

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

- The documents must be submitted by a member of the project management team.
- The applications should include also a letter of recommendation from the Institute/ Department Head.
- An application form can be downloaded from the GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG website: www.grstiftung.ch.
- The final date for submission is July 31, 2010.

PROJECT EVALUATION AND MONITORING

- The projects will be evaluated by the Advisory Board of the programme.
- The Foundation's decision will be communicated in early November.
- Managers of the successful projects will be invited to negotiate contracts with GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG, which will define the deliverables and reporting requirements.
- All copyrights, patent rights and rights of use remain with the project management.

ADVISORY BOARD

Prof. Dr. Rudolf Marty, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG; Prof. Dr. Susan Gasser, Member of the Board of Trustees; Prof. Dr. Josef Jiricny, University of Zurich; Prof. Dr. Denis Monard, Swiss Academy of Sciences; Prof. Dr. Marco Schapira, University of Lausanne; Prof. Dr. Jürg Schifferli, Member of the Board of Trustees; Prof. Dr. Mehdi Tafti, University of Lausanne

INFORMATION

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RARE DISEASES – NEW APPROACHES

IMPETUS FOR SWISS RESEARCH INTO RARE DISEASES

With CHF 2 million p.a. the programme promotes applied research aimed at developing and implementing innovative approaches or technologies. Target: diagnosis and treatment of rare diseases. The call is open to researchers at Swiss universities, university hospitals, federal institutes of technology, universities of applied sciences and to research institutions affiliated with Swiss universities.

Application deadline: July 31, 2010.

www.grstiftung.ch



PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

The current initiative of GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG aims to improve the diagnosis and treatment of rare genetic diseases. The knowledge gained should lead to a better understanding of the genetic, molecular and biochemical processes underlying these diseases and pave the way towards new diagnostics and new forms of treatment.

The call is aimed at researchers developing and implementing innovative approaches or technologies to address currently unresolved questions. A further aim of the programme is to improve the transfer of basic research findings into clinical practice.

The focus must be on innovation, feasibility and effectiveness, while attaining high scientific and technological standards.

SUPPORT CRITERIA

- The grants will be awarded to projects that develop and/or implement novel approaches or technologies for the diagnosis, characterisation and/or treatment of rare genetic diseases.
- To qualify for support, the project must be rooted primarily at a Swiss university, university hospital, federal institute of technology or at a university of applied sciences.
- Support is not restricted to research groups already working in this area, new groups may also be eligible.
- The programme will finance the costs of salaries, consumables and equipment; infrastructure costs must be covered by the host institution.
- Preference will be given to independent projects with a maximum budget of CHF 500'000 for a period not exceeding three years.
- The project may be concurrently supported from other sources (Swiss Confederation, cantons, foundations, industry), however, the programme is not going to support gap financing.
- Projects must comply with the regulations commonly in force in the research sector and have the necessary authorizations.

MAKING SCIENCE EFFECTIVE

GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG aims to help applied scientific projects with major potential to achieve a breakthrough. Our funding strategy is based on the definition of time-limited areas of activity and clear selection criteria.

Present areas of activity: Science and Entrepreneurship, permanent grant offer 'venture kick'; Innovation in Swiss universities of applied sciences, annual grant offer 'Model Projects'; Eastern Europe, Programme 'Academic Swiss Caucasus Net'; innovative and original pilot projects.

The programme RARE DISEASES – NEW APPROACHES has been established as a five-year area of activity with resources of CHF 2 million p.a.

RESULTS OF CALL 2009: 5 OUT OF 58

Towards Preventing Nodule Formation in Hyaline Fibromatosis Patients, Prof. Dr. Gisou van der Goot, EPFL, CHF 450'000

Genetic Screening for Disease-Causing Mutations in Familial Polycythemia Using Next Generation DNA Sequencing, Prof. Dr. Radek Skoda, Uni Basel, CHF 300'000

Gene Hunting for Recessive Hereditary Peripheral Neuropathies by Recent and Highly-Parallel Technologies, Dr. Carlo Rivolta, Uni Lausanne, CHF 440'000

Hereditary Sensory Neuropathy Type 1 – Pathomechanism and Therapie, Dr. Thorsten Hornemann, Uni Zürich, CHF 340'000

Identification of New Factors Implicated in Genetic Gonadal Disorders, Dr. Serge Nef, Uni Geneva CHF 450'000