

Basel/Zurich, 3rd June 2019

Call for BRCCH Multi-Investigator Projects

Dear Colleague,

The Botnar Research Centre for Child Health (BRCCH) is pleased to invite researchers from the University of Basel, ETH Zurich, University Children's Hospital Basel and Swiss TPH to submit an application to our Multi-Investigator Projects (MIPs), our inaugural funding scheme.

Through MIPs, we seek to support research dedicated to innovative and novel solutions for the health of children and adolescents worldwide. The projects funded in this first round are not only expected to be of exceptional scientific value and to draw on an ecosystem of collaborative research excellence at the Centre's participating institutions but will also demonstrate their capacity for translation and potential for application in low- and middle-income countries.

Please find attached (I) detailed information regarding our MIPs call, and (II) the grant application form (a programmed and editable version will be available online in the course of this week: www.brcch.org). The deadline for your submission is **July 15, at 17.00 (CET)**.

We are pleased to and answer your questions either via e-mail (contact@brcch.org), phone (061 207 62 00) or in person on the occasion of our **MIPs Grants Clinic** (June 25, 14.00-17.00; Mattenstrasse 28).

We thank you for your interest in our Centre and look forward to working together to improve the health and well-being of children and adolescents around the world.

Best regards,

Prof. Dr. Georg Holländer
BRCCH Director

Prof. Dr. Sai Reddy
BRCCH Vice Director

MIP overview

- Each MIP application is eligible for up to 5 years of funding for up to a maximum of 5 Mio. CHF (allocated in two tranches).
- Direct project costs are provided, which includes personnel salaries, consumables and travel.
- The following costs will NOT be covered by the grant scheme: salaries of Investigators and Co-Investigators, major equipment and/or infrastructure.
- Project funding will start in 2020.
- Progress of MIPs will be regularly monitored, and written reports will need to be submitted annually. Allocation of the second tranche of the total budget is contingent upon a successful mid-term review by external experts, who will assess progress towards set milestones.

Projects that use human samples, patient data or animal models will require the necessary ethical and legal approvals by the responsible commissions as a prerequisite for the final allocation of funding. The BRCCH adheres to the respective regulations of the partner institutions.

Requirements

- The focus of the MIPs will need to align scientifically with at least one of the three following BRCCH Research Areas (see below for details): i) Applied Health Care for Children; ii) Intelligent Systems for Medical Health Care Support; and iii) Translational Research from Cellular to Health Control.
- MIPs must provide a rationale for a path to translation that outlines the project's potential for translation and adoption to medical practice during the program's life time. In evaluating individual MIPs, special attention will be paid to the suitability for implementation in low- and middle-income countries.
- In general, MIPs need to be led by a team of an Investigator and at least one Co-Investigator from the group of the four partner institutions (ETH Zurich, University of Basel, UKBB, Swiss TPH). For organisational purposes, one of the institutions will serve as the leading house.
 - Investigators and Co-Investigators are expected to be integral and essential contributors to the MIP research efforts and therefore will benefit from the MIP-funding.
 - The main distinction between Investigator and Co-Investigator, is that the Investigator determines the leading house and is therefore expected to take the project lead (e.g. reporting requirements). A researcher may be on only one MIP application as an Investigator/Co-Investigator.
- Collaborators are expected to provide a scientific contribution. Researchers may be listed as a Collaborator on more than one MIP, as well as an Investigator/Co-Investigator on one MIP.

- MIPs can furthermore include Collaborators from other research organizations, including national and international institutions, hospitals or industrial partners. MIP funding can only be allocated directly to Investigators or Co-Investigators.

Eligibility

Investigators and Co-Investigators must be affiliated with either the University of Basel (including UKBB and Swiss TPH) or the ETH Zurich. Investigators and Co-Investigators must either be tenured or on a tenure-track during the entirety of the grant period or provide a letter from their respective host institution that confirms their employment during the entirety of the grant period and that guarantees access to the home institution's infrastructures and services as needed to conduct the approved research.

Research Areas for BRCCH's 2019 call

<p>Research Area 1</p>	<p>Applied Health Care for Children</p> <p>Research area 1 relates to projects that develop novel, child and adolescent-specific health-related software and hardware solutions for use by children, adolescents and/or health care providers, including devices, apps, instruments, etc. Projects in research in Area 1 may also relate to technologies that enable the evaluation of technologies for their practicality and safety in clinical settings/trials.</p>
<p>Research Area 2</p>	<p>Intelligent Systems for Medical Decision Support</p> <p>Research area 2 focuses on clinical decision support systems based on medical and health data. These will often involve the application of bioinformatics and machine learning for the following: (i) to gauge health risks, (ii) to deliver correct preventative measures, (iii) support appropriate clinical diagnoses, (iv) guide therapeutic intervention, (v) follow and anticipate public health challenges and/or (vi) predict specific outcomes in individuals and at population level.</p>
<p>Research Area 3</p>	<p>Translational Research from Cellular to Health Control</p> <p>Research area 3 focuses on translational research and the application of technologies enabling novel therapeutic interventions. This will combine innovation across several domains such as molecular and cellular engineering, biomedical engineering and drug delivery.</p>

Review Process

MIP-applications will undergo a three-step review process (in each of the stages the translational potential for low- and middle-income settings will be assessed):

(1) Experts in basic, clinical and translational research will provide a first review of applications assessing the relevance, impact and translational potential of the research proposals for child health and well-being.

(2) Selected MIPs will be extensively reviewed by technical experts in the application's chosen field of research and shortlisted on the merits of scientific excellence, novelty, vision and translation/translational potential.

(3) Successfully shortlisted applications will be invited to participate in a workshop to present the program's objectives, design, and translation. The BRCCH Project Evaluation Board will be present at the workshop.

Timeline

1. Submission of a complete MIP application (Deadline): **15 July 2019, 17.00 (CET)**
2. Invitation of shortlisted MIPs to be presented at BRCCH workshops: **23-25 October 2019**
3. Communication of grant support: **December 2019.**

Application Instructions

Please use our templates and submit a single PDF document to: contact@brch.org.

A full MIP application should have the following sections:

1. Cover page and table of contents
Editable templates can be found online (www.brch.org):
2. Scientific research plan including budget overview,
3. CVs of Investigator(s) and, if applicable, Collaborators,
4. Letter(s) of confirmation

Grants Clinic

An opportunity will be provided to discuss your questions related to any aspects of this first BRCCH call for MIPs including eligibility, scientific focus, budget, and resources. The "MIP Grants Clinic" will be held at Mattenstrasse 28, Basel, on 25 June between 14:00 to 17:00.

Contact

Please address your enquiries to contact@brcch.org or call us: 061 207 6200

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