

Coronavirus: FNRS devotes €3 million to research

Faced with the health crisis, the FNRS has decided to finance a double call for projects aimed at mobilizing the FWB's scientific communities and helping them to contribute to the international efforts that are currently being developed. €3 million will be devoted to this. This budget is financed from private donations and legacies received by the FNRS.

1. Urgent Research Credits

A first short-term financing via Urgent Research Credits will allow teams that have already started research on the coronavirus, or are about to do so, to benefit from reimbursements (maximum €60,000) for expenses incurred within the next 5 months. This concerns the following aspects (which are part of the priorities defined by the World Health Organisation):

- **Epidemiological and translational studies**
 - o Natural history of the disease (including anthropogenic factors) and the virus means of transmission
 - o Diagnosis of infection, asymptomatic carrier, evolution of immune response
 - o Clinical characterization and management
 - o Predictive and retrospective numerical models
- **Physiopathogenesis of the disease (virus-host interactions and immune response)**
 - o Development of animal and cellular models
 - o Therapeutic targets and drug candidate evaluation models (not including vaccines)
- **Infection prevention and control measures in the health care setting (including the best ways to protect health workers) and in community settings**
 - o Vulnerability and resilience of individuals, collectives and organizations
 - o Conditions of efficiency and actual conditions for implementing information, prevention, care and control measures
 - o Assessment and modelling of the epidemiological, economic and financial impact of the epidemic and of prevention and control measures

It is very important to specify that projects aiming at the development of tests in clinical biology and screening are also eligible.

For researchers: the application form will be put online on April 2nd at 10am.

2. Exceptional Research Projects

This initial funding is supplemented by Exceptional Research Projects, which can be funded up to €260,000 each. These projects can be grafted onto others already underway in laboratories and university hospitals. The areas of research cover all disciplines whose work can contribute to the understanding of the virus, the disease it causes, its spread, the diagnosis or treatment to be provided, or which can help those involved in the health system and society to better cope with the epidemic.

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Concretely, these are the same areas as those listed above, to which are added areas related to geopolitical issues, ethics of research and care and human rights, representations, perceptions, attitudes, and behaviours relating to the epidemic and the organization of care, health policy and the acceptability of decisions, as well as the overall economic impacts of the crisis.

For researchers: the call will open on 15 May.

**Press Contact: Eric Winnen, Director of Public Affairs - 0473/444.839 -
eric.winnen@frs-fnrs.be**