



CALL 2020: FUNDING FOR COLLABORATIVE CLINICAL RESEARCH

The collaboration agreement on clinical research applies to the period 2019-2023. It is possible to apply for available funding for projects that lead to wider and deeper research collaboration between Karlstad University (Kau) and Region Värmland (RV).

Six million SEK per year can be distributed to the planning and execution of clinical research projects. Clinical research requires the structures and resources of the health care services and aspires to solve health issues or identify factors that lead to better health. The aim is to create a more long-term perspective in research and to increase participation in regional, national and international research projects. Another ambition is for the initiative as a whole to attract external funding from regional, public and private financiers, as well as from EU funds and programmes, equal to RV's and Kau's contributions.

The call aims to strengthen clinical research within five health care areas of special priority in Värmland (outlined below). For the 2020 call, projects related to Covid-19 are also welcomed.

- **MENTAL ILLNESS**

Mental illness includes everything from less serious mental disorders, such as anxiety and depression, which can be normal reactions to a stressful life situation, to more serious symptoms that meet the criteria of psychiatric illness.

- **HEALTH-PROMOTING HABITS**

Health-promoting habits include initiatives related to the use of tobacco, hazardous use of alcohol, inadequate physical activity and unhealthy diet. Problems with narcotics, doping, gambling, sleep, stress, sun habits and sexual habits can also be included.

- **EQUAL HEALTH – VULNERABLE GROUPS**

Equal health means health equity for all regardless of age, gender, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, etc. Vulnerable groups include people who, as a consequence of mental illness, cognitive impairment, mental or physical disability, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation (LGBTQ) or ethnic origin, struggle to make their voice heard in society. In addition, children and adolescents usually count as vulnerable groups.

- **HEALTH CARE LEVELS AND FORMS OF CARE**

Levels and forms of care include how health care is organised in terms of content, team composition, intensity and physical environment, from highly specialised emergency care to primary care and self-care and the collaboration in between. The area also includes the use of information and communication technology.

- **LONG-TERM CONDITIONS – MULTIMORBIDITY**

Long-term health conditions include musculoskeletal diseases, rheumatological diseases, cancer, dementia, long-term pain, cardiovascular diseases including heart failure, stroke, chronic respiratory diseases, kidney failure, diabetes, mental illness and psychiatric syndromes. Multimorbidity means that an individual suffers from several coexisting long-term diseases, usually more than three, comorbidity and complex health conditions.



CONDITIONS TO APPLY

- Main applicants are employed at Kau (a minimum of 30% employment) or RV. Employees working at a unit with a collaboration agreement with RV may also be eligible to apply.
- The proposed project is conducted in collaboration with participants (applicants) from Kau and RV.
- The main applicant (project leader) has a PhD.
- The proposed project is related to at least one of the five prioritised research areas.
- The application form (ResearchWeb) is complete and filled in correctly.

PLANNING GRANTS

It is possible to apply for planning grants throughout the year, decisions are made four times per calendar year.

A planning grant covers funding for the planning and production of joint research applications to regional, national or international research funders. Funding may be used to reimburse the department/unit for the working hours that researchers and employees spend on the application, as well as cost of travel and meetings in connection with this work.

The maximum planning grant is SEK 70.000 including indirect costs. The number of grants is limited to one per researcher and calendar year.

Planning grants are paid retroactively and managed by the department/unit responsible for the application.

PROJECT GRANTS

There is one call for project grants per year. Funds can be used for smaller studies for future research applications as well as for co-financing for other external funding.

It is possible to apply for a project grant of up to 2 years, which is paid annually following a report of used funds in the current calendar year

Eligible costs includes funding to pay the salary of the main applicant, co-applicants and assisting staff, consultants and for operational costs. A financial officer at the main applicant's department should be contacted. Main applicants from RV should contact Maude Stefansson (maude.stefansson@regionvarmland.se).

Project plan (submitted via ReserachWeb): Max 5 pages, excluding key references, with the following structure:

- Background
- Aim, questions and hypotheses
- Study design, method and analysis
- Project organisation, describing how work in the project is planned and organised and how work is distributed between participants in the project
- Implementation (including timeline)
- Clinical relevance

The application should also include information on:

- budget and budget justification
- the project's connection to prioritised research areas
- how the project contributes to the development of health care in Värmland
- how the project contributes to establishing or maintaining long-term collaborations between RV and Kau
- If relevant, describe in what way patients are involved in the project (patient involvement)
- how gender and diversity aspects is included in the research
- a list of relevant external funders, including a short motivation.
- Disclose plans for the ethical review. If no ethical review is planned, this must be justified.



INFORMATION TO APPLICANTS

Applications can be written in Swedish or English.

Research applications should be submitted via the web portal ResearchWeb. Information whether an application has been granted or rejected is sent via ResearchWeb.

Co-applicants are invited via Researchweb and need to approve their participation in order to be included as part of the research organisation.

Signatures: Main applicants from Kau use "Intyg för externfinansiering" and attach it to the application. Main applicants from RV should instead submit a printout of the application with the operations manager's signature in original to the administrative coordinator at CKFU (Pia Hird Lundberg).

It is not possible to add information once the call has closed. Incomplete applications will not be assessed.

Applications are processed and assessed by the working group for research collaboration between RV and Kau.

Applications on project funding are assessed by external research reviewers based on established criteria for research quality.

RV and Kau's joint steering group for research collaboration makes the decisions on funding for one year at a time. The decision by the steering group cannot be appealed.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

All applications are assessed based on:

- The level of collaboration between employees from RV and Kau
- The potential of the project to promote long-term collaboration between RV and Kau
- The project association to one or more of the health care areas of special priority in Värmland (described above).
- The potential to attract external funding
- Clinical relevance for health care in Värmland.

Project grants application are assessed based on:

- Presentation of the research area
- Aim and any questions
- Methodology
- Applicants' competence (applies to all participants)
- Feasibility
- Timeline and budget.

The assessment also includes:

- The level of patient involvement
- The level of interprofessional collaboration
- Intervention research
- Use of patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) and patient-reported experience measures (PREMs)
- Gender and diversity perspective.

PAYMENTS AND REPORTS

Planning grants are paid when the submitted application is presented to the working group's administrators. The outcome of the application should also be reported.

The project manager is responsible for submitting an annual report for project grants.

TIMELINE

The application period for project grants is 7 September – 7 October 2020.

Applicants will receive a decision in November 2020

Project start is 1 January 2021

It is possible to apply for planning grants throughout the year and funding decisions are made four times per year. The next decision date is 8 October and applies to applications submitted by 30 September 2020 at the latest.

CONTACT

Questions about the portal, ResearchWeb: Pia Hird Lundberg, pia.h.lundberg@regionvarmland.

General questions about the call: Lovisa Stedt, research advisor, Grants and Innovation Office, Kau, lovisa.stedt@kau.se