Swiss MS Society Research Grants Guidelines

1. Aims

1.1. In accordance with its statutes, the Swiss Multiple Sclerosis Society supports research in the field of MS in order to improve understanding of the causes and development of the disease, to further develop treatment options, and to alleviate the effects of the disease on patients and their families.

1.2. Eligible for grants are projects involving the following domains: basic and clinical sciences, MS diagnosis and treatment, psychology, sociology, nursing and rehabilitation medicine. All projects have to be directly or indirectly related to MS.

1.3. The intention of the research grants is double: to increase the interest of young researchers in MS-specific issues and to help filling stopgaps in financing research projects. This support cannot replace support from other government institutions or private foundations. Applicants have to be established in Switzerland as principal investigator. Exceptions may concern post-doctoral fellows from Swiss-established laboratories who plan to come back to Switzerland after gaining experience in a foreign country.

1.4. Typical examples are:

a) New researchers and research projects that have not yet reached the threshold for support by the Swiss National Science Foundation or similar institutions (kick-start financing).

b) Research projects which are supported but where additional financing could make a significant contribution to success (additional financing).

c) Young researchers wishing to gain experience in a research group in Switzerland or abroad, who will return to Switzerland with benefits for further research.

2. Application procedure

Applications must be submitted by email to the Administration of the Scientific Advisory Board.

2.1. Yearly deadline: April 1st

2.2. Estimated beginning of funding: September 1st

   Funded timeframe: 1 year (with possibility of extension by reapplication the following year)

2.3. Maximal amount that may be considered per project: CHF 100’000
3. **Contents of the application**

Applications must be submitted electronically in English using the application form on www.multiplesklerose.ch («Über MS → Aus der Forschung → Forschungsanträge»).

3.1. **General information**

Please fill in all required information on the cover page of the application form.

3.2. **Scientific part**

The scientific part should not exceed 10 pages. Please follow the structure indicated below:

- Summary, including project title (1 page)
- Background (2 pages)
- Rationale and specific aims (1 page)
- Experimental plans including own previous results and methodology (3 pages)
- Significance for MS (1 page)
- References (1 page)
- Budget with budget justification (1 page)

3.3. **Enclosures**

Please add the following documents to your application:

- Lay summary in German, French or Italian intended for the Board of the MS Society and the lay public – if the project is funded this will be published in the media of the MS Society (please use the template on www.multiplesklerose.ch)
- Curriculum vitae & list of publications of the principal investigator
- If the principal investigator is part of a research group: a letter of the supervisor to confirm full support to the PI to have his/her own research group in the future.
- Ethics approvals or animal experimentation permits, if applicable
- Additional documents, if applicable
4. **Evaluation**

Each application is evaluated by elected members of the Scientific Advisory Board of the MS Society and by three international experts (one from Switzerland, two from abroad). Based on these evaluations, the Committee submits a proposal to the Board of the MS Society which makes the final decision.

5. **Payment**

75% of the grant will be issued immediately. The remaining 25% will be issued after reporting has been completed. For both payments the MS Society needs an invoice by your institution.

6. **Reporting**

By November 1st of the year after the funding the following must be submitted to the Administration of the Scientific Advisory Board:

6.1. Scientific report, including intermediate results or the conclusion of the project (5 to 10 pages).

6.2. Lay summary of the (intermediate) results, complete with the email address of the PI and reference list, for publication in the media of the MS Society. Attractive lay summaries are essential to communicate to the public the outcome of the funded projects and to emphasize the importance of MS research. Please use the form on www.multiplesklerose.ch

6.3. Detailed financial report on how the grant was used (approved by the responsible administration of the PI’s institution).

7. **Open Access**

The MS Society follows the guidelines on open access publications for results obtained with a research grant from the MS Society according to the regulations of the Swiss National Science Foundation: www.snf.ch/en/theSNSF/research-policies/open-access

8. **Swiss MS Researcher Meeting**

8.1. Research groups granted by the MS Society must present relevant results in short oral presentations or posters at the Swiss MS Researcher Meeting. This annual meeting gives MS researchers the opportunity to gain an overview of the activities of MS research in Switzerland, and aims to create more interactions and collaborations between MS researchers.

8.2. Summaries of the presentations of the MS Researcher Meeting must be submitted to the Administration of the Scientific Advisory Board in electronic form for use in the media of the MS Society.
9. Mention of the MS Society

The Swiss Multiple Sclerosis Society must be mentioned in all publications and presentations related to the granted research project.

10. Contact

For applications, reports, and general information:

Swiss MS Society
Administration of the Scientific Advisory Board
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For scientific issues:

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These Guidelines are also available on www.multiplesklerose.ch
February 2017