



To
Universities and academic institutions
in the Nordic countries

Oslo, April 4 2017
Ref.: (provi. 3/2017)
Your ref.:

The Olav Thon Foundation – support for Nordic research projects in medicine 2018

The Olav Thon Foundation was established in December 2013. Section 7 a) of the articles of association includes the following statement:

Support can be granted to purposes in the field of mathematics/natural sciences and medicine.

Against this background and in addition to its other announcements, the Foundation will reserve NOK 20 million for grants to *Nordic research collaboration in the field of medicine* for 2018. Only researchers associated with universities or academic institutions in the Nordic countries are eligible for support. Previous collaboration will be regarded as an advantage and should be documented (by co-publications or similar). The collaboration must include specific research groups in at least two Nordic countries and be led by personnel holding professorships or equivalent permanent academic positions.

Applications will be assessed in light of their academic quality and the projects' potential for development of new and ground-breaking knowledge in medicine. For 2018, the Foundation has decided to invite applications for research on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The reference is made to (among others) Bo Könberg's report "The Future Nordic Co-operation on Health" (Nordic Council of Ministers, 2014). Quote from the report: "Resistance to antibiotics leads to major problems in health care, because modern health care is completely dependent on antibiotics. What is starting to happen, and we will see more of this in the future, is increased mortality due to infections." In light of this development, the report emphasizes the importance of rapid measures and increased research.

More specific in this context, research projects sent for assessment must focus on either 1) mechanisms of antibiotic resistance or 2) development of new antibiotics or 3) strategies to combat antibiotic resistance.



Research support for each project is restricted to a maximum of NOK 2.5 million per year for a maximum of four years.

Practical issues

The application for research support must be submitted by the project leader and signed by the heads of all academic institutions/departments participating in the project. The application must be accompanied by a letter of endorsement signed by the heads of the institutions involved. The letter of endorsement (max. 1 page) must give an account of how provisions will be made for the research collaboration. The application must include a project justification, a project description, a work plan with deliverables and a budget, as well as CVs for all main project staff (max 2 pages pr. CV). The amount applied for – max. NOK 2.5 million per year for max. four years - the purposes for which the funding is foreseen to be used and for how long, must be clearly stated.

Proposals must be in PDF format – one (1) file, attachments included, pr. project - file size should not exceeding 4 MB. Please, use a 12 pt. font size.

Proposals must be sent by **email** to Special Adviser Bjørnar Vold-Sarnes
Email address: bjornar.vold-sarnes@admin.uio.no

Deadline: 15 September 2017.

All submitted material must be in English.

All proposals submitted will be assessed by an academic council which will enlist international expert advisers. The academic council has been appointed by the Foundation's board of directors. The academic council's recommendations for grant allocation will be deliberated and finally decided by the board of the Olav Thon Foundation. The board's decisions will be announced on 11 January 2018.

The recipients of project support will be invited to the Olav Thon Foundation's award ceremony, to be held on Thursday 8 March 2018 at 18.00 in the University Aula in Oslo.

The board has decided to keep the identity of applicants strictly confidential. We kindly request that this be respected.

Questions can be sent by email to Bjørnar Vold-Sarnes. Email address: see above.

Only questions submitted in writing will receive a response.

Yours sincerely,

Ole Petter Ottersen /s./

Professor MD, PhD

Head of the Academic Council - The Olav Thon Foundation