



Der Wissenschaftsfonds.

Haus der Forschung

1090 Wien, Sensengasse 1
T: +43/1/505 67 40 F: +43/1/505 67 39
office@fwf.ac.at / <http://www.fwf.ac.at>

“Clinical studies” in the frame of stand-alone projects

FWF is Austria’s most important institution for supporting basic scientific research in Austria. It provides funding for projects in all branches of science, provided that they are directed at furthering science in Austria as opposed to being designed for financial gain (see the introduction to the FWF’s “Rules of Procedure”). Clinical research naturally falls within the FWF’s scope. According to the understanding of the FWF, these are studies with the aim of gaining fundamental insights into therapeutic measures. Such studies are hypothesis-driven and based on preliminary data from preclinical or clinical research.

Due to budgetary reasons the FWF is unable to support large-scale (e.g. multi-centre) and extremely expensive tests of diagnostic or therapeutic procedures. Nevertheless, highly promising, clearly defined and hypothesis-driven studies to provide fundamental knowledge of mechanisms of disease and influences upon them can clearly be considered for funding. However, such clinical studies must meet the scientific requirements placed on all other projects the FWF supports. This means in particular that:

Innovation

A study in the frame of the stand-alone projects must break new ground scientifically and make a significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the relevant scientific discipline.

Hypothesis-driven

The study must be based on a clearly formulated hypothesis, which may be verified or falsified by the planned experiments.

Plausibility

There must be adequate preliminary data to make the planned studies seem justified, both medically and scientifically. (“Fishing expeditions” will not be supported.)

Good clinical practice (GCP)

The study report and the study’s performance must be in accordance with the current versions of the regulations governing GCP in the EU and in Austria. Special emphasis should be given to work- and time planning, including biostatistics and dissemination strategies (IPR, publication and communication strategies).

Remark

In the context of non-commercial, patient-oriented clinical research involving humans, the FWF will launch two special calls in the years 2011/12 and 2012/13 (see also <http://www.fwf.ac.at/en/projects/clinical-research-call.html>)