

SUBSIDY PROGRAM SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS 2025 - explanation

GRANT FOR	SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS	
INTRODUCTION	<p>By subsidizing scientific projects we contribute to the best possible medical care for children.</p> <p>(Young) researchers, post-docs and analysts, who typically are competing for subsidies, will have the opportunity to develop research if the project receives a grant.</p> <p>Grant applications are assessed for their scientific value once a year, in November, by the Sophia Fund's international Scientific Advisory Council - SAC (or in Dutch: <i>Wetenschappelijke Advies Raad - WAR</i>).</p>	
WHO CAN APPLY	<p>Application is open to (young) researchers employed by one of the departments of the Erasmus MC Sophia. The application is formally submitted by the project leader with the approval of the head of the department via the Project Portal Sophia.</p> <p>The project leaders / project groups of the projects selected for funding are not allowed to apply for the next round (next year).</p>	
NUMBER OF GRANTS	<p>In general 4 to 6 projects receive a grant from the Sophia Fund each year. No rights can be derived.</p>	
GRANT PERIOD	<p>Projects can be subsidized for a period of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 years (for young researchers and postdocs); • 4 years (PhD-projects); • 1-year (pilot study; only in exceptional cases). 	
AMOUNT	<p>The maximum amount that can be applied for is € 350.000,-.</p> <p>For higher amounts co-financing is required and a coverage plan has to be included in the application.</p>	
SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COUNCIL	Prof. R.J. (Rutger Jan) van der Gaag	Chairman of the Advisory Council
	<i>Area of expertise: Biostatistics</i> Prof. V. (Virginie) Rondeau	Director of research in Biostatistic Inserm, Bordeaux, France
	<i>Area of expertise: Pediatric Infectious Disease, Allergy and Immunology</i> Prof. dr. R. (Ronald) de Groot	Emeritus Professor of Paediatrics Radboud University Medical Center, Nijmegen, the Netherlands
	<i>Area of expertise: Pediatric pulmonology and cystic fibrosis</i> Prof. dr. C.K. (Kors) van der Ent <i>Successor Ronald de Groot</i>	Professor in Paediatric Pulmonology University Medical Center, Utrecht, The Netherlands
	<i>Area of expertise: Pediatrics and neonatology</i> Prof. dr. N. (Neena) Modi	Professor of Neonatal Medicine Imperial College London, England
	<i>Area of expertise: Child and adolescent psychiatry</i> Prof. dr. K. (Kerstin) von Plessen	Head Division Child and Adolescent Psychiatry University Hospital of Lausanne, Switzerland

	<p><i>Area of expertise:</i> <i>Pediatric surgery</i> Prof. M. (Mikko) Pakarinen</p>	<p>Professor of Pediatric Surgery HUS Helsinki University Hospital, Finland</p>
<p>ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE</p>	<p>In May 2025 the Project Portal Sophia will be open for new grant applications of (young) researchers of the Erasmus MC Sophia. The Grant application has to be written in <u>English</u>.</p> <p>If more than 20 grant applications are being submitted, two selection rounds will be held.</p> <p>FIRST RATING The 20 projects with the highest average score will be selected for presentation to the SAC committee in November 2025.</p> <p>A full proposal needs to be submitted, but please make sure the <u>Structured Abstract</u> is complete and sufficiently informative. Use the following headlines in the Structured Abstract:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background • Aim and study questions • International relevance • Study design and methods • Workplan and milestones <p>No feedback on your proposal will be shared.</p> <p>SECOND RATING</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Each project is assigned to one council member committee who will briefly introduce the project before the applicant's presentation and afterwards provide initial feedback. Next, all other members are invited to give feedback. The dedicated member will then give a short summary, which will be included in the minutes and in the correspondence with the project leader regarding the outcome. 2. All 20 projects are ranked by all SAC members individually. 3. Based upon this final ranking the Sophia Fund board will be advised which projects are eligible for subsidy. 4. By the end of December, the project leaders responsible for the submitted projects will be notified about the outcome and decision by the Board. <hr/> <p>The complete proposals will be assessed on the following 5 domains:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Innovation <i>How does the project provide new insights?</i> 2. Impact <i>Can the project be expected to lead to benefits for patients and/or does the project meet social needs?</i> 3. Study design <i>Will the proposed study design and workplan enable the applicants to answer the study questions, including sample size?</i> 	

	<p>4. Feasibility <i>Can the project be carried out with the available resources and within the proposed time schedule?</i></p> <p>5. Cost and gain for the Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Why is foundation money being requested (pilot study, building new infrastructure, high-risk/high-impact? Less suited for other funding sources?</i> • <i>If a PhD studentship is requested, what will be the educational benefit to the student? What is the balance between effort, input, use of resources and (expected) outcomes and yield?</i> <hr/> <p>If a project is selected for funding by the Sophia Fund during the SAC-meeting in 2024, the project leader (and the project team under certain conditions) may not submit a Grant Application for the SAC-meeting in 2025.</p>
YEARLY ASSESMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selected projects will first be funded for the first year. • The second year (and for 4-years' projects also for the 3rd and 4th years) will be funded only after submission of a Progress Report and approval of the Advisory Council. • At the end of the project a Final Report must be submitted (a reservation of 10% of the subsidy will be held till the Advisory Council gives approval to the final report).
PROTOCOL	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The presence of all council members is required for the meeting to take place. 2. Should one of the members be prevented, a replacement will be sought. 3. The exception to this rule is a cancellation at the very last moment. The chairman will decide upon the best way to proceed. 4. All members will be asked, prior to the meeting, to state any potential conflict of interest with a specific proposal, even though they are not actively involved in the research. If so, they will leave the room when the proposal in question is discussed. 5. No correspondence with the council members about the evaluation of the project proposals or the procedure is allowed.
MOLENAAR PRIZE	<p>A secondary task of the advisory council is to select candidates for the 'Molenaar prize'. This prize, named in honour of professor Jan Molenaar, emeritus professor of paediatric surgery, is awarded to the young researcher (not yet having obtained a PhD degree), who has most impressed the council by the clarity and fluency of the oral presentation and by the responses to the questions put afterwards.</p> <p>The prize consists of a certificate and a cash prize of 1.000,- Euros.</p>
CONTACT/SUPPORT	<p>Secretary to the Scientific Advisory Council: Mathilde de Rooij & Yara Ciliacus Telephone: 010-70 (41316) E-mail: projectaanvraag@vriendensophia.nl</p>

SUBSIDY PROGRAM SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS - instruction

INSTRUCTION FOR	SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS
INSTRUCTIONS GRANT APPLICATION	<p>The Grant Application form has to be written in English (with an exception for the Dutch Summary) and submitted by the Project Portal Sophia.</p> <p>! Please note:</p> <p>A Grant Application cannot be changed after submission.</p>
DOMAINS GRANT APPLICATION	<p>In November, full proposals will be assessed on 5 domains:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Innovation (how does the project provide new insights) 2. Impact (can the project be expected to lead to benefits for patients and/or does the project meet social needs) 3. Study design (will the proposed study design and methods, such as sample size, enable the applicants to answer the study questions) 4. Feasibility (can the project be carried out with the available resources and within the proposed time schedule) 5. Cost and gain for the foundation (why is de foundation money being requested, what will be the educational benefit, what is balance between effort, input, use of resources and (expected) outcomes and yield).
<p>Only for project leaders of running projects:</p> <p>INSTRUCTIONS PROGRESS REPORT</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From the first year after the grant allocation, the project leader is obliged to inform the Sophia Fund about the progress of the project. When a project has not yet started, the project leader must explain the reason why. 2. Use the form: <u>PROGRESS REPORT</u> 3. Payment of the funding is contingent on the approval of the progress report by the Advisory Council.
<p>Only for project leaders of running projects:</p> <p>INSTRUCTIONS FINAL REPORT</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Before the closing date of the 2nd respectively the 4th year of the project, a <u>FINAL REPORT</u> should be submitted to inform the Sophia Fund. 2. Exceptions will be made for projects that started later than planned. 3. Together with the Final Report abstracts of papers and presentations must be submitted that illustrate the results of the research (preferably limited to one page). 4. In addition, abstracts of papers published within 2 years after the end of the project must be submitted.
<p>Only for project leaders of running projects:</p> <p>PROJECT EXTENSION</p>	<p>If a project leader of a two-year or four-year project concludes during the final year that an extension for one year would be beneficial to the research, a new Grant Application must be submitted. The same holds for modifications to the original design of the project.</p>
IMPORTANT CONDITION	<p>In publications of research for which a grant was received, mention should be made that the research was made possible by funding from the Sophia Fund. This applies not only to scientific publications but also to any other forms of dissemination, such as media articles, presentations, or public reports. A logo will be sent to you upon request for use in such communications</p>

FORMS	1. Grant Application – new project (via Project Portal Sophia) 2. Progress Report – running project (via e-mail) 3. Final Report – running project (via e-mail)	
TIME SCHEDULE	15 September 2025	Deadline submission of, by the apartment head, approved Grant Application (via Project Portal Sophia).
	20 October 2025	Deadline project leaders will be notified if the project qualifies for presentation in the November meeting of the Advisory Board.
	10 November 2025	Deadline submitting PowerPoint presentation.
	20 and 21 November 2025	Oral presentations of the 20 selected projects. Preferably by young talent, such as a PhD-student.
	31 December 2025	Deadline the applicants will be notified of the outcome to ensure that the research can start in January 2026 or can be continued.