PhD Call 2017

The strategic research area for cancer at Lund University (LU) hereby announces a call for funding 50% PhD student salary costs for two years (2018-2019) with focus on **translational cancer research**. Two to 4 grants can be awarded.

**Purpose**
The strategic aims of this call are to:
(1) Support PhD thesis projects that truly bridge preclinical and clinical disciplines in the cancer field
(2) Promote the recruitment of excellent students graduated from other universities to LU’s cancer environment
(3) Ensure that excellent MSc students are retained for a PhD

**Important dates**
15 September – Call opens
31 October – Deadline to submit application
30 November – External review finished
15 December – Decisions announced

**Project period (24 months):** January 1st 2018 – December 31st 2019

**Budget:** Approx. 3,000,000 SEK (approx. max level 760,000 SEK per PhD student depending on actual salary level; max 4 PhD students at 50% support each)

**Evaluation**
Evaluation among eligible applicants will be done by external reviewers based on
(1) **The student’s merits:** graduates from the Preparatory Program in Cancer Biology (VMFN26 at LU) or an equivalent MSc course dedicated to cancer research are prioritized as well as students having done most of their BSc at another university. Grading 7-1.
(2) **The project plan:** projects with an excellent plan for clinical correlation or implementation of basic research findings are prioritized. Grading 7-1.
(3) **The thesis advisers’ merits and backgrounds:** pairs of pre-clinical and clinical scientists with strong publication records are prioritized. Grading 7-1.
Eligibility criteria
- The main applicant (thesis adviser) must be employed at the same department at LU as the PhD student
- The student should not be closer than two years from graduating with a PhD according to her or his study plan
- The project must have a PhD student position already assigned according to the employment rules and regulations of LU
- Only one application per main thesis adviser is allowed
- The main applicant must also be the same person as the main supervisor in the individual study plan of the PhD student admitted
- The adviser or co-adviser assigned as the “clinical scientist” must be a clinically active medical doctor with license to practice medicine in Sweden

Ranking and Decision Process
The reviewers should rank the project applications individually as a complement to the grading as the last step. The reviewer ranks all evaluated projects from 1-N, with the best application as 1 and N = the total number of reviewed applications. The ranking should be based on scientific quality and relevance, and the prioritization of all applications. Under-represented gender of main applicant should be prioritised at final ranking of candidates with equal scores.

The final decision is made by the BioCARE board based on the overall recommendation by the reviewers.

Follow-up
There will be a quality checkpoint for each project, based on written documentation after one year to safeguard the translational nature and the progress of the project. Projects that fail to proceed towards clinical correlation and implementation may be excluded from second year funding at that point.
Application format
The application should contain the following documents, all with the name of the main applicant in the header of each page.

(1) A single cover page with general information as follows:
   a. Project Title
   b. Name of the main applicant/adviser, current position and affiliation
   c. Name of the co-applicant/co-adviser, current position and affiliation
   d. Name of the PhD student and affiliation
      i. BSc obtained from
      ii. MSc obtained from

(2) Project plan including the headings
   a. Aims
   b. Background Summary
   c. Work Plan
   d. Patient Material
   e. Preliminary Data
   f. Clinical significance
The plan should be at most 4 pages, with 12 pt type.

(3) Curriculum vitae of thesis adviser, co-adviser and student; 2 pages each.

Submission
Submit your proposal as a single pdf document ordered as above to pia.berntsson@med.lu.se. Deadline is October 31st.

For more information or questions, please contact Pia Berntsson pia.berntsson@med.lu.se, David Gisselsson Nord david.gisselsson_nord@med.lu.se and Håkan Axelson hakan.axelson@med.lu.se