



Nutrition Research Grant Guidelines and Evaluation Process

Proceed with the following steps for Nutrition Research Grant evaluation

0. Dissemination of Request for Application (RFA):

- RFA is issued based on the current nutritional challenges present in the Asia-Pacific region and where relevant solutions dsm-firmenich provide can address.
- RFA will be disseminated through the specified channels, e.g. mailing list, website of scientific societies in relevant fields, etc.
- Scope includes
 - Randomized controlled clinical trials
 - Pilot or feasibility studies
 - Secondary analysis of existing data or biological samples
 - Small, self-contained research projects
 - Development of research methodology/new research technology for human studies
 - NB: Research projects primarily focusing on animal studies and in vitro studies are out of scope for the grant.
- Each RFA is has a maximum number of awards specified in the RFA in the Appendix.

1. Application: Letter of Intent

- dsm-firmenich requires a Letter of Intent prior to submitting a full grant application proposal. Applicant must submit the Letter of Intent by the deadline specified in the RFA. Letter of Intent must be submitted via a Word document that is not more than **2** pages and contain a summary of at least the following items:
 - Title page to include
 - Descriptive title of proposed research,
 - Name, address, email and contact number of the Principal Investigator
 - *A single page biosketch may be attached*
 - Names of other key personnel,
 - Name of participating institution(s),
 - Estimated cost and timing of the project
 - Second page
 - Project goals and intent
 - Overview of proposed research design
 - Expected significance of the project for RFA
 - Additional source(s) of funding (if any)
- Submitted Letters of Intent will be reviewed and prioritized by the Executive Director and Science Director. Those determined as most meritorious will be invited for full grant applications.
- The outcome of the letter of intent will be communicated within 4 weeks.



2. Full grant application

This section is only applicable to applicants who receive an invitation to submit a full grant application. The full grant application should include background Intellectual Property information in the background and significance section. The format for the full application will be provided when applicants receive the invitation for a full submission.

The scope and characteristics of the application should reflect the following criteria:

- Limited to 18 months of funding with direct cost up to €50,000EUR (not renewable) – a policy on provision of indirect costs should be in accordance to the dsm-firmenich global research funding scheme.
- Consider dsm-firmenich's portfolio of health ingredients as solutions toward the betterment of public health in the region.
- One resubmission may be requested following initial review.
- The research strategy may not exceed 7 pages.

3. Evaluation:

- Executive Director will assign two (2) to three (3) referees per full grant application, comprised of subject matter experts and/or scientific advisory panel members, other dsm-firmenich consultants, and dsm-firmenich employees. Referees will evaluate the full grant application using the form illustrated on page 3.
- *Eight criteria will each be valued 10 points, making the maximum total score of 80 points. In addition to these criteria, comments from referees will serve a critical role in decision making. (See Evaluation Form in the following page for details)*

4. Decision making:

- Referees, along with the Executive Director and appointed dsm-firmenich Science Director (Committee) will confer to make a recommendation whether or not to fund the proposal. The total score will serve as supporting tool for decision making.
- Fair - Good: Send feedback and advise to revise. Re-evaluate upon re-submission.
- Excellent: Grant with minor revision. Committee will also discuss if the research will likely lead to a larger scale follow up research program upon yielding positive outcomes, and if so initiate discussions with the successful candidate on future study potential.

5. Research Agreement

- Science Director will notify the applicants that have been selected. The selected applicants and dsm-firmenich will put in place a Research Agreement to agree on, amongst others, research activities, funding schedule and intellectual property rights.

6. Award and Grant Funding

- Following the conclusion of the above-mentioned Research Agreement, the recipient will receive the first installment which is 40% of requested funds and commence with the research as agreed.
- The second installment of 40% of requested funds will be disbursed on the submission of an interim report satisfactory to dsm-firmenich and the final 20% of funds will be disbursed on the submission of a final report satisfactory to dsm-firmenich.



- Installments deferring from the above disbursement scheme will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

7. Post Award

- **Research materials:** To facilitate the research, dsm-firmenich will provide certain materials to the recipient of the grant, which recipient shall keep confidential and use solely for the purpose of the agreed research activities.
- **Milestone and deliverables:** Recipient shall submit to dsm-firmenich the reports (interim and final) in a timely manner and in an agreed format (if any). dsm-firmenich reserves the right to withhold payment if the milestones are not met.
- **Change in Principal Investigator:** If the Principal Investigator for any reason is no longer capable to carry out the research activities or ceases to be employed by the project team or institution, the recipient shall seek dsm-firmenich approval for any potential replacement.
- **Intellectual property:** All intellectual property howsoever arising from the research activities shall, at the first instance, be the property of dsm-firmenich.
- **Conflict of interest:** The recipient shall ensure at all times that there is no conflict of interest, actual or perceived, with the research under this grant.
- **Publications:** All publications should be submitted to dsm-firmenich for prior review and records purpose. The publications shall acknowledge the funding support under the Nutrition Research Grant.

Further terms and conditions governing the research shall be set out in the Research Agreement.



Research Proposal Evaluation Form

Principal Investigator: _____

Application Title: _____

University or Affiliations: _____

Does this proposal appear to address RFA?: Yes___ No___

Total

/80

Please rate each item on scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest rating and 1 being the lowest rating

- ___ **Relevance:** Degree to which proposal addresses the RFA objectives.
- ___ **Merit:** Scientific and technical merit of proposed research.
- ___ **Innovation:** Will scientific knowledge that is relevant to the health ingredients defined by the RFA be advanced by this research?
- ___ **Approach:** Are the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses adequately developed and appropriate?
- ___ **Qualifications:** Is the investigator appropriately trained and does he/she have the appropriate experience?
- ___ **Resources:** Evidence of necessary institutional support.
- ___ **Budget:** Reasonable budget for the work proposed. Does this budget fit with our requirement [€50,000 direct cost for maximum 18 months]?
- ___ **Success:** What is the probability of success?

Evaluator’s comments:

Reviewed by: _____

Date: _____

Please tally your scores and place total in box at top right of page. All evaluation forms must be completed and sent back by July 26, 2024. Please return completed forms to the Nutrition Research Grant Science Director via e-mail (nutrition.researchgrant@dsm-firmenich.com).



APPENDIX: Request for application 2024 (RFA)

Health from the Gut across the human life span <https://www.dsm.com/nutrition-research-grant>

*We are announcing this request for applications to encourage research designed to elucidate health benefits stemming from human gut health. Applicants would need to submit ideas that investigate the role of **human milk oligosaccharides (HMOs) or postbiotics singularly or in combination with probiotics with the option of including that with other micronutrients, in modulating the gut microbiome and its subsequent impact on improving health status in a target population (i.e. age group, life stages, existing health issues) in the Asia-Pacific demographic.***

To be eligible for the grant we are looking for small, discrete, well-defined projects, preferably human clinical studies that can be completed in 12-18 months. Applications may include development of new research methodologies or technology, secondary analysis of existing data, analysis of biological samples from an initiated RCT, and pilot or feasibility studies. Preliminary data are not required, particularly in applications proposing pilot or feasibility studies.

*Project proposals must have a significant scientific value, addressing existing health issues of populations in the Asia-Pacific region in the areas of health and nutrition. We look to fund institutes in countries where our Asia-Pacific health nutrition and care business are focused on, namely Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Grant recipients will receive up to **€50,000 for up to 18 months of research work.***

Applicants be required to submit a letter of intent of their proposed project, and if short-listed will be invited to submit a full application to the selection committee. Up to 5 grants will be awarded in this grant round and the recipients will be invited to present their proposals at an award event.

Timeframe

- Letter of intent submission open: 4th March – 24th May 2024
- Notice of awardees: August 2024
- Award event: November 2024

Maximum number of awards: 5