholders/users, together leading to a plan to allow the translation of

the intended outcomes of the research project towards a (partial) solution for the central (societal) problem: a practical or perfect cure for people with type 1 diabetes.

d. The action plan is both effective and realistic.

To select the most promising applications which have the greatest potential to contribute to the solution of a (societal) problem, the DDRF applies the review criteria for the application on the NWO Theory of Change model depicted below. Supporting information on the Theory of Change can be found on the website of the [website of the Dutch Research Council](https://www.nwo.nl/en) (NWO)



The Dutch Diabetes Research Foundation has the right to exclude applications that do not match the objectives or conditions of this specific call according to our Policy plan 2021-2024. Applications for research projects with high degree of resemblance to initiatives that have already been funded by the Dutch Diabetes Research Foundation can also be excluded.

## Annex 2 - Conditions for writing a proposal

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

- Use of the correct registration and application forms, available at: <https://www.diabetesfonds.nl/speciaal-voor/onderzoekers>;
- The forms are filled out completely and correctly and the deadlines are not exceeded;
- By sending in the registration and application forms, the main applicant (and co-applicants) agree that the Dutch Diabetes Research Foundation (DDRF) will process the application and all data it contains (including personal data of the main applicant and other co-applicants if applicable) for review purposes under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Algemene Verordening Gegevensbescherming (AVG));
- Applications for the *Type 1 Diabetes: Quest For A Cure* call need to meet the conditions and requirements described in the 'Algemene Subsidievoorwaarden', which can be found at our website: <https://www.diabetesfonds.nl/subsidievoorwaarden>. Applicants need to be aware that the 'Algemene Subsidievoorwaarden' may be subject to change, e.g. after registration, or upon awarding of the grant. The applicants will then be notified by the Dutch Diabetes Research Foundation accordingly and provided with the new version of the 'Algemene Subsidievoorwaarden';
- The main applicant is affiliated with a Dutch university, academic centre, university of applied sciences, or non-profit research institute;
- The maximum amount requested should not exceed € 750.000 for a period of maximum of 60 months;
- The proposed project focuses on developing a practical or perfect cure for type 1 diabetes;
- The DDRF welcomes and has a preference for projects in which there is intra-, inter- and/or multidisciplinary collaboration. Collaboration can take place on a national and international level, and within public-private partnerships;
- The project will take place in The Netherlands for more than 50% of the duration and resources;
- In the event of a project being carried out within multiple organisations or institutes, the main applicant is responsible for the timely and correct distribution of the funding among all locations;
- 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;
- Experiments using human measurement models are preferred over experiments using animal models;
- The project concerns independent research activities. Applications for additional finances will be excluded from the procedure;
- The project does not concern research primary based on methodology;
- Scientific articles resulting from the project must be published in Open Access journals.

### Additional information is needed in case of:

- Proposals resulting from ongoing projects financed by the DDRF. 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 organisation the proposal is offered to, when the decision on granting is expected and what amount of funding is requested. If the research proposal is granted elsewhere, the proposal will be excluded from the procedure;
- Proposals that have previously been denied by the DDRF. Motivate why the grant is applied for again and inform us precisely how the current proposal differs from the earlier proposal;

### Annex 3 - Tips voor het schrijven van een goede samenvatting

- Maak zinnen zo kort mogelijk. Kijk of er overbodige woorden in staan die niemand gaat missen.
- Durf spreektaal te gebruiken. Gebruik beeldende taal of voorbeelden die herkenbaar zijn.
- Vermijd medische/wetenschappelijke termen.  
Voorbeelden: 'Amyloïd-Beta-42' → 'eiwit', 'correlatie' → 'verband', 'insulineresistentie' → 'minder gevoelig voor insuline', 'klinische studie' → 'onderzoek'
- Vermijd de termen 'suikerziekte', 'patiënten' en 'diabeten'. Het Diabetes Fonds geeft de voorkeur aan de termen 'diabetes' en 'mensen met diabetes'.
- Gebruik actieve zinnen. Vermijd 'wordt'.  
Voorbeeld: 'Er wordt gedacht dat mensen ongevoeliger zijn voor insuline.' → 'Men denkt dat mensen ongevoeliger zijn voor insuline.'
- Haal zo veel mogelijk 'kunnen', 'zouden', 'moeten' weg. Het komt dan krachtiger en duidelijker over.  
Voorbeeld: 'Je kunt je hier aanmelden, waarna we je binnenkort zullen benaderen.' → 'Meld je hier aan, dan benaderen we je binnenkort.'
- Vermijd tangconstructies.  
Voorbeeld: 'Veel mensen vinden de website vanwege de duidelijke teksten prettig leesbaar.' → 'Veel mensen vinden de website prettig leesbaar, vanwege de duidelijke teksten.'
- Vermijd 'ing-woorden'.  
Voorbeeld: 'Het doel van de redacteur is tot verbetering van de website te komen.' → 'De redacteur zet zich in om de website te verbeteren.'
- Laat de samenvatting lezen aan iemand die niets van wetenschap af weet om te kijken of alles duidelijk beschreven is.