

Preparation of the next funding period of the CMMC (2020-2022)

Important information concerning the strategic concept of the CMMC funding of individual research proposals for the next funding period:

General points

The CMMC aims to promote the development of innovative, long term and high-risk research projects in an individual or collaborative setting. To facilitate the integration of a wider range of research groups at the Medical Faculty and the Science Faculty the submitted proposal should fit into one of the three CMMC research areas:

- A) Mechanisms of tumor development: intrinsic and extrinsic control of cell proliferation and tissue invasion
- B) Principles of immunity, inflammation and infection
- C) Molecular mechanisms and metabolic control of tissue degeneration and regeneration

The number of funded projects as well as the funding amount depends on the overall number of excellent research proposals that receive the final recommendation for funding.

Project funding will range from 70.000 € - 100.000 € per year for personnel and consumables which may be reduced depending on available funding. The use of the funds is flexible and thereby providing the most powerful support for the individual research groups. Research proposals that meet the formal criteria qualify for the scientific evaluation process.

Eligibility requirements for funding

- Eligible individuals have to be members of the Faculty of Medicine or the Science Faculty at the University of Cologne also including scientists employed *via* third party funding.
- Junior Research Groups funded by the CMMC or other intramural sources are excluded.
- Extramural funding is required: running project funded by the DFG including CRC projects, the German Cancer Aid or ERC funding at the time of submission is required. Intramural funding is not considered.
- The submission of a subsequent application is possible and requires a progress report and a description of the clinical significance of the previous CMMC funded project. The maximum funding for consecutive proposals is two funding periods covering a total of six years.
- An applicant is eligible for leading one research proposal as principal investigator that also refers to his/her publication and extramural funding record. The applicant may be integrated in several joint applications as co-applicant. In this case the publication and extramural funding record of the co-applicant will not be considered.
- A maximum of three outstanding and highly qualified research projects will be granted for a single institute or clinical department.
- The head of the clinical department or institute of a funded research project is automatically a member of the CMMC.
- 15% of the funding applied for has to be provided by the clinic and/or institute involved (e.g. "Grundausstattung").

The criteria in the evaluation process are

- **Excellence of the research proposal**

Innovative disease-oriented project proposals with a high impact of scientific originality that integrate in one of the three research areas of the CMMC, and with a clear description of the clinical/medical relevance. The research project applied for must be of outstanding high scientific quality and should reflect the standards given by the German Research Foundation.

- **Research proposals reflecting significance for molecular medicine and sustainability in disease understanding**

The significance of the proposed research for a better understanding of disease mechanisms and/or the translational potential must be explained.

- **Scientific excellence of the investigator**

Prior scientific achievements of the applicant's research group have to be demonstrated by the publication record of the applicant in peer-reviewed journals and by competitive extramural funding.

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