



Medical Theme Centers - for cutting edge and breadth in healthcare and science

Announcement

The application period begins on 2 March 2009. Completed applications must have been received by our electronic application system no later than 1800 hrs on 8 May 2009.

The Karolinska Institutet (KI) and Stockholm County Council (SCC) Research Strategy Committee has adopted a roadmap to strengthen research and development within medical science “from molecule to mankind” and vice versa. One element of the roadmap is the establishment of translational research centers within a number of medical themes.

A theme can be based on a disease group or pathogenetic mechanism, or on a broad research methodology. The common competences among the researchers working within the theme shall cover both clinical activities and research as well as basic scientific research.

The vision is to create synergies between the various skills represented within the translational medical theme, providing opportunities to tackle complex medical questions in a new, vigorous and dynamic way focusing on patient benefit. A theme is hence expected to be of a much higher value to medical research and have much greater international impact than the sum of all the scientists' individual activities. The key words are: interaction, synergy, quality, creativity and innovation.

Since these themes are based on cutting edge and broad aspects of both healthcare and science, each theme will require strong leadership. In your application, it is therefore important to identify two leaders, a director and co-director, who have documented ability in the leadership of both people and scientific projects. The director and co-director must be prominent scientists of high international standing. It is a clear advantage if one of these individuals is clinically active and the other has his or her roots in basic research.

Key requirements of a medical theme center include compulsory seminars and journal club programs to guarantee interaction and knowledge acquisition within the theme-area, a vision of how postgraduate studies should be conducted, and a plan for how to support younger scientists within the center in their careers.

A theme should be sufficiently large to provide scope for synergy, but small enough to be managed efficiently. Innovation as regards the competences represented in the theme is an important strategy for achieving the overarching vision of the project. Our target is to have 5-15 scientists or research groups that are established within KI and SCC apply to set up a translational theme center, although we may deviate from this target.

In the application, it is particularly important to describe the center's vision holistically - from basic research to patient-oriented clinical research and the implementation of new knowledge into clinical practice. The constellation of scientists should be constituted in such a way as to guarantee excellence in all areas, as well as to ensure access to patient material.

KI/SCC intend to establish 5-10 centers starting on 1 January 2010. The financial support to a center can amount to SEK 10 million a year over a six-year period, evaluated after three years and again at the end of the period. The evaluation after three years will dictate whether further financing is made available. The funding comes from KI/SCC via the Research Strategy Committee and can be invested at a KI- or SCC-account.

When applying, it is only possible to be director/co-director for one center, although prospective directors/co-directors for one theme may be co-applicants (without a leadership position) for another theme. A scientist may, however, only be a co-applicant for a maximum of two centers.

The application period is from 2 March to 8 May 2009. The instructions on the application must be followed to the letter. It is very important that the financial plan for the center has been well-thought-through. A simple organogram of the center shall be included in the application.

Applications will be evaluated by a well-established assessment team with international participation. A final decision will be made by the Research Strategy Committee. The decision will be made known in November and funding will be accessible from 1 January 2010.

Instructions

Introduction

The online electronic application system has been designed and adapted to accept ALF project applications and will also be used for funding applications for Medical Theme Centers. Specific information has therefore been compiled on how to register applications and is described in the following table.

Applications shall be submitted electronically in English. The electronic application system can be accessed via the following website: www.forskningsstod.sll.se. The site also includes special technical instructions for the electronic application system.

The application consists of two parts:

- a registration form to be filled in online
- an application form which applicants orders via the registration form and fills in on their own computer. This is the only application form that will be used and the given headings must be followed.

The registration form

The registration form is to be used to register applications and assigns an application reference number to each application. It also inputs data on the various people included in the theme center to our database. Since the form is adapted and designed to accept ALF funding

applications, some words and details occur that are not relevant to Medical Theme Centers. This is explained in more detail below.

The following table contains important instructions on how the questions/information must be answered/filled in to ensure the registration form will be approved by our online electronic application system.

The registration form has been designed and adapted for ALF project funding applications. The table below contains instructions on how the form must be filled in for it to be correct and be accepted by the electronic application system.

On the registration form, the lead applicant shall name all the co-applicants in the theme center, along with each person's place of work, i.e. academic department, hospital, division, clinic, or equivalent.

Applicants shall also state on the registration form where the theme center will be based (its "base"). Please see the instructions below (Application details).

Important information prior to filling in the registration form

Page in the registration form	Sub-heading	Registration instructions
State type of application and title of the project	Title of the project:	Write the name of the theme here.
Register the lead applicant = the director of the Medical Theme Center	Place of work	If KI is the place of work: <u>Hospital/equivalent</u> : select KI <u>Division/equivalent</u> : select department <u>Clinic/equivalent</u> : select "Ej aktuell" All three fields MUST be filled in before the page is complete.
Status of application	The red boxes will turn into green ticks once each page is complete	
Application details	Project base	The unit/division that will deal with the financial side of the center. <u>Hospital/equivalent</u> : select "Medicinska Temacentrum" <u>Division/equivalent</u> : select "KI-konto" or "SLL-konto" <u>Clinic/equivalent</u> : select "Ej aktuell" All three fields MUST be filled in before the page is complete.
Application details	No other sources of finance	Do not apply to Medical Theme Centers. Click in the box in front of the text to save the information.

Application details	Clinical research time applied for	Do not apply to Medical Theme Centers. Enter a zero (0) in both boxes to save the information.
Application details	Approval	Do not apply to Medical Theme Centers. Click in the box before where it says: “It is certified that theinvolved....” to save the information.
Summary	Scientific summary	You must write a summary of the theme center’s vision and goals here. If the theme center is awarded funding, Stockholm County Council and Karolinska Institutet reserve the right to use the scientific summary for information purposes, e.g. in the form of a free text search.
Register co-applicants = co-director and research group leaders in the Medical Theme Center		See the instructions for the lead applicant.

Application form

The application is downloaded from within the registration form as a Word document. The completed application form shall then be converted into a PDF file and finally submitted via the electronic application system. The original file name shall remain unchanged on the submitted PDF file (see under Technical instructions for more information). The application form must be submitted electronically, i.e. NOT in paper form.

The application form has a number of specified headings to be used. The maximum number of characters or page space that may be used is given for each heading. The scientific reviewers will not read and assess text in excess of the specified volume.

Summary of the theme center’s vision and goals

Maximum space 1 A4 page.

Research plan

Maximum space 10 A4 pages.

Description of competences - director

Maximum space 2 A4 pages.

Description of competences – co-director

Maximum space 2 A4 pages.

Description of competences – research group leader

Maximum space 2 A4 pages.

Anticipated synergistic outcomes

Maximum space 1 A4 page.

Leadership and management

Maximum space 2 A4 pages.

A simple organogram should be added.

Plan for promotion of junior faculty

Maximum space 1 A4 page.

How does the center stimulate the development of a new generation of clinical scientists?

Financial plan

Maximum space 2 A4 page.

It is very important that the financial plan for the theme has been well thought through with the help of a professional financial advisor.

Director

Maximum space 4 A4 pages.

It is only possible to apply as the director or co-director of one center. An applicant director or co-director may however be a co-applicant without a leadership position in another theme. A scientist may, however, only be a co-applicant for a maximum of two centers.

Co-director

Maximum space 4 A4 pages.

It is only possible to apply as the director or co-director of one center. An applicant director or co-director may however be a co-applicant without a leadership position in another theme. A scientist may, however, only be a co-applicant for a maximum of two centers.

Research group leader/s

Maximum space 4 A4 pages.

A scientist may, however, only be a co-applicant for a maximum of two centers.

How applications will be handled**Assessment team**

Applications will be judged by an international assessment team, which will appoint an expert in the subject field for each application.

Assessment criteria and grades

- Scientific activity and quality
- Competences
- Creativity and innovation
- Added value
- Implementation in clinical praxis

Grading scale 0-7.

Handling process

A final decision will be taken by the Research Strategy Committee.

The decisions will be announced in November and funding will be available from 1 January 2010.

Applicants will be able to obtain information as to whether their applications have been approved or rejected via the website soon after the decision has been taken. All applicants will also receive confirmation of the decision with respect to their applications in writing.

Disqualification

When assessing the applications, guidelines on how to handle disqualification issues in accordance with regulations pursuant to the Swedish Local Government Act (1991:900) will be applied. These guidelines are accessible via the electronic application system's homepage www.forskningsstod.sll.se under Announcements, instructions, etc.