

# **Fundings for clinical & translational research**

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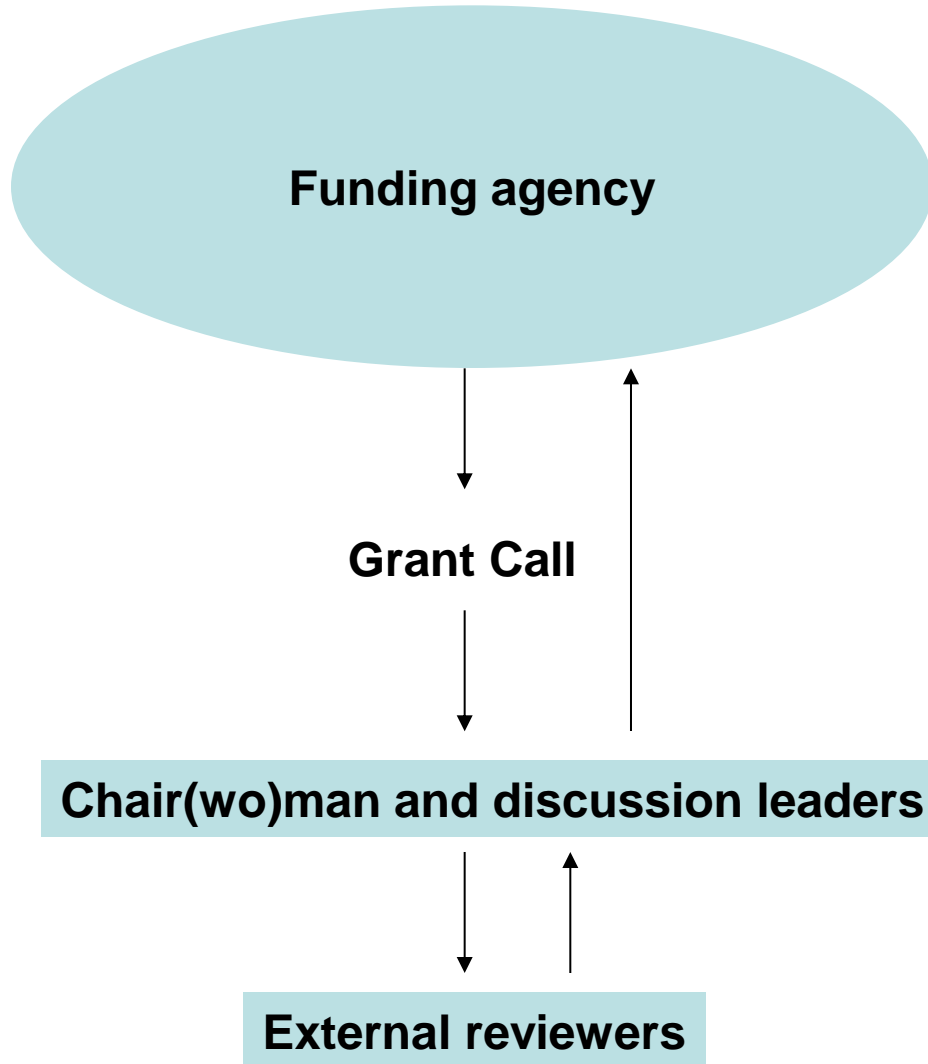
# Why to apply for grants ?

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- Money (but it's usually not a lot of money)
- CV (capacity to fundraise is a criteria to promote researchers in academic setting)
- To build teams and consortium for optimal project management
- To organize your ideas, report them on clear way and define an action plan
- To update yourself on literature and data
- = getting money is not the only objective when you write grants

# Funding agencies and review process

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# Pillars for grant acceptance

## (grant applications relates to preplanned research)

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- **Feasibility :**

the applicant MUST show the study is feasible.

This includes:

- letter from pharma when you use their drugs
- recruitment in previous trials by the cooperative group
- letter from the cooperative group you want to do the study with
- evidence that technologies are feasible in the lab

Example:

« I want to test in a randomized trial testing 800 patients that MED4736 improves outcome in patients with high mutation rates by whole exome »

Good idea, but feasibility is questionable:

Do you have the drug ? Are you capable of recruiting 800 patients ? Can the whole exome analyses be done in the consortium ? Etc etc...

# Pillars for grant acceptance

## (grant applications relates to preplanned research)

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- **Preliminary data:**
- The hypothesis must be robust and based on preliminary findings, preferably from your team (you never know the robustness of other's data and people don't like a lot when some get ideas from others)
- Grants fund preplanned research, not idea nor discovery

# Pillars for grant acceptance

## (grant applications relates to preplanned research)

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- Research need and potential impact:
- You have to show that a positive finding will have some measurable impact on public health or disease outcome
- Example:
  - Finding new SNP to predict breast cancer risk : which impact on public health ????
  - Finding new SNP to predict risk of LETHAL breast cancer: major impact
  - Which impact of finding a new drug for low risk breast cancer ?

# Pillars for grant acceptance

## (grant applications relates to preplanned research)

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- **Statistics & Methodology:**
- The study design must be based on statistical plan. Study power must be clearly stated
- Biomarker work must be predefined, including cut-off values
- Biomarker must have analytical validity and feasibility
- 30% of the notation in several grants
- There is almost always a statistical review of grant applications
- Name the statistician you are working with and who made the statistical assumptions

# Pillars for grant acceptance

## (grant applications relates to preplanned research)

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- **Quality of the applicant & institution:**
- French proverb: « banks invest only in rich people »
- If you think you don't have enough publications or leadership yet; do not hesitate to ask your senior colleague to lead it
- Add big names around you in the consortium
- Don't have ennemies
- Be careful with overlaps with other projects from the same team



# Pillars for grant acceptance

## (grant applications relates to preplanned research)

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- **Innovation:**
- Innovative idea without preliminary data to state the hypothesis is called a dream or a positive thought.
- The good balance between innovation and robustness of the hypothesis is sometimes hard to find
- What is important is more the impact of the research than its innovation

# Pillars for grant acceptance

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- **Other tips:**
- hypothesis must be clearly stated: you must state the hypothesis you want to validate in a dedicated chapter (« objective », « hypothesis »...).  
When the hypothesis is not clearly stated, the grant application is too difficult to read since the reviewer does not know which question the applicant wants to answer
- Coherence: for consortium; the project must adress a simple hypothesis.  
Clustering several small projects will not lead into a competitive application
- Budget:
  - Must be clearly justified, by experts in the field of research budget
  - Must be both ambitious and not exceed an upper limit
- Research and funding agencies keep records on your previous research projects: if you did not deliver ; unlikely to receive new fundings

# Conclusion: grant application

Hypothesis clearly stated

Feasibility shown

Preliminary data obtained

Research need and impact in the introduction and dedicated chapter

Statistics: mandatory

Easy to read: figures

Quality of the applicant & institution

Innovation: careful

Reasonnable but ambitious budget

Coherence: no grants for puzzle projects