

Call for proposals by PLN foundation and Netherlands Heart Institute

Help understanding the PLN disease

PLN Foundation and Netherlands Heart Institute in this call award the most promising idea(s) to understand the pathophysiological mechanism of the PLN p.Arg14del mutation.

Project type

Activities by PhD students / Post-Docs.
Duration 6 to 12 months; Budget max. 50.000 Euro
Start of the project: between Jan-March 2023.

Criteria

- The focus of your proposal should be on fundamental or translational research, preferably related to *one or more* of the formulated crazy idea questions in the call text (page 2).
- This call is open for applications that are novel (not part of already funded work) and can also include proof of concept studies with the potential for additional funding.
- Collaborations with existing initiatives are welcome.
- Proposals are preferred that are multi-centre and/or that have the potential of generating future funding, for example by generating pilot data and/or by initiating or strengthening collaborations.
- You are allowed to do (part of) the work in another lab or country than your own.

- The PLN Foundation can assist in providing cell materials and resources needed for the granted research proposal (upon request).

Proposal template

- Use the template on the following pages.
- Proposal template is *limited to 1-page*, including the project description, workplan, project budget, grant chart and expected output.
- Proposals should be written in understandable English as patients will participate in judging the proposed idea.
- Please add your CV.
- For the most promising proposals, applicants will be invited to pitch their project during an online meeting on Thursday October 13th between 13.00-14.00h CET.

Process and deadline

Before October 1st, a short proposal (max. 1 page) can be sent to the PLN Foundation. These ideas will be ranked by the boards of the PLN Foundation (patients) and Netherlands Heart Institute (scientists). The most innovative/ promising ideas will be selected, and applicants will be invited to pitch their project on October 13th (Online).

We expect the costs for salary and materials to exceed the amounts awarded in these grants. Therefore, your institution should commit scientifically and financially to your proposal. In case your project is granted, this commitment will be a condition before your project can start. A formal grant agreement will be signed between the PLN Foundation, Netherlands Heart Institute, and the Grantee (page 4) before the project will start.

Awards will be made public before January 1st 2023.

Deadline for proposals: October 1st, 2022, 10.00h CET

Proposals can be sent to marise@plnheart.org
For questions about this call, please contact: marise@plnheart.org

Call text: Crazy idea questions

1) Connection/ relation of PLN with the **metabolism**.

- a) Why is the cellular metabolism disturbed in PLN patients?
 - b) Which part of the disturbed metabolism is druggable in PLN patients?
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2) What does essentially cause the difference in **penetrance** of the PLN R14del mutation in patients? Thus, why do some patients develop severe cardiomyopathies while other PLNR14 carriers do not?

3) General question: Which **therapeutic approach** has in your opinion, the highest potential to cure PLN? In other words, which target should (hypothetically) ALL research focus on?

4) What causes the **arrhythmias** in PLNR14del carriers?

5) What causes **the loss of contractility** in PLN R14del cardiomyocytes?

PLN Foundation and Netherlands Heart Institute in this call award the most promising idea to understand the pathophysiological mechanism of the PLN p.Arg14del mutation.

PLN Foundation

PLN Foundation has been established to eliminate the life-threatening PLN heart disease p.Arg14del and is continually involved fundraising and scientific research projects. We have expanded our network in the past years with an (inter)national joint venture of innovative Dutch and worldwide Research Centers.

Our Foundation has been established by volunteers or people suffering from PLN, family members and their loved ones, and tries to inform PLN gene carriers as much as possible about the latest developments and PLN studies.

<https://www.plnheartdiseasefoundation.org/>

The Netherlands Heart Institute

The Netherlands Heart Institute fosters excellent cardiovascular research on national and international level. We conduct basic science as well as clinical research. We aim to promote cooperation between university medical centres in the Netherlands and between scientists and the private sector. The Netherlands Heart Institute encourages young, talented researchers and coaches them to the top. We are the platform for the next generation of excellent researchers. <https://www.heart-institute.nl/>

Grant application

Proposal template (max. 1 page, Verdana 10, single line spacing)

Describe your proposal including specific headers for at least the following subjects:

1. Title
2. Contact details (Your name, phone number and email address)
3. Starting date and project period (months):
4. Background/ rationale & hypothesis
5. Brief workplan, activities
6. Expected output, project budget

Template: Grant agreement

Parties:

- Stichting Genetische Hartspierziekte PLN, registered Chamber of Commerce number 55839002 ("PLN Foundation"), The Netherlands, duly represented by its chairman P.C. Glijnis.
- Netherlands Heart Institute, Moreelsepark 1, Utrecht ("NLHI"), The Netherlands, duly represented by its board, Prof. dr. J.W. Jukema
- [Receiver of the funding]. ("Grantee")

Whereas:

- The PLN Foundation's primary goal is to find a treatment for the disease caused by the r14del mutation in the PLN gene.
- This treatment should be available as soon as possible in a safe way and at a lowest cost possible.
- The PLN Foundation will fund the proposed project.
- The NLHI acts as project coordinating office on behalf of the PLN Foundation.
- The Grantee proposes to execute a project titled "[.....]" from [DD/MM/JJJJ] to [DD/MM/JJJJ] (proposal in addendum 1).
- The project is coordinated by [Name and position of the person in charge from the Grantee of the funding] "Project Leader".
- Grantee seeks financial support for the project.

Agree as follows:

1. The PLN Foundation will fund the project with EUR XXXX. The Grantee confirms that this sum is sufficient to complete this project.
2. The Grantee will provide a progress report every 3 months and sent this to the project officer of NLHI [email address].
3. The funding may only be used exclusively for the project and the costs must be justified.
4. The progress report will consist of the obtained data, progress (updated Gantt chart), finance.
5. The payment schedule is agreed on as stated below. The payments will be transferred to [bank details] with reference [project number].

Milestone	Payment
Upon execution of this agreement	EUR XXXX
Upon approval of midterm progress report by PLN foundation	EUR XXXX
Upon approval of final report by PLN foundation	EUR XXXX

6. Data will be made available to the PLN Foundation and its partners upon availability or request. For the avoidance of doubt: this means that unpublished data will be shared **on the basis of confidentiality** to enable researchers to move forward without delay.
7. Intellectual Property Rights "IPR" defined as patents, patent applications and other statutory rights in inventions, copyrights (including without limitation copyrights in software), registered design rights, applications for registered design rights, unregistered design rights and other statutory rights in designs and other similar or equivalent forms of statutory protection, wherever in the world arising or available but excluding rights in Confidential Information or trade secrets; IPR generated with the project will become equally shared property of the Grantee and the PLN Foundation.
8. The PLN Foundation and the companies instructed by the PLN Foundation will have a non-cancellable free unlimited license to use the IPR generated. This non-

cancellable free unlimited license is not limited in time and will therefore be perpetual.

9. The PLN Foundation and the companies instructed by the PLN Foundation will have the right to make unlimited use of the research results and IPR to make them available to third parties for commercial purposes with a social and scientific interest that belong to the focus areas of the PLN Foundation and the Netherlands Heart Institute.
10. The Grantee will have the first right to publish the data generated by the project.
11. In publications the NLHI and the PLN Foundation will be mentioned in the acknowledgements. When possible, accompanied by its logo's.
12. Publications will be sent to both the NLHI (info@heart-institute.nl) and the PLN Foundation (marise@plnheart.org).
13. The Dutch law will be applicable. Any dispute will be settled in a Dutch Court.

Signatures and dates

NLHI

PLN Foundation

Prof. dr. J.W. Jukema
Member of the board

P.C. Glijnis
Chairman PLN Foundation

Date: _____

Date: _____

Grantee

Project leader

[Name]
[Function]

[Name]
[Function]

Date: _____

Date: _____