



Grant Conditions  
Dutch Digestive Foundation

Scientific Research 2017

**Diagnostics of Digestive Diseases**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### Objective

There are 2 million patients with a digestive disease in the Netherlands. The Dutch Digestive Foundation, together with all the involved experts, doctors, researchers, care professionals, educators, collectors, benefactors and businesses, supports these patients. By facilitating scientific research and by providing education. Our objective is to prevent, better treat and heal digestive diseases.

The goal of the Diagnostics of Digestive Diseases grant is to stimulate scientific research on the diagnostics of digestive diseases, with the exception of gastrointestinal cancers<sup>1</sup>. Research proposals concerning gastrointestinal cancers can be submitted to the 'MLDS Spijsverteringskankers' grant.

Theme: Diagnostics of Digestive Diseases, with the exception of gastrointestinal cancers.

When a diagnosis is reached, the cause of a digestive disease is determined. A diagnosis is reached based on symptoms and with the use of diagnostic techniques. The submitted research proposal has to result in improvements for patients in this area.

The below mentioned aspects are explicitly considered part of the theme of this grant:

- Early detection of for example hereditary or rare diseases
- Screening of groups at risk
- Monitoring of former patients for recurrences or treatment-related diseases or symptoms
- Determination of personal or disease characteristics for personalized treatment
- Monitoring of the effectiveness of treatment
- Nanotechnology for better or new diagnostics

Improvements of diagnostics can mean the following:

- Less invasive diagnostics
- Less complications (short and long term)
- Greater sensitivity and specificity of the used method
- Cheaper / more efficient methods
- Broader application (methods applicable to more diseases or at different stages of the disease)

### Who can apply?

Application for a grant is open to researchers from Dutch Universities and non-commercial research facilities.

Conditions:

- Applicants must have a PhD and considerable experience in research.
- Applicants must have a fixed position with the applying research institute for the duration of the research project.
- Only one application can be submitted per person as a project leader.
- A researcher cannot apply for a grant to finance his/her own position.

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<sup>1</sup> These grant conditions have been approved by the Director of the Dutch Digestive Foundation on January 16<sup>th</sup> 2017, updated April 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Criteria the application has to comply with**

- The research project has a clear end goal that tackles a concrete problem or the research project leads to an application in the clinic.
- The research project results in direct benefit for the patient. The Dutch Digestive Foundation likes to see that the results of the research project have led to visible results for patients within three to five years after finishing the project.
- The research project has advertising and marketing potential.
- The research proposal can be financed with the available grant. If the budget exceeds the available grant, the applicant must show in the application that financing sources have been found for the remaining necessary amount. In the preliminary application, the applicant shall indicate the name of the financier and the amount. In the grant application, the applicant must enclose a Letter of Commitment from the financier, containing the desired amount and signed by the financial controller from the financier.
- Co-financing is allowed (for the co-financing conditions please refer tot page 9 of these grant conditions).

**What do we offer?**

The maximum grant that can be applied for is € 150.000. The research project has a duration of up to 2 years. More information can be found in chapter 4.

The Dutch Digestive Foundation aims to allocate 5 grants in 2017.

## 2. REVIEWING PROCESS

The reviewing process consists of the following steps that are explained below:

1. Submission of the preliminary application
2. Review of the preliminary applications
3. Submission of the complete protocol
4. External reviewers and rebuttal
5. Review by patient panel
6. Prioritizing
7. Approval or rejection

### **Description of the reviewing process**

#### *1. Submission of the preliminary application*

Researchers can apply for a grant by using the preliminary application form that is available on the website of the Dutch Digestive Foundation. The deadline for sending in the digital version of the preliminary application is April 4<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 12:00 (noon). The application needs to be accompanied by digital signatures. You can send your application to [research@mlds.nl](mailto:research@mlds.nl) (in Word format).

Incomplete applications and applications send in by fax will not be taken into consideration. Extra appendices will not be included in the reviewing process. Please refer to the “Manual preliminary application form MLDS MDL Diagnostiek 2017” before filling out the application form. The manual can be found on the website [www.mlds.nl/wetenschappelijk-onderzoek/subsidiewijzer](http://www.mlds.nl/wetenschappelijk-onderzoek/subsidiewijzer). The Dutch Digestive Foundation assesses the admissibility of the application. Only applications that meet the grant conditions are admissible and will be taken into consideration.

#### *2. Review of the preliminary applications*

The preliminary applications will be reviewed by the Scientific Council, consisting of renowned researchers from the digestive diseases research field in the Netherlands, without intervention of external reviewers. The goal of this step is to select the best ten preliminary applications. The result of this step is a positive or negative advise to submit a complete protocol.

#### *3. Submission of the complete protocol*

The applications that were positively evaluated, are invited to submit a complete protocol. The deadline for the complete protocol is June 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 12:00 (noon). The complete protocol needs to be accompanied by digital signatures. Incomplete applications and applications send in by fax, will not be taken into consideration. Extra appendices will not be included in the reviewing process. Please refer to the “Manual grant application form MLDS MDL Diagnostiek 2017” before filling out the application form. The application form and manual will be send to the applicants.

#### *4. External reviewers and rebuttal*

The Dutch Digestive Foundation aims to have the complete proposal reviewed by at least three foreign reviewers. Reviewers are non-stakeholders of the project who give their motivated opinion on a review form. The anonymous reviews will be send to the applicants for a rebuttal. The rebuttal will be send back to the reviewers to give them the opportunity to adjust their scores based on the rebuttal.

#### *5. Review by patient panel*

The patient panel reviews the complete protocols based on relevance for the patient.

#### *6. Prioritizing*

The Scientific Council reviews the complete protocols and weighs them relative to each other based on the review reports, the rebuttal and the review by the patient panel. The Scientific Council formulates a remuneration advice for the Direction of the Dutch Digestive Foundation.

#### *7. Approval or rejection*

The Direction of the Dutch Digestive Foundation decides, bases on the remuneration advice, which applications will receive a grant and which applications will be rejected.

### 3. GENERAL GRANT CONDITIONS

#### General

These grant conditions apply from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017. When not complying with these grant conditions or current legal provisions the Dutch Digestive Foundation reserves the right to postpone or stop the application of the grant. This means that payment of the grant can be stopped or that already paid amounts can be reclaimed.

#### Responsibility

The project leader is and stays the responsible party for a smooth course of the research project. The project leader is obliged to conduct the research project according to the research application. If changes are to be made in the research plan, permission must be asked from the Dutch Digestive Foundation beforehand. The project leader is also obliged to keep the Dutch Digestive Foundation updated about any and all changes that may have consequences for the research project. Correspondence will only be directed at the project leader.

#### Correspondence

For all correspondence concerning the research project the following address is used:

Maag Lever Darm Stichting  
Team Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek  
Postbus 800  
3800 AV Amersfoort  
Telefoon: 033-7523500  
E-mail: [research@mlds.nl](mailto:research@mlds.nl)

Please mention the **[D]-number** in all correspondence. This [D]-number is assigned by the Dutch Digestive Foundation.

#### Reports

Halfway through the project, a progress report has to be submitted. The form to be used is available on our website. The progress report will be assessed by two members of the Scientific Council. They will assess the progress of the project. In the case of arising questions, the project leader is obliged to provide additional information. The next term payment will be performed after approval of the progress report by the Scientific Council and the board of the Dutch Digestive Foundation.

No later than 6 months after finishing the project a final report has to be submitted by the project leader. The form to be used is available on our website. After approval of the final report, the last two terms of the grant will be paid.

The Dutch Digestive Foundation reserves the right to stop or reclaim payments if it turns out that the project leader is at fault or if the results give rise to this.

The Dutch Digestive Foundation pays regular site visits to the project to keep updated about the progress of the project. The cooperation of the project leader is desired in the form of a short oral review or presentation of the progress made thus far.

#### Communication during project

The Dutch Digestive Foundation values the exchange of research experiences and results. Therefore, the Project leader and the Grant recipient are obliged to bring the Project **at least twice a year** to the attention; once through the Dutch Digestive Foundation and once through another channel. The opportunities at the Dutch Digestive Foundation are:

- presenting at an event organized by the Foundation;
- submitting textual input for one of the communication channels of the Foundation (news letter, website, folder etc.)
- cooperating with an (telephone) interview with the Foundation;
- appearing in a video of the Foundation.

The Project leader and the Grant recipient are free in the choice of other communication channels. Suggestions are:

- presenting at a congress or meeting for other researchers/doctors;
- publishing an article in a university journal, a journal of an association (for example NVMDL, NVGE, NVH), a (online) newspaper or a (scientific or medical) journal;
- bringing the project to the attention in the media (social media, TV, radio).

### **Final presentation**

After finishing the project, the project leader is asked to present the results at one of the two yearly congresses of the 'Nederlandse Vereniging voor Gastroenterologie' (NVGE).

The Dutch Digestive Foundation also expects the project leader to present the results to the (benefactors of the) Dutch Digestive Foundation.

### **Publications**

Communications about the progress and results of the project need to be accompanied by the statement that the Dutch Digestive Foundation funded this research project.

Of all publication (scientific as well as other types of publications) a digital version needs to be send to the Dutch Digestive Foundation. If the research project leads to the publication of a thesis the Dutch Digestive Foundation would like to receive one (digital) copy of this thesis.

### **Job listings**

Any job listing that is posted for this research project needs to be accompanied by the statement that the Dutch Digestive Foundation funded this research project and the logo of the Dutch Digestive Foundation. If a grant application is approved for funding the logo will be send to the project leader.

### **Presentations, name and use of our logo**

All presentations held about this project, need to be accompanied by the statement that the Dutch Digestive Foundation funded this research project and the logo of the Dutch Digestive Foundation. If a grant application is approved for funding the logo will be send to the project leader.

### **Media**

The Dutch Digestive Foundation has the right to undertake publicity activities concerning the research project, in consultation with the project leader. The project leader is expected to cooperate.

The Dutch Digestive Foundation is allowed to use texts from applications, progress and final reports for publicity activities without prior consent of the project leader (for example for publication on the website of the Dutch Digestive Foundation). In consultation with the project leader this information may be shared with third parties.

### **Patent applications**

If the results of the research project give rise to a patent application, any publication needs to be omitted until agreement is reached with the Dutch Digestive Foundation and the project leader concerning the patent application. If the project leader or the research institution that received this research grant generates income from the results of the research project or the hereto pertaining industrial property rights, the project leader or the research institution needs to repay 50 % of the net income. The total amount of repayments to the Dutch Digestive Foundation will never be more than the original grant provided for the research project.

### **Experimental subjects and laboratory animals**

One needs to be informed about and follow the legal regulations concerning the use of experimental subjects and laboratory animals.

The law 'Wet Medisch Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek met Mensen' (WMO) applies to medical scientific research in which people are subjected to certain treatments or certain behavior. A positive judgement of the 'Centrale Commissie Mensgebonden Onderzoek' (CCMO), or one of the recognized Medical Ethical Committees (ME(T)C) must be handed over before the start of the research project.

The use of laboratory animals and experiments with laboratory animals must take place in concordance with the legal regulations as stipulated in the law. For research projects using laboratory animals permission must be obtained from the 'Centrale Commissie Dierproeven' (CCD). The CCD, before deciding to grant a permit, will seek advice from a 'Dierexperimentencommissie' (DEC). The permit form the CCD must be handed over before the start of the research project.

The Dutch Digestive Foundation is against the unnecessary use of laboratory animals and underscores the importance of the decrease in the number of experiments with laboratory animals, the refinement of the way animals are used for experiments and the replacement of laboratory animals by other methods to obtain the desired information. Research applications using laboratory animals will be reviewed by an external reviewer with expertise on the use of laboratory animals

## 4. FINANCIAL GRANT CONDITIONS

### General

The Dutch Digestive Foundation only provides a contribution to the costs of a scientific research project. The applying institute must be willing to cover any remaining costs, unless in the case of co-financing.

The project has to start within 12 months of the date on the grant allocation letter. If this condition is not met, the grant allocation expires, unless otherwise agreed in writing.

Before the starting date of the project the information mentioned below needs to be provided:

- name of the project leader;
- a letter with the appointment date(s), the appointment scale(s) and the duration(s) of the appointment of the employee(s) that is (are) financed by the Dutch Digestive Foundation;
- resume of the employee(s) that is (are) financed by the Dutch Digestive Foundation;
- if not yet provided – and if applicable – written consent of a recognized Medical Ethical Committees (ME(T)C) and/or 'Centrale Commissie Dierproeven' (CCD);
- contact information of the person responsible for the financial administration of the project.

The starting date of the project is the appointment date of the employee(s) that is (are) financed by the Dutch Digestive Foundation, unless otherwise agreed in writing.

### Conditions co-financing

The application is a stand alone research project. Applications for an addition to existing financing of intended or ongoing research are not eligible for this grant.

If additional financial support from other sources is necessary for execution of the research project, and this additional financial support is more than 30% of the total research budget, the project leader needs to contact the Dutch Digestive Foundation before sending in a preliminary application.

The project leader needs to specify if and where additional financial support has been requested and under which circumstances this support will be granted. If the co-financing is more than 30% of the total research budget the Dutch Digestive Foundation will not start payments of the grant – after grant allocation – until the co-financing has been recorded in writing and an agreement has been reached concerning publicity activities about the research project.

The project leader is obliged to immediately inform the Dutch Digestive Foundation if additional financial support from other organizations is requested during the execution of the research project.

### Credit

The maximum grant that can be applied for is € 150.000. This sum can be used for both personnel costs and material costs according to the insight of the project leader. A condition is however that the grant is only used for expenses as defined in these grant conditions. A detailed budget must be added to the application and approved of by the Dutch Digestive Foundation (appendix B of the 'Grant application form MLDS MDL Diagnostiek 2017').

The grant is provided in lump sums.

### Personnel

The major part of the grant is intended for appointing personnel. The above mentioned categories can be appointed:

- PhD (AIO/OIO)
- PhD (arts onderzoeker)
- junior post doc
- supporting scientific or medical personnel

In case of a PhD position the University must guarantee the remaining part of the PhD. During the entire course of the project personnel must be appointed (for a minimum of 0,5 fte).

**Material credit**

The remaining part of the grant is intended for the costs of consumables and laboratory animals. Costs for equipment and costs for using equipment are not remunerated. Costs for infrastructure such as housing, general lab facilities and office IT are supposed to be paid for by the research facility and are not remunerated. The costs for a bench-fee or overhead are not remunerated.

**Payments**

Payments will take place per quarter at the end of the quarter. The first payment will take place in the quarter following the quarter in which the project started, if the conditions on page 8 are met. The last two payments will be done when the below mentioned conditions are met:

- the final report is received within the stated term and approved;
- the financial statement signed by the financial administration is received (the form to be filled out will be send to the project leader and can be found on our website

[www.mlds.nl/wetenschappelijk-onderzoek/subsidiewijzer](http://www.mlds.nl/wetenschappelijk-onderzoek/subsidiewijzer));

The Dutch Digestive Foundation reserves the right to at all times initiate an inquiry into the ways the grant was spend by the grant receiving institution.

**Open Access**

The Dutch Digestive Foundation agrees with the viewpoint that the results of publicly funded research should in principal be freely accessible. Therefore the Dutch Digestive Foundation stimulates publication of research results in Open Access journals. Possible costs for publishing in Open Access journals can by added to the budget in Appendix B of the application up to € 4.000 per project. The costs made for publishing in Open Access journals can be declared with the Foundation after completion of the research by sending in the invoice and the article.