



Call for Proposals 2023

Career Development Award

Submission Deadline: 25 June 2023

Dementia Research Switzerland - Synopsis Foundation announces a **Career Development Award** competition. This funding mechanism supports advanced postdoctoral researchers at Swiss universities and research institutions who seek to establish themselves as independent researchers in the field of dementia research. The goal of this award is to accelerate their transition to a faculty position in Switzerland or EMBO member countries.

The Synopsis Foundation Career Development Award consists of 2 phases:

- Phase 1 is carried out as a postdoctoral fellow in a host laboratory.
- Phase 2 supports the researcher in an independent faculty position.

Funding is a maximum of CHF 100'000 per year for up to four years (phase 1 and 2).

Institutions may not charge indirect or overhead costs on this award.

For more information about phase 1 and phase 2, please see second page of the call paper.

TOPICS

The Synopsis Foundation supports research projects on neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease. Topics span from basic and translational research to clinical approaches and include:

- Research in genetics, molecular and cell biology to gain new insights into pathomechanisms
- Innovative clinical approaches towards
 - an early diagnosis, including biomarkers
 - new therapeutic interventions
 - prevention studies
- Novel technological developments, including artificial intelligence/e-health, that support the diagnosis, treatment and prediction of the course of the disease
- Proof-of-principle studies

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

All applications must be submitted in English, using **the templates provided on the [website](#)**.

Applications for phase 1 of the Career Development Award include:

- Scientific abstract
- Introduction to the topic
- Specific goals of the project and detailed research plan for phase 1
- Detailed budget for phase 1
- Disclosure of all other funding sources
- Curriculum vitae, incl. a list of top 5 papers
- Short description of career plans of the applicant for the next five years, incl. a short outline for phase 2
- Letter of support and commitment from the supervisor/principal investigator, stating that the PostDoc will be working independently on the proposed project

Proposals that have previously been rejected can only be submitted one more time. A detailed explanation of the changes compared to the previous proposal is required.

All relevant information must be compiled in a single pdf-file and must be submitted online via the [submission tool](#). **Submission deadline is 25 June 2023 at 11:59 p.m.**

EVALUATION

Proposals will be evaluated by the Scientific Advisory Board of the Synapsis Foundation with the support of external reviewers. The main criteria for evaluation are **originality, innovation, scientific quality and feasibility of the proposed project, relevance to the call** as well as **experience and past performance** of the applicant. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Final decision for funding lies with the Board of Trustees of the Foundation.

Funding decisions will be announced by 20 December 2023.

DETAILS

The maximum funding period for phase 1 and phase 2 combined is four years: For example, two years PostDoc and two years faculty support; or one year PostDoc (phase 1) and three years faculty support (phase 2).

PHASE 1 – Postdoctoral Research Phase

Advanced postdoctoral scientists conducting research in a host laboratory at a public research facility in Switzerland are supported for up to two years with a maximum of CHF 100'000 per year. Applicants should have worked 3-5 years as postdoctoral researchers at the time of application. After the completion of year 1, awardees must submit a progress report.

PHASE 2 – Junior Faculty Phase

To apply for phase 2 of the fellowship, applicants must submit a progress report, research plan and a career plan at least 3 months before the completion of the award. Applicants qualifying for phase 2 of the award will be invited for an interview with members of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Foundation. The funding for phase 2 is up to CHF 100'000 per year.

Eligibility criteria for phase 2 of the Career Fellowship:

- Approval of the progress report and research plan by the Scientific Advisory Board of the Foundation
- Move to a new institution or department
- Employment as an **independent** faculty member (assistant professor or higher level) or group leader
- Funding for faculty/group leader position has to be provided by institutional funds or other grants (e.g. ERC starter grant or SNSF-professorship)
- The independent position can be at any institution in EMBO member countries
- In case a candidate requires additional time to secure an independent faculty position after completion of the PostDoc phase, the start date of the independent phase can be postponed by up to one year (this is contingent on the approval of the progress report, incl. career plan, from phase one)

CONTACT

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