**Interdisciplinary collaborative research on pathomechanisms of ME/CFS**

1. Network description

*Please provide a description of the collaborative project (=research network) for up to three years.*

*The description of the network (part A) must not exceed 10 pages for the headings 1. to 9. (DIN A4, 11 point Arial, line spacing 1.5, margins 2 cm). Please replace the italicized text with your information.*

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Title and acronym

*Title of the research network (max. 140 characters including blanks) and neat acronym*

## Project coordinator

*Academic title, name, institution, department*

## Additional project partners

*Academic title, name, institution, department*

## Project duration

*XX months (max. 36)*

## Total requested funding of network

*XXX €*

## 1.6 Summary

*Give a brief overview of the collaborative project (max. 2.000 characters including blanks). The summary should include the project aim(s), the design, the expected results and the impact for patient care.*

## 1.7 Lay summary (in German)

*Give a brief overview of the collaborative project (max. 3.000 characters including blanks). The summary should be comprehensive in lay language.*

# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

## Scientific objectives, novelty and future impact

* *What is the project aiming to achieve? State your working hypotheses and give a concise description of the network’s objectives.*
* *Describe the source of and access to the bio samples or patient data that you use for your research.*
* *Specify the impact of the results on the understanding of ME/CFS, on clinical practice, disease prevention, diagnosis and therapy.*
* *Delineate how your results will facilitate further translational research?*

## Scientific background

*Delineate the present international state of the art and describe relevant research work, especially the research partners’ own work, as basis for your project to show that the project aims are scientifically justified. If available, provide preliminary data to substantiate your hypotheses.*

## Public Patient Engagement and Involvement

*Please describe how patient involvement is implemented in the project. Patient involvement can be implemented in different stages of the project and to a different extent[[1]](#footnote-1). Please justify why your concept is adequate for the planned project.*

## Diversity aspects

*Describe how you consider diversity aspects in your research plan, e.g. with regard to gender, age or cultural background. If not, please explain why diversity aspects are not relevant for your research question*

# ORGANIZATION AND WORK PROGRAM

## Structure of the network

* *Please use the chart below to list the planned subprojects, name the responsible principle investigator/s (PI) and institution as well as the function in the research network.*

*Example:*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Subproject No.** | **Title of subproject** | **PI, Institution** | **Function in the network** |
| *1* | *Investigation of XY* | *PI1, University A* | *Coordination; investigation of XY and processing of results* |
| *abc GmbH* | *Subcontractor of A for production of XY* |
| *2* | *Molecular pathomechanisms of xy* | *PI2, University B* | *Analysis of bio-samples / patient-data* |
| *…* |  |  |  |

* *Please explain the chosen structure and size of the network with respect to the research problem. What are the contributions of the individual partners to the overall aims of the network? What is the added value of including different disciplines in this project?*

## Coordination and steering

*Please describe in detail the concept for coordination and steering of the network.*

## Work program

* *Provide an overview of the work program of the collaborative network project (for up to three years). Describe which objectives and tasks will be taken over by the different subprojects and the way they synergistically interact with each other. Details of the subprojects should be provided in part B.*
* *Describe planned measures for quality assurance (e.g. authentication of biological resources; use of electronic lab book; methods to reduce risk of bias, such as blinding, randomization, inclusion/exclusion criteria [also in exploratory studies/animal experiments]), standardization and exchange of information, methods, samples and data.*

## Timeframe and milestones

*Illustrate the timeframe and milestones of the network as figure (for up to three years).*

# ETHICAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

*Please give a description of ethical and legal aspects relating to the project (e. g. ethics votes, animal experiment approval, patient confidentiality, informed consent process).*

# RISK ASSESSMENT

*Please describe possible risks of the research project and the risk management (e.g. alternative scenarios).*

# DISSEMINATION AND EXPLOITATION

*What are the strategies for dissemination and exploitation of results, especially beyond journal publications? Indicate what measures will be used to disseminate and communicate the expected project results to appropriate stakeholders. Describe the key elements of your exploitation strategy. Include description of future translational steps (how can novel diagnostic, therapeutic or preventive approaches be developed based on the expected project results?). Describe the strategies on the network level.*

# DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN (max. ½ page)

*Describe your plan for data management, maintenance and long-term accessibility for future reuse of your results (also by third parties, taking into account privacy rules and proprietary data). Briefly outline which data will be processed and/or reused; which methodology and standards will be applied; whether/which and in what way data will be made available for reuse (if not, explain why); how data will be curated and stored; who is responsible for the different tasks.*

*To ensure that your research data are soundly managed please follow the principles of FAIR data*[[2]](#footnote-2)*. Please use existing international standards and data repositories which allow publishing of FAIR data and are non-commercial[[3]](#footnote-3).*

*The Data Management Plan (DMP) is intended to be a living document in which information can be made available on a finer level of granularity through updates as the implementation of the project progresses and when significant changes occur.*

*Costs for making data available for reuse are eligible for funding during the period of funding.*

# OTHER FUNDING

* *Indicate other sources which will provide funds, free services or consumables. In case of co- financing by industry or other third parties, assure the independence of project investigators, in particular with regard to the analysis of results and their exploitation.*
* *In case you have already submitted parts of the same request to other institutions or the BMBF, please mention this here. If this is not the case please declare: "A request for funding of this project has not been submitted to any other addressee. In case I submit such a request I will inform the DLR Project Management Agency immediately.”*

# REFERENCES

*Please specify the most relevant publications (max. 20) and indicate the public access links if possible.**Indicate the network partners’ publications. For your references please use the Vancouver style (Further information: International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts submitted to Biomedical Journals. NEJM 1997; 336:309-15).*

# FINANCIAL PLAN

*Please provide an overview of the network`s finances in the following table* *(for up to three years).* *Use landscape format to include the financial table in your application. Please make sure that the information provided here is identical to the information of the subprojects’ financial overview (in part B). The justification of the planned expenditures is to be provided on the subproject level (in part B).*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Financial Table – “Title of network”** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Subproject # | PI, Institution | Personnel | | Consumables  € | Equipment  € | Commissions  € | Travel  € | Other € | Over-heads  €2 | **Total**  **funding requested €3** |
| Number of Sci, Grad, Eng, T, O1  and resp. Person Months | € |
| *SP1* | *e.g. PI1, University of…* | *e.g.*  *1 Sci, 36 PM* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *SP1* | *e.g. PI2, xyz GmbH* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *SP2* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| …… |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL NETWORK** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**1**Sci = Scientist, Grad = Graduate student, Eng = Engineer, T = Technician, O = Other; Please calculate your local institutional salaries.

**2**Overhead = Gemeinkosten, 20% Projektpauschale

**3**Please calculate requested amount according to funding rate: generally up to 100% of total costs for academia and generally up to 50% of total costs for industry (plus bonuses for KMU, if applicable).

1. More information available e.g. from INVOLVE <http://www.invo.org.uk/resource-centre/resource-for-researchers/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.forschungsdaten.org/index.php/FAIR_data_principles> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. See for example: <https://www.publisso.de/open-access-publizieren/forschungsdaten/forschungsdatenrepositorien/> or <https://www.re3data.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)