

FONDATION VAINCRE ALZHEIMER  
APPEL À PROJET EXCEPTIONNEL 2021  
EN RECHERCHE CLINIQUE  
« DIAGNOSTIC PRECOCE DE LA MALADIE D'ALZHEIMER »

**GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

**Statement of Purpose:**

In this exceptional call for proposals, Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer (FVA) awards “Diagnostic précoce de la maladie d’Alzheimer” grants for clinical research that develop new methods to improve the early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease (AD) and/or new early biomarkers of AD in humans.

All applications are reviewed together on a competitive peer review basis. Applications involving projects that focus on AD related dementias are not eligible.

It is understood that more senior investigators will have other funding in related areas of research, but the application to FVA 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 for the grant application:**

FVA grants are awarded to

- Public universities
- Public hospitals
- Public research Institutions (EPST and EPSCP only)
- The group to which the Principal Investigator (P.I.) is affiliated (not to individuals).

Funds cannot be used for

- Salary of the Principal Investigator (P.I.)
- Large capital equipment
- Construction of buildings
- VAT

For this exceptional call for proposals, FVA will dedicated 9% of the total requested budget to management fees which will be divided between institutional and administrative overhead costs.

Full applications will be accepted for amounts ranging **from € 500.000 to € 1.000.000** with a period range **between 2 and 4 years**. “Diagnostic précoce de la maladie d’Alzheimer” award can be used either for equipment, services, supplies and/or salary (except for the P.I.).

Half-yearly payments up to € 250.000 maximum are made by FVA. However, the P.I. can request 70% max of the budget per year. As the payments are however done each 6 months, the institution to which the PI is affiliated will have to advance the amount, should 70% be requested in year 1. The budget requested should be justified in the proposal.

Applicants should fulfil the following criteria:

In order to be eligible for a “Diagnostic précoce de la maladie d’Alzheimer” award, the Principal Investigator (P.I.) must be working at a French University, hospital or research institutions (EPST and EPSCP) and hold the academic rank of tenured researcher, associate professor or higher.

The P.I. should hold a medical doctorate (MD).

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. cannot be included in the personnel section of another application submitted the same year. He/she can be a consultant (time spent <5%) in other projects, which can be mentioned in the embedding section of the application.

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.

**Review of the applications:**

Documents required for the submission of proposals (Guidelines, full application form, instructions for completion) will be sent by email to applicants who request them.

FVA uses a peer-review process. Applicants submit a full proposal that will be peer-reviewed by 3 external reviewers.

Awards are granted on the basis of scientific merit and quality of the applicant’s research proposal, and its relevance to identify new biomarkers and/or new methods for earlier diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease in humans.

***Provisional timetable of Call “Diagnostic précoce 2021”***

Call for applications with full application	June 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
<b>Deadline</b> for full applications	July 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2021 at 16:00h
Confirmation full application was received and is eligible is sent to the applicant by the Director of Scientific Affairs	July 5-12, 2021
Review of full applications and ranking list	July-September, 2021
<b>Final decision</b> is communicated to the applicants by FVA	October/November, 2021
Grant provision, Half-yearly payments	November/December 2021

The launch of this exceptional call for proposals was made possible thanks to a sponsor who will participate in the final decision **to fund one or two projects**.

To ensure that FVA is funding meritorious research proposals that have a high potential for success, the sponsor and FVA base their funding decisions on the results of a formal, rigorous peer-review process, taking program goals and the availability of funds into consideration.

In line with this, the sponsor and FVA 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) get a low priority and will not be funded. In addition, the sponsor and FVA strive to maintain a good balance in funding between:

- (i) Experience level of investigators (established versus young/promising candidates)
- (ii) Applications overlapping with research proposals funded by other organizations.



#### **Overlap of funding:**

If the FVA proposal overlaps, partially or completely, with any current or new research funded by other granting organizations, the sponsor and FVA will not fund the project. Overlap can be scientific or financial and concerns the PI and other collaborators of the project.

The sponsor and FVA accepts to fund proposals that are scientifically and financially complementary to grants from other organizations.



#### **Commitments after approval:**

##### Shifting dates of the grant

After the approval of the grant the grantee should inform FVA immediately if the project is delayed (max. 6 months).

##### Budget

Grant payments are made on a half-year basis.

If budget revisions are necessary, requests must be made in writing to FVA with a clear justification:

- A cost-neutral prolongation (6 months maximum)
- Transfers of more than € 2.000 from one budget category to another requires FVA approval

FVA 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. A written requests/justification must be submitted for this.

##### Overlapping Grant Awards

FVA awards funds only that **FVA is the main financial supporter of the research project for which grant monies were requested. Co-funding of complementary, non-overlapping approaches are possible and should be clearly explained and justified in the application.** FVA does not allow its grants to be used for identical and/or overlapping research projects that are already funded by another source without written FVA permission and full knowledge.

**In order to avoid funding overlap, FVA reserves the right to ask candidates for applications submitted to other organizations and for research project currently funded by other organizations.**

**Failure to report the receipt of overlapping grant funds during the grants period may require, as determined at the sole discretion of FVA, the return of all, or part of, the monies awarded by FVA to the grantee.** Furthermore, the grantee is responsible for all costs expended FVA in obtaining the return of the grant award funds including but not limited to reasonable attorney's fees incurred.

##### Public Education and Acknowledgement

FVA is a publicly supported charitable organization funded by donor and sponsor 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 FVA may include the title of the project, the name and institutional affiliation of the P.I., 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 FVA to assist in the information of the general audience, e.g. by providing information on new developments in their research field or by giving an interview, a presentation or lecture at meetings and events, lab tours or workshops supported by FVA. Photos of the P.I. and his/her team must be made available without restrictions.

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

#### Open Access Publication

FVA supports open access and follows the national French law (Loi n° 2016-1321 du 7 octobre 2016 pour une République numérique). We strongly encourage researchers to publish in open access journals or to publish in a repository that is freely accessible.

#### Discontinuation of Grant Funding

Although FVA 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.

