

The EU Joint Programme – Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND) will shortly launch a **multinational rapid-action call for expert Working Groups addressing the impact of COVID-19 on Neurodegenerative Diseases research.**

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on almost all aspects of our life and will most likely result in major long-lasting changes in the future. These changes include how research on neurodegenerative disease is conducted during and after the pandemic. Patients suffering from neurodegenerative disease are among the most vulnerable to COVID-19 infections and the measures of social distancing and quarantine. Further it is unknown how COVID-19 infections and its long-term effects might influence the later development and progression of neurodegenerative diseases. On the other hand, the COVID19 pandemic may offer a unique opportunity to better understand important aspects of neurodegenerative diseases and accelerate innovations that can be beneficial for research and the care of patients suffering from neurodegenerative diseases.

To address this challenge, **JPND will launch a call for leading scientists in the field to establish community-led Working Groups** dedicated to discuss research strategies that concern the impact of COVID-19 on the development and progression of neurodegenerative disease as well as on the care of patients suffering from neurodegenerative diseases. These strategies can also consider the impact of COVID-19 on neurodegenerative disease research itself, how it is conducted and how it influenced technological innovations for neurodegenerative diseases.

This call will not fund direct research activities. Instead, Working Groups will be funded for up to 9 months with 50.000€ each to cover their expenses (e.g. meetings and travel costs). **They must provide outputs of value to the broader research community, e.g. best-practice guidelines, methodological frameworks or foresight publications.** International composition of the Working Groups should be envisaged. However, the coordinator of a Working Group must be from an institution being eligible for one of the funding organisations intending to support this call:

- **Belgium, The Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO) *provisional***
- **Bulgaria, Medical University, Department of Neurology**
- **Canada, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) *provisional***
- **France, French National Research Agency (ANR)**
- **Germany, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)**
- **Italy, Ministry of Health (IT-MOH)**
- **Luxembourg, National Research Fund (FNR)**
- **Norway, The Research Council of Norway (RCN)**
- **The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw)**
- **Portugal, Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) *provisional***
- **Spain, National Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII)**
- **Sweden, Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE)**
- **Medical Research Council (MRC), part of UK Research and Innovation**

This will be a one-step call, expected to launch in November 2021, with a likely submission deadline at mid of December 2021. Further details will be provided with the launch of the call.

Please Note:

All information regarding future JPND call topics is subject to change.

Final call information will be published on the JPND website (www.jpnd.eu).