Leducq ATTRACT junior investigator innovation grant

The Leducq ATTRACT network invites trainees to form new collaborations within the network and to apply for funding for short new projects, developed from the network’s theme.

The aim of this innovation grant is to offer further career development for all trainees. Specifically, the intention is to provide a training opportunity for future work in highly collaborative and interdisciplinary environments. Importantly, by making this mini-grant available, the network encourages the development of research ideas as a basis for future independent grant proposals for senior postdocs.

Scope and duration:
The network’s total budget for this innovation grant is 20,000 EUR. Funding is intended for two to three highly innovative projects. The funding may be used to cover costs for travels to collaborative partner labs, running costs including outsourcing (facilities etc.) and should include overhead costs. Salary costs cannot be covered by the grant. The expected duration of the project would be 1-2 months depending on the costs involved, with the purpose to test an idea which could form the basis for applications for additional external funding.

Project Requirements:
Proposed projects have to be related to the work of the Leducq ATTRACT network with all involved collaborators being part of the network.
The grant application should consist of
1. Name and affiliation of main applicant/coordinator (postdoc) and collaborators (any network trainee)
2. Project summary, including a statement on the innovation, or special research need addressed (100 words)
3. Detailed project work plan including project description, deliverable(s) and a timeline (2 pages maximum)
4. Budget estimation
5. Utilization of research outcome following the project’s conclusion

Project development procedure
The 2020 ATTRACT online summer symposium (June 16-18) will be used to develop project ideas and turn them into research proposal drafts in a workshop format. The deadline for the finalized grant application is July 17th, 2020 (four weeks after the summer symposium workshops).

On June 16, during a 45-minute pitch session, trainees are invited to present their research ideas to the entire network in form of a 3-minute pitch. The pitch can vary, i.e. be in form of an interesting observation that the trainee wishes to investigate further, or a special research need that the trainee has observed. During the pitch session, a live voting (rating “overall level of interest” and “interest to contribute personally” on a scale from 1-5) will take place. Participants will use their phones to vote online. Following the pitch session and based on the voting results, PI’s will recommend main research proposals to develop further
during small group breakout sessions the following day (June 17). All trainees will join a
group to further work on defining the projects on June 17 during a 90-minute small group
breakout session. Goals of this first 90-min session are
   i) to discuss the main need/impact of the suggested research topic,
   ii) narrow down on a feasible project idea,
   iii) to define the technical needs and required expertise
The group’s ideas will be documented on a group presentation/ slide using google slides.

During a final 45-min breakout session on June 18, the groups will specify their project
further (including finalization of the team, development of a first work plan etc.) and send
their documentation (google slide) to the Network Administrative Officer (NAO, tanja.florin@mdc-berlin.de) for documentation of the workshop progress.
The further development of the mini-grant application will be done by the teams
independently following the symposium.
The final grant application should be sent to the NAO by **July 17th, 2020**.

**Selection procedure**
PIs will read all applications, and each will make a short list from which 2-3 applications will
be selected by the network coordinators Holger Gerhardt and Doug Marchuk. The final
decisions will be announced by August 31, 2020.