



**TROMSØ
FORSKNINGSSTIFTELSE**

Call for Nominations –

BFS and TFS research programme in nuclear medicine / PET

This programme is open for the universities and university hospitals in Tromsø, Trondheim and Bergen.

Purpose: The programme aims to strengthen research in nuclear medicine connected to the use of the nuclear medicine equipment¹ donated by Trond Mohn, BFS and TFS to the universities and university hospitals in Tromsø, Trondheim and Bergen.

Method: Call for proposals for three collaborative research projects – one per location. Each project should include scientific cooperation with the two other locations, and be organized as a consortium.

In addition to the project funding, TFS/BFS will set aside separate BFS/TFS-funding for network activities including Scientific Advisory Board (s) for the programme to enhance cooperation further. This will be announced separately.

The call: BFS and TFS jointly calls for three **collaborative** research projects², each project targeting **one** of the following themes previously identified in dialogue with the institutions and relevant to the equipment donated by Trond Mohn, BFS and TFS:

Theme 1. PET Radiopharmaceuticals

Coordinated from Bergen

Theme 2. Clinical studies

Coordinated from Trondheim

Theme 3. Preclinical studies

Coordinated from Tromsø

For all themes, exploiting the opportunities opened by the donated equipment for performing high quality research relevant to patients is key.

BFS/TFS now calls for nomination of one proposal per theme with start-up in January 2019

Application deadline: 6 April 2018 at 12.00 (noon)

¹ PET/cyclotron

² Each project should rely on the competence and efforts of all consortium members

Appendix 1 – About the programme

BFS and TFS Programme in nuclear medicine / PET

Trond Mohn, BFS and TFS have for a number of years contributed substantially to the field of nuclear medicine at universities and university hospitals in Tromsø, Trondheim and Bergen. To enhance and strengthen the impact of the nuclear medicine equipment and competence already in place, BFS and TFS wishes to support new research projects in this field in cooperation with the relevant institutions in Tromsø, Trondheim and Bergen.

A) About this call for project proposals

In collaboration with the institutions, BFS and TFS have identified three main themes relevant to the programme. The themes have their gravity towards the three locations in the following manner:

Bergen:	PET Radiopharmaceuticals
Trondheim:	Clinical studies
Tromsø:	Preclinical studies

The programme will focus on these three scientific scopes, aiming to strengthen research quality and efforts on all three locations with clear benefits for patients. Other key aspects in the programme will be high scientific quality, national and international cooperation, use of the nuclear medicine equipment, plans for a lasting effect of the project/value beyond the project period and attracting international funding. For assessment criteria, see appendix 4.

The university and university hospital in each location are asked to put forward one joint proposal. Either the university or the university hospital must host the project. Each project should include scientific cooperation with the two other locations, and be organized as a consortium.

In addition to its main research activities, each project may encompass activities aimed at recruitment, career development and mobility of researchers.

B) Steering group and network activities

In addition to this call, BFS has set aside separate funding for programme coordinating activities, including the establishment of a Scientific Advisory Board, as follows: 1 MNOK per year in the first 3 year period and thereafter, dependent upon the mid-term-evaluation, additional funding for 2 years. This part of the programme will be announced separately and is expected to enhance research cooperation. A steering group will be established.

Appendix 2 – Funding and grant agreement

Successful applicants may receive a maximum of 5 MNOK a year for a 3-5-year period, where the last two years are dependent upon the mid-term-evaluation results– see below.

The purpose of this call is to support research activities utilising the opportunities provided by the donated nuclear medicine equipment. Funding for additional nuclear medicine equipment is thus not included in this programme. However, minor purchases of research equipment, necessary for the proposed research activities, may be included. The overall budget of each project should in any case allow for the critical mass/level of research activity necessary to push the research field a significant step forward.

BFS / TFS funding will be a contribution towards the realization of goals set by the research institutions. Resources from the consortium members should match BFS / TFS contribution at about the same level.

In the event a grant application is successful, the foundation and the host institution will enter into a project grant agreement in which their respective responsibilities will be detailed in full. In addition, the consortium members will enter into a consortium agreement, setting the framework for a successful project implementation, before the project grant agreement is finalised.

There will be an evaluation before the end of the third year of the initial project period, in which results in relation to achieved goals and academic production, including joint authorship, will be evaluated. The importance of the achieved results in relation to the future design of health promoting measures and treatment of patients will also be assessed. A positive evaluation may make extended BFS / TFS support possible - depending on the outcome of the evaluation and the foundations' decisions.

Successful projects are expected to pursue additional competitive national and international funding opportunities (e.g. EU funding), during the project period.

Appendix 3 – How to apply

Applications must contain the following:

- A research plan (template to be provided)
- A budget sheet (template to be provided)

In addition, commitment letters from the host institution and consortium members describing the nature and level of their contributions to the project is required. In cases where institutions other than the consortium members will contribute with resources to the project, a letter signed at the appropriate level of the contributing institution should be included. The letter should describe the nature of the resources to be committed and confirm institutional support of the proposal and its budget.

Proposal language: English.

Please send applications including enclosures as one (1) PDF file to *grants@bfstiftelse.no* and *post@tfstiftelse.no*.

By 6 April 2018 at 12:00 (noon).

Receipt of submitted applications will be confirmed by email.

Contact information: Oddveig Åsheim: phone +47 41 66 31 64, oa[at]bfstiftelse.no
Unn Sørum: Phone +47 91633850, unn[at]tfstiftelse.no

Appendix 4 - The evaluation process

BFS' scientific Advisory Committee will appoint a panel of internationally recognised experts to evaluate the proposals and make recommendations for funding to the foundations. In addition to the proposals, the expert panel will have access to the call text including the evaluation criteria as detailed in the below table. Please note that only documents especially requested in this Call (see appendix 3) will be made available to the expert panel.

Each proposal will be assessed on its own merit. The participating research groups' academic competence, their complementary contributions to the collaboration plus an evaluation of the academic quality and feasibility will form the basis for the expert evaluation. The evaluation shall focus on

- Scientific quality
- The potential benefits for patients.
- The extent to which the proposed project exploits the research opportunities provided by the existing nuclear medicine equipment / research infrastructure

The basic reference for the evaluation is as follows:

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	Description
SIGNIFICANCE	How may the proposed research activities contribute to translational medical research? Is there an identifiable potential to make a difference (impact on knowledge – and /or clinical practice)?
FEASIBILITY	The extent to which the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses are appropriate for the aims of the proposed research
ENVIRONMENT AND CONSORTIUM	The extent to which the available resources, the institutional commitments, and any other unique features, will contribute towards the success of the proposed research. The quality of the consortium as a whole (incl. complementarity / balance).
INVESTIGATORS	The extent to which the Investigators' experience, track record, training, preliminary data/past progress will contribute towards the success of the project
SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP	The extent to which the need for strategic leadership is adequately addressed
INNOVATION AND TRANSLATION:	The suitability of the described approach towards translation and innovation.
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	The extent and quality of the international cooperation activities set out for the project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International networks. • International mobility
NATIONAL COOPERATION	The extent to which the project will make use of national research expertise and help to promote national network building.
VALUE ADDED BY THE PROJECT	How the proposed project may contribute to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced research competence and capability • Exploit the research opportunities provided by the existing nuclear medicine equipment / research infrastructure • Improved diagnostics and clinical practices • A long-term positive impact on the research milieu • Academic training
DISSEMINATION AND COMMUNICATION OF RESULTS	Plans for scholarly publication, dissemination and other communication activities. Plans for dissemination and communication activities vis-à-vis the public as well as end-users.

BFS's and TFS's boards intend to make their decisions based on the evaluation reports and recommendations from BFS' and TFS' scientific boards, respectively, in autumn 2018.