

SPIERFONDS ELEVATOR GRANT MANUAL

2023

In a world where the cure for neuromuscular disorders remains an unfulfilled wish, the Prinses Beatrix Spierfonds embraces a powerful mission: we aim to eradicate neuromuscular disorders from the world. Our goal is clear: finding a cure. And in the meantime, we want to halt or slow down the progression of neuromuscular disorders with medication. Our main weapon in this fight is scientific research.

Dutch research into neuromuscular disorders ranks among the international best. Our researchers are of world-class quality. We want to make sure it stays that way. That's why we invest in the development and retention of young research talent in the field of neuromuscular disorders.

About the grant round

With the extra 'Spierfonds Elevator Grant', we give outstanding research by young researchers – which has been rejected in highly competitive rounds by other research funders due to insufficient budget – a second chance. With this one-off grant round, we aim to provide young, talented researchers with the opportunity to continue their professional growth and secure a permanent position in the neuromuscular field. By doing so, we safeguard the acquired knowledge, prevent high-quality research proposals from being shelved, and expedite progress.

Terms & conditions

Grant applications submitted in this grant round must meet the following conditions:

- On the closing date of the grant round, the applicant must be either a PhD candidate or have obtained their PhD within the past ten years. The [NWO extension regulations](#) are applicable.
- The application is focused on one or more neuromuscular disorders. Applications that closely align with the research priorities of the Spierfonds will be given priority in funding. Our research priorities are: diagnostics, finding therapeutic targets, developing and/or testing a therapy and trial readiness.
- The requested amount is a maximum of € 350,000.
- The application was submitted in 2022 or 2023 and was rejected by another research funder due to insufficient available budget. Funders can be national (e.g., ZonMW or NWO) or international.
- The initial funder has judged the application as grant worthy (e.g., excellent, very good). This must be demonstrated by submitting the rejection letter, the original application, and the assessment.
- In the case of multiple stages in the original grant round (such as pre-registration, interviews), all these stages must have been completed.
- The content of the application and the requested grant amount have not changed compared to the original application.

If you are unsure whether you meet the above conditions or would like to discuss, please contact us at onderzoek@spierfonds.nl.

Evaluation

After submission, the Prinses Beatrix Spierfonds will verify whether the application meets the conditions stated above. Applications that closely align with the research priorities of the Spierfonds (diagnostics, finding therapeutic targets, developing and/or testing a therapy and trial readiness) will be given priority in funding. In case the number of applications exceeds the available budget, a lottery will be held thereafter.

Submission

Submissions can be made by emailing a complete application to onderzoek@spierfonds.nl by **Wednesday November 1st**.

A complete application consists of:

- A fully completed application form.
- All relevant documents from the original grant round (such as call text, guidelines, terms, procedure)
- The originally submitted application (including budget and attachments)
- Reviewer reports / evaluations
- Rejection letter

Applicants will be notified of the decision by early December 2023 via email.

