

# Programme public-private partnership 2024

Manual

## About the Prinses Beatrix Spierfonds

The Prinses Beatrix Spierfonds finances, steers, and promotes cutting-edge scientific research into neuromuscular disorders. Why? Because we firmly believe that unlocking the secrets of science is the key to making all neuromuscular disorders treatable in the future. Together with top-notch researchers, we're pulling out all the stops in our quest for success. We're all about seizing opportunities presented by new technologies and applications.

*The real magic? It's in the uncharted territories waiting to be explored because the more we uncover, the further we progress.*

## About the PPP-programme

Collaboration is essential to create and implement new ways to make neuromuscular disorders treatable and improve the quality of life. Therefore, the Spierfonds works together with the [Top Sector Life Sciences & Health \(Health~Holland\)](#) to stimulate innovative research by (financially) supporting public-private collaboration.

For 2024, Health~Holland has initiated a [Pilot Call](#) to encourage new collaborations within the '[PPP-Innovation Scheme](#).' For this call, Health~Holland aims to grant a minimum of 66% of the submitted applications. The Spierfonds has the opportunity to submit one research proposal in this Pilot Call. Therefore, we are actively seeking innovative research projects in the field of neuromuscular disorders with both societal and economic impact.

Within our PPP-programme, we work with a pre-application round to minimize the burden on applicants. The two pre-applications that best align with [Health~Holland's conditions](#) and demonstrate the most significant (potential) impact for individuals with a neuromuscular disorder will be selected for further drafting and evaluation.

## What kind of research is eligible?

Within the framework of the PPP program, we are seeking research projects that can make a significant difference in the lives of individuals with a neuromuscular disorder. The project should align with both the central mission and one of the five specific missions outlined by the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare, and Sport, as described in the [Kennis-en Innovatie Agenda \(KIA\) 2024-2027](#) (Knowledge and Innovation Agenda) for the Societal Theme of Health & Care.



Figure 1: The six Health & Care missions as formulated by the Ministry of Health, Welfare, and Sport (Source: Health~Holland)

The research project must further meet the following core conditions:

- The consortium comprises at least one for-profit enterprise and one research organization.
- The project pertains to one or more of the neuromuscular diseases listed in [Appendix I](#).
- The project is focused on one of the following themes: diagnostics, cause & mechanism, drug development, trial readiness, quality of life.
- The project delivers innovative products and/or services with societal and economic added value.
- The project encompasses fundamental research, industrial research, or experimental development, or a combination thereof.
- The project is carried out on a joint account and risk basis, with all consortium partners substantively contributing to the project.
- The main applicant is based in the Netherlands, and the project has a maximum duration of 4 years.

For more information on the PPP Innovation Scheme and its associated conditions, please refer to the 'Handleiding TKI-LSH Pilot Call 2024' on our [subsidieportaal](#) (grant portal).

## Deadline and budget

Within this programme, we operate a pre-application round. We warmly invite all researchers to submit a short pre-application for research projects by **Monday March 18<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 14:00**. The maximum available PPP contribution from the Spierfonds is **€375,000**.

## Evaluation

To maximize the chances of funding by Health~Holland, the Spierfonds assesses (pre-)applications based on the following criteria:

- Suitability within the conditions of Health~Holland and the Spierfonds
- Impact and relevance
- Feasibility
- Scientific quality (for full applications)

### Review of pre-applications

Pre-applications undergo a written assessment by an evaluation committee, comprising representatives from our User Committee, Scientific Advisory Board, and the Research & Innovation department of the Spierfonds. Based on this evaluation, a maximum of two pre-applications are selected for further assessment. The selected applicants receive instructions from the Spierfonds for submitting a full application.

### Review of full applications

Full applications are assessed by international reviewers and our Scientific Advisory Board. The reviewers' evaluations are presented to the applicant, who is given the opportunity to respond in writing (rebuttal). The Spierfonds decides, based on the assessments of the reviewers and the Scientific Advisory Board, which application will be submitted to Health~Holland. In case of equal suitability, the Spierfonds makes a choice based on the fit within the PPP Innovation Scheme and the VWS missions as described in the [Kennis en Innovatie Agenda](#), and the potential impact on individuals with a neuromuscular disorder.

### Assessment by Health~Holland

For information regarding the evaluation by Health~Holland, please refer to the 'Handleiding TKI-LSH Pilot Call 2024' on our [subsidieportaal](#) (grant portal).

## Timeline

The timeline is as follows:

Deadline pre-applications	March 18 <sup>th</sup> 2024 at 14:00
Invitation to draft full application	April 1 <sup>st</sup> 2024
Submission full application to Spierfonds	June 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2024 at 14:00
Rebuttal	August 12 <sup>th</sup> – September 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2024
Decision	September 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2024
Submission to Health~Holland	October 1 <sup>st</sup> 2024
Funding decision	± 10 weeks after deadline

## Contact

Do you have any questions about the PPP programme? For example whether your research idea aligns with the programme? We're happy to assist. Feel free to contact the Research & Innovation department of the Prinses Beatrix Spierfonds at [onderzoek@spierfonds.nl](mailto:onderzoek@spierfonds.nl).

## Appendix I: Neuromuscular disorders

### Motor neuron diseases

- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
- Polio and post-polio syndrome (PPS)
- Primary lateral sclerosis (PLS)
- Progressive spinal muscle atrophy (PSMA)
- Spinal-bulbar muscular atrophy (SBMA)
- Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA)

### Peripheral nerve diseases

- Charcot Marie Tooth (CMT / HMSN)
- Chronic idiopathic axonal polyneuropathy (CIAP)
- Hereditary neuropathy with pressure palsies (HNPP)
- Small fiber neuropathy

### Inflammatory neuropathies

- Chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP)
- Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS)
- MGUS polyneuropathy
- Multifocal motor neuropathy (MMN)
- Neuralgic amyotrophy (NA)

### Neuromuscular junction diseases

- Congenital myasthenic syndromes
- Lambert-Eaton myasthenic syndrome (LEMS)
- Myasthenia gravis (MG)

### Muscular dystrophies

- Becker muscular dystrophy (BMD)
- Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)
- Emery-Dreifuss muscular dystrophy (EDMD)
- Facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy (FSHD)
- Limb-girdle muscular dystrophies (LGMD)
- Oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy (OPMD)
- Congenital muscular dystrophies (merosin-deficient, Ullrich, dystroglycanopathy, integrin-deficient, rigid spine)

### Myotonic disorders

- Myotonic dystrophy (DM)
- Non-dystrophic myotonias (Thomsen, Becker, Paramyotonia Congenita)
- Periodic paralysis (PP)

### Congenital myopathies

- Brody myopathy
- Central core disease
- Myotubular myopathy/centronuclear myopathy

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- Nemaline myopathy
- Distal myopathies (Miyoshi, Nonaka, Welander, Markesbery, Laing)

## Inflammatory myopathies

- Dermatomyositis
- Inclusion body myositis (IBM)
- Polymyositis

## Metabolic myopathies

- Glycogen storage diseases
- Lipid storage myopathies
- Mitochondrial myopathies

- Of the infectious diseases, only acute anterior poliomyelitis is eligible for funding.
- Not eligible for funding are research into diseases resulting from trauma, diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular abnormalities, cancer, drug use, or intoxications (alcohol); diseases that are manifestations of a mental illness or disorder; unexplained conditions without an organic substrate.
- For multisystem diseases, the grant application must demonstrate that it primarily presents a neuromuscular phenotype with muscle weakness at the forefront.