

Tanoto Foundation Medical Research Fund

Guidelines

Background

Tanoto Foundation supports medical research with the aim of improving population health in Singapore and beyond. We believe that the goal of improving quality of healthcare and health standards can be achieved through partnerships with leading healthcare and research institutions in Singapore.

Through the Tanoto Foundation Medical Research Fund (MRF), the foundation aims to support research excellence and collaborative efforts to generate new knowledge and innovations that will help address prevalent diseases in Singapore and the wider region, such as diabetes, cardiology, oncology, infectious diseases and maternal and child health. In position as the first private philanthropic foundation to launch such a fund, Tanoto Foundation seeks to foster a culture of sustainable giving that amplifies the long-term impact of philanthropic-funded research.

The MRF's main objectives are to support effective research (new discoveries), catalyse additional funding and cultivate local research talent in Singapore. Ultimately, the research outcomes should be made accessible and beneficial for the public good.

Research Scope

For the 2024 call for proposals, proposed studies may cover basic, translational, clinical or population health research and should aim for outcomes that have the potential to advance the prevention, management, diagnosis or treatment of the following **two focus areas** prevalent in Asia:

- Diabetes
- Oncology

Basic science research proposals need not contain a translational part, but the pathway leading to potential translational work or beneficial impacts for healthcare should be clearly outlined.

Funding

The MRF will grant **up to S\$5 million per cycle**.

- The proposed project should have a duration of 3 years.
- The proposed budget should have a minimum project size of S\$1 million.
- The MRF will only cover direct costs (Manpower, Equipment, Other Operating Expenses).
- The MRF does not include indirect costs or salary for Principal Investigators or Co-Investigators.
- Funding will be disbursed to the Host Institution equally over 3 years. Graduated distribution will be approved on a case-by-case basis.

Evaluation Process and Criteria

Applications will be evaluated in two stages by an Advisory Panel, which comprises esteemed scientists and clinicians, and subsequently recommended to Tanoto Foundation Board for approval.

First Stage: Letter of Intent (LOI) evaluation

LOIs will be evaluated based on the significance and relevance of the research to MRF's main objectives which are to support effective research (new discoveries), catalyse additional funding and cultivate local research talent in Singapore. Ultimately, the research outcomes should be made accessible and beneficial for the public good.

Second Stage: Full Proposal evaluation

Full proposals will be evaluated based on four general criteria:

Potential for impact – potential for translation and innovation to advance clinical practices and technical capabilities to improve health outcomes in Singapore.

Robustness of approach – relevance and robustness of strategy, methodology and analyses to accomplish project aims and impact outcomes.

Profile and track record of study team – the excellence and accomplishments of the study team and potential/plan for talent development, PI and Co-PI involvements and contributions to the study.

Strength of collaboration – the collaborative effort of multi-disciplinary teams, ideally involving cross collaboration across Singapore healthcare clusters.

Submission Instructions

Applicants are to submit the following required items in a single PDF via the Host Institution's development/research office to TF_Singapore@tanoto-foundation.org by **18 October 2024, 4pm**:

1. **Cover Page Form:** Download and complete "[TF MRF – LOI Cover Page 2024.docx](#)".
2. **Letter of Intent (LOI):** A one page LOI (1000 word limit) outlining the proposed research:
 - a) Background, significance and scale of the healthcare / medical issue
 - b) Project's aims and how its objectives address the issue
 - c) Brief outline of the research methodology
 - d) Research outcomes and its impact and significance on the Singapore medical, healthcare or population health landscape.
3. **Infographic:** A one page visual / graphics overview of the issue, proposed research study and its intended outcomes.
4. **References** [Optional]: References, if any, can be added as an annex, limit to one page.

After the first stage of evaluation, shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a Full Proposal.

Any submissions exceeding their respective word count or page limits will not be considered for evaluation.

Institutional signed endorsement is not required for the LOI stage but will be required for the Full Proposal stage.

Timeline

Call for LOI: 09 September 2024

LOI deadline: 18 October 2024

Invite for Full Proposals: December 2024

Full Proposal deadline: January 2025

Announcement of results: April to May 2025

Eligibility Criteria

- All investigators are eligible to apply, except for existing MRF recipients.
- Principal Investigators may submit only one application.
- Principal Investigators may be Co-Investigators in other applications.
- A single Host Institution must be appointed from the study team.
- Host Institution must be a Singapore public healthcare or research institution.

Reporting and Contractual Requirements

Please refer to the Term Sheet (Annex A) for a summary of the key terms and conditions governing the MRF.

Enquiries

For enquiries on application process or necessary documents, please email TF_Singapore@tanoto-foundation.org.

Annex A

Tanoto Foundation Medical Research Fund

Term Sheet

1.	Main objectives	<p>The three main objectives of the Medical Research Fund (“MRF”) are to:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. support effective research (new discoveries);2. catalyse additional funding; and3. cultivate local research talent.
2.	Responsibilities of the Host Institution	<p>The Host Institution shall be responsible for the:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. administration and coordination of the Project (<i>definition of Project as set out in the research proposal submitted to Tanoto Foundation which will be annexed to the grant agreement</i>), which also includes the administration and coordination of:-<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. any external institutions the Host Institution chooses to collaborate with on the Project (“Collaborators”); andb. the principal investigator, co-investigators, and other team members (together, the “Study Team”),2. use of the Grant (<i>definition of Grant to be specified in the grant agreement based on the grant quantum awarded</i>);3. communication and reporting requirements with Tanoto Foundation; and4. achievement of milestones set out in the programme for the Project as submitted to Tanoto Foundation, subject to any modifications approved by Tanoto Foundation under Section 5 (“Milestones”). <p>All regulatory and ethics approvals necessary for the Project (if any) will be obtained by the Host Institution and/or the Study Team before commencing the Project.</p>
3.	Project duration	<p>Unless otherwise agreed between the Host Institution and Tanoto Foundation, the Project should not exceed 3 years (“Project Duration”).</p>
4.	Grant disbursement	<p>The Grant will only be disbursed to the Host Institution.</p> <p>The Grant will be allocated and disbursed in accordance within its proposed budget and the provisions of the grant agreement. Unless otherwise agreed, the Grant will be disbursed equally each year over the Project Duration, provided that by each Grant disbursement date, the Project</p>

		<p>has achieved its relevant Milestones. The Host Institution and Tanoto Foundation shall discuss in good faith any delays or modifications to the Milestones, Project and/or disbursement schedule for the Grant. If the Project has failed to achieve its relevant Milestones, Tanoto Foundation shall have the discretion (acting reasonably) to decide whether to disburse subsequent instalments of the Grant.</p> <p>In no event will Tanoto Foundation be obliged to provide any funding that exceeds the proposed budget of the Grant.</p>
5.	Modification to Project or use of Grant	<p>The Grant shall be used for the Project only and not for any other purpose.</p> <p>If, for any reason, the Project has to be modified or delayed and/or the Grant has to be re-allocated for any purposes other than as specified in the grant agreement, the Host Institution shall consult with and obtain the consent of Tanoto Foundation prior to undertaking any such proposed changes, modifications, delays or re-allocations.</p>
6.	Meeting and reporting requirements	<p>During the Project Duration, Host Institution shall organise 2 meetings every year to report on the progress of the Project (“Progress Report Meeting”), which comprise of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One meeting with the Tanoto Foundation Grant Manager; and 2. One meeting with the Tanoto Foundation MRF Advisory Panel. <p>The Progress Report Meetings should provide current updates to the utilisation of the Grant and progress of the Project, and should ideally be held every six months, alternating between the Tanoto Foundation Grant Manager and the Tanoto Foundation Grant MRF Advisory Panel.</p> <p>At the end of the Project Duration (“Project End Date”), the Host Institution shall submit a written report to the Tanoto Foundation Grant Manager within two months from the Project End Date (“Final Report”). This Final Report should provide a comprehensive report for the entire Project and include any significant research outcomes or achievements from the Project in line with the three MRF main objectives.</p>
7.	Intellectual property and commercialisation	<p>All intellectual property generated by the Host Institution and/or its Collaborators in relation to or arising out of the Project (“Foreground IP”) shall vest in and be owned by the Host Institution and/or its Collaborators in such proportions as they may determine.</p>

		<p>The Host Institution shall disclose Foreground IP to Tanoto Foundation as and when the Foreground IP is generated.</p> <p>To support the collaborative nature of the research and amplify the long-term impact of such philanthropic funded research, Tanoto Foundation promotes the philosophy of paying it forward. In the spirit of paying it forward and fostering a culture of sustainable giving, Tanoto Foundation strongly encourages the Host Institution and its Collaborators, on a best efforts basis, to allocate a reasonable proportion of the revenue resulting from commercialisation of such Foreground IP (if any) be directed back towards research or needy patient funds in the same disease focus area that the Grant initially funded.</p>
8.	Donor acknowledgement	<p>Tanoto Foundation's contribution will be acknowledged in any public material or speaking engagement about the Project and/or any media publicity initiatives carried out by the Host Institution and its Collaborators arising out of the Project.</p> <p>Neither Tanoto Foundation nor the Host Institution (each a "Party") shall make any press release or public announcement in relation to the Grant without the prior written approval of the other Party.</p> <p>Neither Party shall for any purpose mention, co-brand or use the name or logo of the other Party, whether for advertisement or other form of publicity, without promptly consulting and having obtained the prior written consent of the other Party.</p>