

# **Grant guidelines and application form 2021**

## **Dutch Sickle Cell Foundation**



June 2021

## **1. Grant**

In the interest of science and society, the Dutch Sickle Cell Foundation (het Sikkelfonds) aims to support talented young scientists, PhD candidates, master students and nurse specialists in their development within the field of sickle cell disease in order to improve the prospects and the future for patients.

The Dutch Sickle Cell Foundation (het Sikkelfonds) will set in 2021 two to three grant(s) of a total amount of €45,000,- to facilitate start up- or pilot research projects and two grants of €100,000,- each for sustainable research projects. Co-finance is obligatory for the grants of €100,000,-.

## **2. Application**

### **Deadline**

The application deadline for the 2021 call is **August 15 2021 at 23:59 hours**. The application form must be fully completed (in English) and signed by the applicant ( junior researcher)and/ or his/her supervisor ( senior researcher).

### **Applicants**

Applicants are excellent PhD candidates, master students or nurse specialists, registered at one of the academic centers in the Netherlands.

### **Applications**

Applications are sent to the Board of the Dutch Sickle Cell Foundation ([info@hetsikkelfonds.nl](mailto:info@hetsikkelfonds.nl)) signed and scanned as pdf. Only complete and correct applications will be accepted. (see Appendix 1: Grant application)

## **3. Selection**

### **Procedure**

The application form will be reviewed by an international independent selection committee. The rating of applicants will be made by a selection committee. The committee consists of three established international researchers. The selection committee sends their ranking and proposal to the Scientific Board of the Dutch Sickle Cell Foundation, who will make the final selection. Rating will be based on training plan, degree of excellence of the chosen research institute. curriculum vitae and motivation.

### **Notification**

The final decision will be communicated to all applicants by the Board of the Dutch Sickle Cell Foundation on November 1st 2021.

## **Award Ceremony**

On World Sickle Cell Day (June 19th 2022) there will be a special Award Ceremony in honor of the winners of the different grants. It is obligatory to give a short presentation during this ceremony. Further details will be sent to all winners in due time.

## **4. Reporting of your research activity**

During the year in which you have been received the grant, you will report on your ongoing research once every quarter in a small report with photograph or other visuals which will be published on social media and on the website of the foundation. At the start of the research project the Dutch Sickle cell Foundation, the junior and senior researcher will make a communication plan.

In addition, after the end of your research project you will hand a short report (500-1,000 words for lay persons in Dutch and English) about the results and a discussion of the experiences. This report will be used to illustrate the accomplishments made possible by the grant on the website of the Dutch Sickle Cell Foundation ([www.hetsikkelfonds.nl](http://www.hetsikkelfonds.nl)) and other media in order to inform donors and other important stakeholders.

Please send all communications and reports to: [info@hetsikkelfonds.nl](mailto:info@hetsikkelfonds.nl).

## **5. Funding**

An estimate of the total expected costs (100%) must be included in the application form. The grant will be based on this estimate. Please be aware that the payments will be based on the actual costs. After the project has been awarded, 80% of the total grant will be paid within four weeks. The remaining 20% will be paid by the Dutch Sickle Cell foundation within three month time after receiving the short report (500-1000 words for lay persons in Dutch and English).

In case of publications or a dissertation, please mention that financial support was provided by the Dutch Sickle Cell Foundation, with addition of the logo of the foundation.

**For any information or questions, please contact [info@hetsikkelfonds.nl](mailto:info@hetsikkelfonds.nl).**

## **Appendix1: Research Grant Application Form “het Sikkelfonds**

### **Personal details**

#### **Applicant/Junior researcher**

Surname

First name

Title(s)

Initial(s)

Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Work address

Institute/ Hospital

Department

E-mail address

Phone number

Place:

Date (dd/mm/yyyy):

Signature:

#### **Supervisor/Promotor/ Senior researcher**

Surname

First name

Title(s)

Initial(s)

Work address

Institute/ Hospital

Department

E-mail address

Phone number

Place:

Date (dd/mm/yyyy):

Signature:

## Grant Application Form

### Maximum number of words by section:

1. Project Summary of research project	300 words
a. Summary for lay persons	300 words
b. Samenvatting in leekentaal (Dutch)	300 words
2. Specific Aims	100 words
3. Relevance to the research field of sickle cell disease	150 words
4. Research Strategy and Plan	500 words
5. Plans for longer-term funding	100 words
6. Key references	n=5
7. Biographical Sketch (Short CV of the junior and/ or senior researcher)	
8. Other funding or resources	150 words
9. Budget Form/Table (use supplied form and add short explanation)	Excell form

### Sections

**Ad 1. Summary** for professionals and lay persons: summarizes the project, including a statement of what issue(s) the project addresses, a description of why the work is important and a description of how the project will be accomplished. (Note: this abstract may be used for Dutch Sickle cell Foundation publicity purposes).

**Ad 2. Specific Aims:** State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will have on sickle cell disease. List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed (e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology).

**Ad 3. Relevance** to the research field of sickle cell disease: explain how this project will advance the quality of life, the natural history and/ or potential therapeutic treatment. Especially social relevance for the population at risk.

**Ad 4. Research Strategy and Plan:** Contains a discussion of the background and significance of the work proposed, including a critical evaluation of previous research lines and existing knowledge, specifically identifying the gaps that the project is intended to fill, and explicitly stating the importance of the proposed research (hypotheses).

Also a thorough summary of the research design and methods and if possible: power calculation . Provide a timetable for the project.

**Ad 5. Plans for longer-term funding:** assuming a positive outcome for your project, discuss your plans for obtaining subsequent funding from NWO or other (national and/or international) funding organizations.

**Ad 6. Key references:** standard citations of publications referred to in the application.

**Ad 7. Biographical sketch:** please include a short version of the curriculum vitae of the junior and/ or senior researcher.

**Ad 8. Other funding or resources:** please also indicate when this application (or parts of this application) has been submitted at and/or granted by other funding organizations.

**Ad 9. Budget form:** Including list of project personnel (name, title, institution and role in the project), including the percentage of effort that each person is expected to devote to the project .

Note: Principal investigators must be involved throughout the duration of the research project and must be employed by the UMC/university concerned.

All budgets will be scrutinized for allowable costs (see “Disallowed budget items” below).

Applicants should only consider budget item requests that are necessary for the completion of the project.

Disallowed budget items in the Research Grant Program include a.o.: publication fees, personal expenses. Capital expenditures for laboratory equipment are not allowed.

## **Regulatory aspects:**

In addition to the application described above, several specific documents may be required if applicable. If applicable, please provide a proof of current or pending approval by a 'Medisch Ethische Toetsings Commissie' (METC), or a similar oversight group.

Funding for the project, if the application is approved, will not be released until the final approval has been secured and a copy, including the approved informed consent form, has been received.

## **Furthermore:**

- Only proposals written in English will be considered.
- Incomplete applications or applications exceeding the maximum word count will not be accepted.
- Applications are considered confidential information by The Dutch Sickle Cell Foundation and by any external reviewers.

## **Guideline and Requirements**

Paper Size and Margins: A4, standard margins normal (2,5 cm).

Font size: Arial 10 or larger. Smaller text in figures, graphs, diagrams and charts is acceptable, as long as it is legible when the page is viewed at 100%. A digital version of the full application (in .doc format or in .pdf format) and any attachments must be sent to: [info@hetsikkelfonds.nl](mailto:info@hetsikkelfonds.nl).

The Form must be completed and signed/scanned by the persons concerned.

