

# FONDATION VAINCRE ALZHEIMER

## 2018 GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

### Statement of Purpose

Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer awards grants for basic, translational and clinical research into the underlying mechanisms of, and possible therapeutic treatments for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The main criterion for the evaluation of the application is whether the proposed research is likely to improve our understanding of the pathophysiology and underlying mechanisms causing Alzheimer's disease and/or is likely to effectively promote therapeutic strategies.

It is understood that more senior Alzheimer's disease investigators will have other funding in related areas of research, but the application to Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer should not be used to simply subsidize these other efforts or to compensate for grant cutbacks. **Therefore, the applicant is advised to focus on a specific project that can be addressed in terms of a clear and well-defined hypothesis and specific aims, and completed within a reasonable time. Please keep this in mind when preparing the research/work plan section of the application.**

### Terms and Restrictions

Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer grants are awarded to public universities and research institutions (EPST and EPSCP). Standard Awards, PhD Fellowships, and Pilot Awards are not made to individuals but to the group to whom the Principal Investigator (P.I.) is affiliated with.

Funds awarded are to be used solely for research. Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer does not fund institutional overhead, large capital equipment, construction of buildings or VAT. Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer will not fund the salary of the Principle Investigator except under extraordinary circumstances. If salary for the P.I. is requested, it must be clearly and thoroughly justified.

Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer will work with a first round of brief Letters of Intent (LoI) that will be subject to peer review. The best applications will then be invited to submit a full application a few months later.

Applications will be accepted for amounts up to a maximum of **€ 100,000** for 2 years (divided over a maximum of € 50,000 per year) for a **Standard Award**. Standard Award can be used either for equipment, supplies and/or salary (except for the P.I. and Master M2). This Award cannot be used for a part or an end of a PhD's salary.

**PhD fellowships** of **€ 100,000** for 3 years are exclusively reserved to pay the salary of a PhD student during the 3 years of thesis (divided over a maximum of € 33,334 per year for 3 years).

**Pilot Awards** are designed to support the academic career of postdoctoral researchers. Financial support up to a maximum of **€ 40,000** for two years can be applied (with a maximum of € 20,000 per year). Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer also grants Pilot Award of **€ 20,000** for one year, which may be competitively renewed once. The Pilot Award can be used for equipment, supplies and/or salary (except for the P.I.).

Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer also grants **Cross-border Awards** for collaborative projects between 2 countries: France-Germany or France-the Netherlands. **Standard** applications will be accepted for amounts up to a maximum of **€ 100,000** for 2 years & **Pilot** applications up to a maximum of **€ 40,000** for 2 years (amounts divided between both countries).

Applicants for **Standard Awards** should fulfil the following criteria:

- 1) In order to be eligible for a Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer Standard Award, the Principal Investigator (P.I.) must be working at a French University or research institutions (EPST and EPSCP) and hold the academic rank of tenured researcher, associate professor or higher. The P.I. should not use grants for his salary or for salaries of other tenured scientists. Investigators of the same laboratory can apply for a grant provided that there is no scientific or financial overlap between the proposed research projects. A P.I. can be part of another application as consultant/advisor only (involved in 5% max). The PI should not include in his project a European SAB member as collaborator of the study. For ethical reasons a SAB member should be requested as consultant only (time spent <5%).
- 2) The scientific research plan should be hypothesis driven, coherent and focused. The work plan should be efficiently planned and it should be illustrated in a convincing manner that the proposed research can be completed within the time available.

Applicants for **PhD Fellowships** should fulfil the following criteria:

- 1) In order to be eligible for a Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer PhD Fellowship, the Principal Investigator (P.I.) must be working at a French University or research institutions (EPST and EPSCP) and hold the academic rank of tenured researcher, associate professor or higher. The P.I. should be the supervisor of the thesis; the P.I. could request a possible delayed start of the project to have time to recruit a PhD student. Investigators of the same laboratory can apply for a grant provided that there is no scientific or financial overlap between the proposed research projects. A P.I. can be part of another application as consultant/advisor only (involved in 5% max). The PI should not include in his project a SAB member as collaborator of the study. For ethical reasons a European SAB member should be requested as consultant only (time spent <5%).
- 2) The scientific research plan should be hypothesis driven, coherent and focused. The work plan should be efficiently planned and it should be illustrated in a convincing manner that the proposed research can be completed within the time available.

Applicants for **Pilot Awards**, should fulfil the following criteria:

In order to be eligible for grant funding from the Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer Pilot Award, the Principal Investigator (P.I.) must be working at a French University or research institutions (EPST and EPSCP) and is expected to be at a post-doctoral level (ATER and IR are also eligible), up to a maximum of ten years after its PhD or the PI will obtain his PhD before December 31st. The 10 years period is counted from PhD date to the date of the beginning of funding. For medical doctors, an MD will not be accepted by itself as equivalent to a PhD award.

The post-doctoral applicant who obtains a tenure position (CR or IR) during the review process remains eligible for grant funding.

Leaves: For maternity, the effective elapsed time since the award of the PhD will be reduced by 1 year for each child before or after the PhD award. For paternity, the effective elapsed time since the award of the PhD will be reduced by the amount of paternity leave actually taken for each child born before or after the PhD award.

Applicants should be aware that Pilot Awards will not be used for their salary. This means they must ensure they are paid during the duration of the grant.

Investigators of the same laboratory can apply for a grant provided that there is no scientific or financial overlap between the proposed research projects. A P.I. can be part of another application as consultant/advisor only (involved in 5% max). The PI should not include in his project a European SAB member as collaborator of the study. For ethical reasons a SAB member should be requested as consultant only (time spent <5%).

**Applicants for Cross-border Awards, should fulfil the following criteria:**

The application involves a real collaboration between French and German or Dutch group that focuses on Alzheimer research. The scientific research plan should be hypothesis driven, coherent and focused. The work plan should be efficiently planned and it should be illustrated in a convincing manner that the proposed research can be completed within the time available. Also, the respective contributions from each country should be highlighted and it should be made clear what the added value of the collaboration is and why this collaboration is likely to facilitate the research questions involved. Potential articles should be published together with both groups. Applications should be sent either to Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer (if the P.I. works in France) or to the German/Dutch partner organizations AFI/Alzheimer Nederland (if the P.I. works in Germany/The Netherlands). If the P.I. submits a cross-border project to one organization, the co-P.I. does not need to submit anything to the other organization. Each organization funds in its own country.

**Please note that co-funding by Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer and Fondation Plan Alzheimer on the same project is allowed if their budgets support the project separately. The separate categories of budget are: “Personnel” (postdoctoral salary or PhD fellowship) for Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer and “supplies/equipment/other staff costs” for Fondation Plan Alzheimer. This clause does not affect the independent Guidelines and review process of each call for projects.**

## **Review of Applications**

Awards are granted on the basis of scientific merit of the applicant’s research proposal, and its relevance to improving our understanding of Alzheimer’s disease. Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer uses a two-tier review process. In the first tier, a brief Letter of Intent (LoI) is written. The LoI will be selected based on feasibility of the research plan, the applicant's past performance and relevance of the topic for Alzheimer’s disease. Upon selection, applicants are invited to submit a full proposal that will be peer reviewed by members of the European Scientific Advisory Board (Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer, AFI, Alzheimer Nederland) as well as by external experts. In October the applications and evaluations will be discussed and ranked in a joint meeting of the European Scientific Advisory Board during which the applicant could be interviewed to present his/her project (conference call).

Provisional timetable of Call for Proposals 2018:

Open call for proposals	January 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2018
Submission deadline for Letters of Intent	March 5
Preselection of Letters of Intent	Mid of May
Deadline for Full Applications	End of June
Full applications review	July-September
Selection of Full Applications	October

Final decision	October 31 <sup>st</sup>
Grant provision	January 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2019

The Board of Directors makes decisions on funding in the end of October and grants are intended to start in the beginning of January. To ensure that Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer is funding meritorious research proposals that have a high potential for success, the Board of Directors bases its funding decisions on the results of a formal, rigorous peer-review process, taking program goals and the availability of funds into consideration.

Within the constraints of the peer review system, Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer will seek to maintain a good balance of funding between:

- a. experienced, established investigators and young, promising investigators
- b. applications from scientists never before funded by Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer and applications from scientists seeking to renew funding from Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer
- c. topics or areas of study within the field of Alzheimer's disease research, so that Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer is not funding an unusually high proportion of grants in any one particular area.

According to these criteria, the SAB and BOD will select only grants that have received a sufficient, pre-set high rank which guarantees the quality of the research. Applications that receive a low quality score, i.e. ranking below "good" (numerical score 2-3) get a low priority and will not be funded.

Applicants normally will be notified by email of the Board of Director's decision concerning their application **from November 2nd**. Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer staff is not authorized to provide information on priority scores, ranking, or likelihood of funding of applications prior to written notification of applicants. Please do not phone Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer, or SAB members, to request such information.

**Please note that applicants and grantees (after the end of their grant) could be committed to review future Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer, Alzheimer Nederland or AFI applications.**

### **New grant application & Competitive Renewals for Standard/PhD Fellowship awards**

Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer will not limit the total number of years of funding that an individual researcher may receive. However, the current grantees can submit a new grant application at least 1 year after the end of the last budget year of their active grant.

In the same way, a researcher may submit an application for competitive renewal at least 1 year after the end of the last budget year of their active grant.

Competitive renewal applications will undergo peer review in the same manner as new applications. Progress made during the previous funding period will be considered during review of the competitive renewal application.

No P.I. may receive more than one Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer grant. No P.I. may submit more than one grant application in the same grant cycle.

## **Overlapping Grant Awards**

Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer awards funds with the express understanding that Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer is the main financial supporter of the research project for which grant monies were requested. Although combinations of complementary, non-overlapping approaches are possible, Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer does not allow Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer grant funds to be used for identical and/or overlapping research projects that are already funded by another source without written Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer permission and full knowledge. Failure to report the receipt of overlapping grant funds may require, as determined at the sole discretion of Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer, the return of all, or part of, the monies awarded by Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer to the grantee. Furthermore, the grantee is responsible for all costs expended by Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer in obtaining the return of the grant award funds including but not limited to reasonable attorney's fees incurred.

## **Human/Animal Research Subjects**

Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer requires that research supported by Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer meets or exceeds national regulations regarding the use of human subjects or animals in research. Applicants must provide written certification of approval by the appropriate Ethic Commission before funding begins.

## **Public Education**

Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer is a publicly supported charitable organization funded by donor contributions, and has an active public education program that informs donors and other interested individuals about the research we sponsor. Information provided to the public by Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer may include the title of the project, the name and institutional affiliation of the Principal Investigator, the amount of the award, and the non-technical project description provided by the applicant. Therefore, the non-technical description should not contain confidential information. The submission of this application shall be deemed consent of the applicant to the publication of this information should a grant be awarded. Awardees are aware that they may be asked by Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer to assist Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer in other ways to inform the general audience, e.g. by providing information on new developments in their research field or give an interview, a presentation or lecture at meetings, lab tours or workshops supported by Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer. Several different photos of the Principal Investigator and his/her team must be made available without restrictions.

## **Publication Acknowledgement**

All publications, papers, book chapters or presentations, resulting from research sponsored by Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer must be acknowledged as follows: "Funding was provided by Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer", followed by the number of grant application.

## **Sharing of Reagents**

Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer believes that biological reagents (e.g. recombinant DNA clones, cultured cell lines, hybridoma cell lines, mutant or unique organisms etc.) developed during the

course of Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer-sponsored research must be made available to qualified investigators after the publication of reports using or describing the reagents. These materials represent a valuable resource for the scientific community at large, paid for by the generous contributions of Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer's donors. The availability of these reagents directly affects the ability of the members of the scientific community to replicate the experiments of others and the pace and cost of future research. Therefore, Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer requires that the Principal Investigator and the grantee institution accept the responsibility of providing biological reagents developed during the course of Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer-sponsored research to investigators who request them.

### **Discontinuation of Grant Funding**

Although Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer has committed grant funding for the stated term of the grant, it reserves the right to discontinue the grant at any time in the event the work performed is in breach of the terms and obligations stated herein.

### **Budget Revisions and Extensions of Grant Period**

Grant payments are made on a half-year basis.

Requests for budget revisions must be made in writing with justification.

Transfer of more than € 2.000 from one budget category to another requires approval from Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer.

Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer prefers that grant funds be expended in a timely manner in accordance with the research plan presented in the grant application. If there is more than 15% of the total grant award remaining in the grant account at the end of the grant period, permission may be requested to extend the grant period with no increase in funding. Requests for such extensions must be made in writing with justification.

### **Shifting dates of the grant**

The Principal Investigator, after notification he will receive the grant, should immediately inform Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer about:

-A possible delayed start of the project (6 months maximum)

-A request of cost-neutral prolongation (6 months maximum)

Please note that the PI will receive funds only when the project will be actually operational.