



## Call for Proposals 2024

# Principal Investigator Grants

Submission Deadline for Letter of Intent: 5 May 2024

Dementia Research Switzerland – Synopsis Foundation announces its **2024 Research Grant competition**. The aim of the call is to promote dementia research in Switzerland and to support innovative projects of independent principal investigators at Swiss universities or public research institutions.

Funded projects are supported with **up to CHF 300'000 for up to 3 years** (e.g. CHF 100'000 per year for a three-year project). **Institutions may not charge indirect or overhead costs on these awards.**

## TOPICS

The Synopsis Foundation supports research projects on neurodegenerative diseases. 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
- Psychosocial interventions for people with dementia
- Proof-of-principle studies

We welcome **collaborative projects** involving interdisciplinary, inter-institutional research groups. Collaboration with industry is possible, but only the university partner will receive funding from Synopsis Foundation.

## ELIGIBILITY

**Principal investigators** working at Swiss Universities or Research Institutions, **who have not received funding from the Synopsis Foundation for at least one year at the time of submission**, are eligible to apply.

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

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Synopsis Foundation is introducing a **two-step application process**. First, researchers are invited to submit a short letter of intent. The most convincing project ideas will be selected, and the main applicant will be invited to submit a full proposal. All documents must be submitted by the main applicant using the provided templates and must be completed in English.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Step: Letter of Intent**

In a first stage, a **letter of intent** is to be submitted that includes a **short project outline**. The **template** for the letter of intent for Principal Investigator Grants is provided on the **Synopsis Foundation website**. The letter of intent includes

- Information on the main applicant
- Project title
- Start date and duration of the project
- Requested funding
- Outline of the proposed research project (1 page only)
- Information regarding resubmission and further funding partners

**The letter of intent must be submitted online in pdf-format via the [submission tool](#).**

**The submission deadline is 5 May 2024 at 11:59 p.m.**

The Scientific Advisory Board of Synopsis Foundation will review all submitted letters of intent and select the most promising project ideas based on research quality, originality and relevance to the call.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Step: Full Proposal**

If the preliminary review of the project outline was positive, the main applicant will be invited to submit a **detailed full proposal**. The **template** for the full proposal will be **sent** to the main applicant **via e-mail**, together with the invitation. The full proposal includes:

- Scientific abstract
- Introduction to the topic
- Specific goals of the project and detailed research plan
- Detailed budget and disclosure of all other funding sources
- Curriculum vitae, incl. a list of top 10 papers from the last 10 years

**All relevant information must be compiled in a single pdf-file of maximum 10 MB and must be submitted online. The link to the submission tool will be provided via e-mail.**

**Submission deadline is 10 July 2024 at 11:59 p.m.**

## EVALUATION

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

**Funding decisions will be announced by 20 December 2024.**

## CONTACT

If you have questions regarding any aspects of the Call for Proposals 2024, please consult our [FAQs](#) or contact Heide Hess, Liaison Officer Research: [hess@demenz-forschung.ch](mailto:hess@demenz-forschung.ch), +41 44 276 40 63.

