

Call for proposals

Deadline
March 2,
2026

2027 Leenaards Prize for Translational Medical Research

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Call for proposals 2027

The Leenaards Foundation stimulates creative dynamics in the Lake Geneva region. We support people and institutions that deploy creativity and innovation in the fields of culture, social engagement, science, and health. We also contribute to the ecological transition and work toward a vibrant democracy. Projects are selected based on quality as well as their ambition to accompany the rapid changes in today's society.

The Leenaards Foundation supports Translational Medical Research in the Lake Geneva region carried out in collaboration with academic institutions. The aim is to strengthen structural links between clinical and basic research. The Leenaards Foundation is open to projects in the fields integrative or personalized medicine.

Amount at disposal for the 2027 call

The amount at disposal is **1,4 million Swiss Francs (CHF)** to be distributed between 2–3 major and innovative projects with budgets between 500 KCHF and 700 KCHF, max.

Supported research team(s) will be free to plan the use of the funds over the duration of the projects (maximum of 3 years).

Conditions

The project will investigate a clinical or health problem from an original angle including pathogenesis, diagnosis, prevention, or therapy. It must associate clinical and basic research.

The project must include a human research component. The proposal must stand on its own; however, it may be embedded in the context of an existing study.

Projects should bring together researchers from at least two different universities or teaching hospitals. (CHUV, UNIL, UNISANTÉ, HUG, UNIGE, EPFL). Two partners of the Lake Geneva region may seek the collaboration of a third partner belonging to another region or country.

If your project is supported by the Leenaards Foundation you agree to actively participate in promoting communication of the launch and results of your project.

This implies to:

- write a summary in French of your research project for the general public;
- actively participate in the production of a video on your research project and make yourself available for media, if required;
- include the Leenaards logo and/or mention «project supported by the Leenaards Foundation» on communication and publications related to the research project (press releases, articles, presentations, etc.);
- participate in the Leenaards awards event.

Applicants

The primary applicant (principal investigator, “PI”) will be a clinical scientist (MD, MD-PhD, or PhD) below age of 45, with a establish research track, who has demonstrated her or his capacity as an independent investigator to lead original clinical research.

The project’s co-applicants (max. 2), preferably also at a relatively early stage in their careers, will have demonstrated their skills in their respective fields. Their roles in the project must be clearly specified. All applicants must hold a “stable position” for the entire duration of the project.

Applicants (PI and co-applicants) who have been granted the “Leenaards Prize for Translational Medical Research” in the last three years (2023-2025) are not eligible, and the project cannot be an extension of a previous Leenaards project.

Online applications & guidelines for submission

For the first evaluation round, applicants need to submit:

- letter of intent* (max. 4 pages, including the most important references pertaining to the project). This letter should highlight the general importance of the project, provide a summary of the research plan, and describe the importance of the collaborations and the specific roles of the principal investigator and the co-investigators in the project (max. 2 co-applicants). The authors are invited to describe how the interaction between the applicants is ensured. The feasibility of the project should be clearly described.

* layout: arial font, size 11, single-spaced, margins 1.5 cm on all sides

- a budget (and other sources of funding, if any) must be provided, using the template provided in the online form.
- short curricula vitae (CV) of the primary investigator and max. 2 co-investigators must be submitted. Maximal length of 4 pages each, including a list of the 10 personal references considered the most important in the perspective of the project. No additional reference list should be submitted. Please, refrain from providing bibliometric data.

Applications should be submitted in English.

Support documents (letter of intent / budget / CVs) are to be submitted as separate files. All documents should be in PDF format and follow the specified layout.

Applications must be submitted online between January 8, 2026, and March 2nd, 2026:

<https://leenaards.ch/call-for-proposals-translational-medical-research/>

Deadline, selection & timetable

The evaluation of projects will take place in two stages:

1. An initial selection (based on letters of intent due before March 2nd, 2026) will be made by [the Jury](#) in March 2026. Decisions will be communicated to applicants by April 3rd, 2026.
2. The applicants of the selected projects will be invited to prepare a full proposal by May 27th, 2026, for evaluation by the Jury and external experts (specific instructions will be given at this stage). An official support letter by the involved institutions will be required at this stage.

The final decision will be communicated by the end of September 2026, and the project could start earliest in January 2027.

Contact

For any further information, please contact us via e-mail:

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<https://www.leenaards.ch/prix-sciences-sante/>

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Biomedical science
Leenaards Prize for
Translational Medical Research

