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Regulation for Research Grants

1. Purpose and scope
   1 The Swiss Heart Foundation supports research on cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases by granting financial contributions for research projects conducted in Switzerland.
   2 This regulation defines the procedure, the requirements and the extent of research promotion by the Swiss Heart Foundation.
   3 It applies to all grant applications for research projects in Switzerland submitted to the Swiss Heart Foundation.

2. Requirements

2.1 Formal requirements
   1 The application forms can be downloaded from www.swissheart.ch/researchgrant.
   2 The fully completed application forms need to be submitted electronically as a searchable pdf together with all requested documents and electronically signed by the first applicant and, if required, the legally responsible person.

2.2 Requirements for content
   1 The Swiss Heart Foundation supports research projects dealing exclusively with cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases.
   2 The Swiss Heart Foundation does not award scholarships.

2.3 Reasons for exclusion
   The Research Committee of the Swiss Heart Foundation may reject applications without explanation based on formal grounds or upon evaluation of the project.

3. Procedure

3.1 Deadlines
   1 Applications must be submitted no later than June 30th as defined by the date stamp of the e-mail to research@swissheart.ch.
   2 The Swiss Heart Foundation acknowledges receipt of the application by e-mail.
   3 The Research Committee evaluates the applications and takes its decision no later than November 30th the year of the call. If necessary, the Research Committee may involve external reviewers.

3.2 Preliminary evaluation
   1 The office of the Research Committee of the Swiss Heart Foundation evaluates the formal requirements of the applications. Applications not conforming to the Instructions for Applications or received after the deadline will be rejected.
   2 The office of the Research Committee forwards the valid applications to the members of the Research Committee for scientific evaluation.
3.3 Decision of the Research Committee

1. The Research Committee of the Swiss Heart Foundation examines the applications and takes its decision for financial support at its own discretion based on scientific merit. Project support is not automatically granted.

2. The Research Committee notifies the applicants in writing about its decision no later than December 31st of the current year.

3. In the case of a positive decision, the applicant will be informed in writing about the awarded amount and the duration of financial support and the payment conditions.

4. Successful applicants will receive an agreement to be legally countersigned and returned to the Swiss Heart Foundation, thereby declaring their consent to comply with the set rules.

5. The decisions of the Research Committee are final. The Swiss Heart Foundation does not engage in correspondence about their decisions and there is no option for appeal.

4. Financial contributions

4.1 Amount

1. The Research Committee decides on the amount of financial support.

2. As a rule, the Swiss Heart Foundation grants amounts not exceeding CHF 100'000 per project and year. The Research Committee may allow exceptions for multicentre projects.

3. The research grants are generally intended to cover one calendar year, and can, in justified cases and depending on the project, be extended to cover two calendar years.

4. If the project foresees the employment of staff, the personnel costs should be budgeted according to the guidelines of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF). None of the applicants can claim personnel costs for themselves.

5. Applicants may only submit one application per annum as main applicant.

4.2 Accountability

1. The Research Committee determines the conditions for the use of the grant, the reporting and the accountability in its decision letter.

2. The funding recipients must submit a written interim report once a year on the use of the financial support and the scientific progress. Within six months after the end of the funding period, the recipients must submit their final report together with the publications and the financial report. Forms can be downloaded from www.swissheart.ch/researchgrant.

3. The recipients are requested to mention the support of the Swiss Heart Foundation’s financial support in all publications related to the project and in internal reports with e.g. “This work was supported by a grant from the Swiss Heart Foundation.”

4.3 Use of equipment

After conclusion of the project all equipment acquired through the support of the Swiss Heart Foundation must stay in Switzerland and remain available to the research unit that submitted the project. In special cases, the Research Committee decides on the use of the equipment after having received the final report.
4.4 **Terms of payment**

1. The Research Committee specifies the terms of payment in its notification. The recipient must provide the name and institution of the account holder and relevant bank payment information.

2. The granted amount of money will be transferred to a research account at the academic institution of the first applicant in the following year and will expire on December 31st of the funding year. Different arrangements require the approval of the Swiss Heart Foundation.

5. **Closing provisions**

This regulation was approved by the Research Committee and the Board of the Foundation.

Bern, 22 March 2019

SWISS HEART FOUNDATION

Prof Dr Thomas F. Lüscher
Chairman of the Research Committee

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