

F.R.S.-FNRS MINI-GUIDE AUDACIOUS MEDICAL GRANT - NEURO CALL 2023

French version: [click here](#).

1. WHAT IS AN AUDACIOUS MEDICAL GRANT?

The Audacious Medical Grant (AMG) is a funding instrument supporting medical or biomedical research projects that are original and audacious, but which are not supported via traditional funding schemes due to the lack of preliminary data, the absence of previous work or an unusual methodology.

The term “audacious” means that there is non-negligible risk that the project could produce little or no tangible scientific result because of its novelty or complexity.

The AMG-Neuro is a funding instrument supported by a private sponsor for which the FNRS uses the expertise of its Scientific Commission on Neurosciences to evaluate the projects submitted.¹ Cumulation between the classic instruments of the FNRS (PDR, CDR, MIS...) and the AMG-Neuro is authorized at the time of the submission and of the award.²

2. SCIENTIFIC SCOPE OF THE AMG-NEURO CALL

The AMG-Neuro call focuses on neurosciences in the broad sense, except for cognitive sciences and cancers of the nervous system: development of the nervous system, homeostasis and ageing, physiology and pathophysiology of the nervous system, systems neuroscience and modelling, neurological disorders.

All approaches are eligible (biomedical research, clinical research, translational research, epidemiological research, public health, modelling, etc.).

The project submitted must allow:

- a better understanding of the nervous system and its pathologies,
and/or
- the development of new therapeutic approaches,
and/or
- an improvement in the prevention or detection of nervous system pathologies.

¹ The Scientific Commission responsible for the neurosciences within the FNRS is the SVS-3.

² Cumulation is allowed provided that the projects to be awarded are significantly different, in order to avoid double funding.

3. AGENDA 2023³

- **Opening of the call:** Wednesday 24th May
- **Closure of the call:** Thursday 6th July at 2 p.m.
- **Deadline for the rectors' validation:** Tuesday 18th July at 2 p.m.
- **Scientific Commission's meeting:** October/November 2023
- **FNRS Board of Trustees' meeting:** December 2023
- **Start of the projects:** 1st January 2024

4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The candidate must be affiliated to a university of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation and meet the standard eligibility requirements of the PDR instrument (click [here](#)).

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE FUNDING INSTRUMENT

AMG-Neuro funding is intended for a single, eligible candidate from the Wallonia-Brussels Federation. Inter-university projects will not be supported under this AMG-Neuro 2023 call.

5.1 Funding duration

The funding can be requested for a maximum of 24 months.

5.2 Amount of funding

The maximum amount that can be requested is 120.000 euros.

5.3 Eligible costs

- Personnel
 - The personnel must be hired by the host institution and its identity should not be communicated to the FNRS nor to the Scientific Commission.
 - At the end of the research convention (max. 24 months), the FNRS will not ensure the continuity of personnel funding.
- Operating
- Equipment

Transfer will be allowed between cost categories during the project.

³ All deadlines refer to Brussels local time.

6. STRUCTURE OF THE APPLICATION FORM

The form encompasses the following sections:

- o the applicant (curriculum vitae, skills to run the project);
- o the [project](#) (originality and relevance of the hypothesis, methodology);
- o audacious nature of the application⁴;
- o impact in the field of neurosciences and further, if applicable.

7. EVALUATION PROCEDURE

Projects submitted in the framework of the AMG-Neuro 2023 call will be evaluated by the FNRS Scientific Commission on neurosciences.⁵

The projects will be evaluated on the basis of the following 4 equally weighted criteria:

- o the applicant (curriculum vitae, skills to run the project),
- o the project (originality and relevance of the hypothesis, methodology),
- o audacious nature of the application⁴,
- o impact in the field of neurosciences and further, if applicable.

8. SUBMISSION OF AMG-NEURO APPLICATIONS

Projects must be submitted electronically using the web-based application of the FNRS [e-space](#) (section: "Submit a new application").

The number of applications that can be submitted by a given candidate is limited to one for the 2023 edition.

9. ACTIVITY REPORTS AND DISSEMINATION

At the end of the project, and within a maximum of 6 months, the promoter will have to submit an activity report listing the possible results and allowing the FNRS to ensure their diffusion.

⁴ To be considered audacious or risky, a research project must hold potentially seminal breakthroughs that could change our understanding of a field and lead to the establishment of new concepts or paradigms and can be based on a hypothesis and/or approach that has little to no support from previous work.

⁵ The Scientific Commission responsible for the neurosciences within the FNRS is the SVS-3.