

## Boost programme Spierfonds

Developments in the field of neuromuscular disorders are progressing faster than ever. This presents opportunities but also demands agility. With the flexible Boost Programme of the Prinses Beatrix Spierfonds, we can respond immediately to opportunities and urgent challenges. Our goal? To accelerate innovations and bring research results to people with neuromuscular disorders as quickly as possible. We proactively collaborate with researchers to translate findings into concrete treatments. This may range from funding targeted projects or training programmes to developing a vision on urgent issues. Where necessary, we take the lead and follow up with concrete funding. Through the Boost Programme, we ensure that no opportunity goes to waste, always prioritising maximum impact.

### Framework Boost Programme

Within the Boost Programme, we fund initiatives and projects that are impactful, urgent, and provide a boost in one of the four key themes defined by the Spierfonds. These are usually one-off, short-term projects with quick results. In addition to specific types of projects, we are also open to co-financing larger initiatives.

#### The development of new medicines

Only through scientific research can we fight neuromuscular disorders and find a cure. To halt or cure these diseases, we invest strategically in the development of innovative medicines, the improvement of existing treatments, and the application of promising treatments from other medical fields to neuromuscular disorders.

Examples of Boost Programme initiatives in this theme include:

- The translation of preclinical research into clinical trials
- Funding the start-up phase of a new biotech company
- Training/advice to ensure successful translation of research into treatments

#### Clinical trials in the Netherlands

The number of drugs being developed for neuromuscular disorders worldwide is increasing rapidly. This presents opportunities we are keen to seize. By bringing international trials to the Netherlands, we ensure that patients here gain early access to potential treatments. At the same time, we expand our knowledge of how these therapies can be applied.

Examples of Boost Programme initiatives in this theme include:

- Setting up or improving patient registries
- Developing or refining relevant outcome measures

#### The best quality of life

Living with a neuromuscular disorder requires incredible resilience. Symptoms such as pain, fatigue, and reduced mobility have a significant impact on daily life. People with neuromuscular disorders indicate a need for greater attention to these common yet disruptive symptoms.

Examples of Boost Programme initiatives in this theme include:

- Implementing interventions (from within or outside the field of neuromuscular disorders)
- Developing or improving relevant outcome measures

In 2025 the Spierfonds will launch a programme on lifestyle medicine. Topics covered under this programme (such as exercise, nutrition, and sleep) are generally not eligible for the Boost Programme.

#### Access to new medicines

Every patient deserves access to the best care and medicines. In the coming years, we anticipate challenges in this area: the high costs of innovative therapies and the increasing strain on healthcare capacity threaten access to new medicines.

Examples of Boost Programme initiatives in this theme include:

- Projects that accelerate or improve access to new medicines

#### Practical information

- The acceleration programme is open continuously throughout the year.
- Applications for the Boost Programme can only be submitted after consultation with the Spierfonds. During this consultation, we discuss the idea and assess whether it aligns with our objectives. If so, we will provide the necessary documents to submit an application.
- Applications are reviewed by the Spierfonds and, where necessary, by the User Committee and/or Scientific Advisory Board of the Spierfonds.
- For ideas and questions about the acceleration programme, please email: [onderzoek@spierfonds.nl](mailto:onderzoek@spierfonds.nl).