

## MS Society Research Grants Selection Process

The Swiss MS Society supports MS research in Switzerland with considerable financial resources. The Scientific Grant Committee (SGC) is an independent, neutral body. It reviews incoming project applications together with external experts and makes a funding recommendation to the Board of the MS Society. This ensures independent and transparent funding of Swiss research projects.

Funding awarded by the Swiss Multiple Sclerosis Society is aimed at supporting projects of fundamental or clinical research in relation to multiple sclerosis. Information and guidelines for the submission of projects are available on the MS Society website (see [www.multiplesklerose.ch](http://www.multiplesklerose.ch): «[Grant Applications](#)»).

Applications must follow the «MS Society Research Grants - Guidelines» and include all the information requested in these guidelines.

### Reviewer

For each grant application, the Scientific Grant Committee designates experts in the field as reviewers. Each application will be sent to 2 external reviewers.

The reviewers will evaluate the innovative character of the project, its feasibility, its scientific value, its pertinence in the field of MS research, the quality of the applicant team. Above all, grant applications need to demonstrate tangible potential benefits for those living with MS.

If projects are issued from the same Swiss centre as any of the Scientific Grant Committee members, the latter will neither participate to the choice of external reviewers nor evaluate these projects.

### Scores

The reviewers give a score between 3 and 6 by half-scores (3, not eligible; 4, only eligible with considerable cutbacks; 5, eligible with minor cutbacks; 6, eligible with top priority), taking into account the following issues: specific relevance for MS; originality; pertinence and relevance of the methodology; progress report and/or preliminary data; feasibility; qualification/experience in research of the project coordinator(s); qualification/experience in research of the fellowship's candidate; global appreciation.

## **Evaluation Meeting**

The Scientific Grant Committee members meet for a face-to-face / online final evaluation of the grant applications. The analyses of the two external experts are communicated before the meeting to the Scientific Grant Committee members. During the face-to-face / online meeting, all applications are discussed, keeping a «blind process» for the Scientific Grant Committee members that may have conflict of interest for some of the submitted projects.

Budgets cannot exceed a maximal sum of 200'000 Swiss francs per 2-year funding period, and will be corrected if necessary in the global calculation. The calculation is based on the total budget available, which is determined by the MS Society Board.

## **MS Society Board decision**

A final proposal is submitted by the Scientific Grant Committee to the MS Society Board, which takes the final funding decision. If the MS Society validates the Scientific Grant Committee's grant allocation proposal, applicants will be informed about this decision, and receive the anonymised comments of the external reviewers.

May 2021