

# Tanoto Foundation Medical Research Fund

## Guidelines

Tanoto Foundation supports medical research with the aim of improving population health in Singapore and beyond. We believe that the goal of improving quality of healthcare and health standards can be achieved through partnerships with leading healthcare and research institutions in Singapore.

With the launch of its Medical Research Fund (MRF), Tanoto Foundation intends to support research excellence and collaborative efforts to generate new knowledge and innovations that will help address prevalent diseases in Singapore and the wider region. In position as the first private philanthropic foundation to launch such a fund, Tanoto Foundation seeks to foster a culture of sustainable giving that amplifies the long-term impact of philanthropic-funded research.

The MRF's main objectives are to support effective research (new discoveries), catalyse additional funding and cultivate local research talent. Ultimately, the research outcomes should be made accessible and beneficial for the public good.

Tanoto Foundation is launching an inaugural call for proposals to be submitted to the MRF to discover promising solutions that advance healthcare practices and improve health standards.

### Research Scope

Proposed studies may cover basic, translational or clinical research and should aim for outcomes that have the potential to advance the prevention, management, diagnosis or treatment of the following focus areas prevalent in Asia:

- a. Diabetes
- b. Cardiology
- c. Oncology
- d. Infectious Diseases
- e. Maternal and Child Health

For the inaugural 2023 MRF call for proposals, Tanoto Foundation will be prioritising two research focus areas, **Cardiology** and **Maternal and Child Health**, for evaluation and funding.

Basic science research proposals need not contain a translational part, but the pathway leading to potential translational work or beneficial impacts for healthcare should be clearly outlined.

### Funding

The MRF will grant up to S\$5 million over a period of 3 years. Funds will be disbursed to the Host Institution equally over 3 years. It is also possible to request for a graduated distribution (approved on a case-by-case basis).

The MRF will only cover direct costs (Manpower, Equipment, OOE). MRF does not include indirect costs.

## Evaluation Process and Criteria

Applications will be evaluated in two stages by an Advisory Panel, which comprises esteemed scientists and clinicians, and subsequently recommended to Tanoto Foundation Board for approval.

### **First Stage: Letter of Intent (LOI) evaluation**

LOIs will be evaluated based on the significance and relevance of the research to MRF's main objectives:

- Support effective research
- Catalyse additional funding
- Cultivate local talent

### **Second Stage: Full proposal evaluation**

Full proposals will be evaluated based on four general criteria:

**Potential for Impact** – potential to improve health outcomes, clinical practices and technical capabilities leading to clinical translation and innovation

**Robustness of approach** – relevance and robustness of strategy, methodology and analyses to accomplish project aims and impact outcomes

**Track record of study team** – the excellence and accomplishments of the study team and potential/plan for talent development

**Strength of collaboration** – the collaborative effort of multi-disciplinary teams, ideally involving cross collaboration across Singapore healthcare clusters

## Submission Instructions

Applicants are to submit the following items in a single PDF via the Host Institution's development office to [TF\\_Singapore@tanoto-foundation.org](mailto:TF_Singapore@tanoto-foundation.org) by **27 October 2023, 6pm**:

1. **Cover Page Form:** Download and complete "[TF MRF – LOI Cover Page.docx](#)".
2. **Letter of Intent (LOI):** LOI should not exceed one page and 1000 word count and should contain a concise description of the proposed research including:
  - Project objectives and purpose
  - Scientific importance and impact of research
  - Research design brief and outcomes
3. **[Optional] One Page Infographic:** A one page visual / graphics overview of the proposed research such as processes and outcomes.

After the first stage of evaluation, shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal (max 10 pages) for submission by **31 January 2024, 6pm**.

Any submissions exceeding their respective word count or page limits will not be considered for evaluation.

## Timeline

**Call for LOI:** 11 September 2023

**LOI deadline:** 27 October 2023

**Full proposal deadline:** 31 January 2024

**Announcement of results:** April to June 2024

## Eligibility Criteria

- All investigators are eligible to apply.
- Principal Investigators may submit only one application.
- Principal Investigators may be Co-Investigators in other applications.
- A single Host Institution must be appointed from the study team.
- Host Institution must be a Singapore public healthcare or research institution.

## Reporting and Contractual Requirements

Please refer to the Term Sheet (Annex A) for a summary of the key terms and conditions governing the MRF.

## Enquiries

For enquiries on application process or necessary documents, please email [TF\\_Singapore@tanoto-foundation.org](mailto:TF_Singapore@tanoto-foundation.org).

## Annex A

### Tanoto Foundation Medical Research Fund

#### Term Sheet

1.	Main objectives	<p>The three main objectives of the Medical Research Fund (“MRF”) are to:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. support effective research (new discoveries);</li><li>2. catalyse additional funding; and</li><li>3. cultivate local research talent.</li></ol>
2.	Responsibilities of the Host Institution	<p>The Host Institution shall be responsible for the administration and coordination of all matters relating to:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. the Project (<i>definition of Project to be specified in the grant agreement based on the research proposal</i>), which also includes the administration and coordination of:-<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. any external institutions the Host Institution chooses to collaborate with on the Project (“Collaborators”); and</li><li>b. the principal investigator, co-investigators, and other team members (together, the “Study Team”),</li></ol></li><li>2. use of the Grant (<i>definition of Grant to be specified in the grant agreement based on the grant quantum awarded</i>); and</li><li>3. communication and reporting requirements with Tanoto Foundation.</li></ol> <p>All regulatory and ethics approvals necessary for the Project (if any) will be obtained by the Host Institution and/or the Study Team before commencing the Project.</p>
3.	Project duration	<p>Unless otherwise agreed between the Host Institution and Tanoto Foundation, the Project should not exceed 3 years (“Project Duration”).</p>
4.	Grant disbursement	<p>The Grant will only be disbursed to the Host Institution.</p> <p>The Grant will be allocated and disbursed in accordance within its proposed budget and the provisions of the grant agreement. Unless otherwise agreed, the Grant will be disbursed equally each year over the Project Duration.</p> <p>In no event will Tanoto Foundation be obliged to provide any funding that exceeds the proposed budget of the Grant.</p>

5.	Modification to Project or use of Grant	<p>The Grant shall be used for the Project only and not for any other purpose.</p> <p>If, for any reason, the Project has to be modified and/or the Grant has to be re-allocated for any purposes other than as specified in the grant agreement, the Host Institution shall consult with and obtain the consent of Tanoto Foundation prior to undertaking any such proposed changes, modifications or re-allocations.</p>
6.	Meeting and reporting requirements	<p>During the Project Duration, Host Institution shall organise 2 meetings every year to report on the progress of the Project (“Progress Report Meeting”), which comprise of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One meeting with the Tanoto Foundation Grant Manager; and</li> <li>2. One meeting with the Tanoto Foundation MRF Advisory Panel.</li> </ol> <p>The Progress Report Meetings should provide current updates to the utilisation of the Grant and progress of the Project, and should ideally be held every six months, alternating between the Tanoto Foundation Grant Manager and the Tanoto Foundation Grant MRF Advisory Panel.</p> <p>At the end of the Project Duration (“Project End Date”), the Host Institution shall submit a written report to the Tanoto Foundation Grant Manager within two months from the Project End Date (“Final Report”). This Final Report should provide a comprehensive report for the entire Project and include any significant research outcomes or achievements from the Project in line with the three MRF main objectives.</p>
7.	Intellectual property and commercialisation	<p>All intellectual property generated by the Host Institution and/or its Collaborators in relation to or arising out of the Project (“Foreground IP”) shall vest in and be owned by the Host Institution and/or its Collaborators in such proportions as they may determine.</p> <p>The Host Institution shall disclose Foreground IP to Tanoto Foundation as and when the Foreground IP is generated.</p> <p>To support the collaborative nature of the research and amplify the long-term impact of such philanthropic funded research, Tanoto Foundation promotes the philosophy of paying it forward. In the spirit of paying it forward and fostering a culture of sustainable giving, Tanoto Foundation strongly encourages the Host Institution and its Collaborators, on a best efforts basis, to allocate a reasonable proportion of the revenue resulting from commercialisation of such Foreground</p>

		IP (if any) be directed back towards research or needy patient funds in the same disease focus area that the Grant initially funded.
8.	Donor acknowledgement	<p>Tanoto Foundation’s contribution will be acknowledged in any public material or speaking engagement about the Project and/or any media publicity initiatives carried out by the Host Institution and its Collaborators arising out of the Project.</p> <p>Neither Tanoto Foundation nor the Host Institution (each a “Party”) shall make any press release or public announcement in relation to the Grant without the prior written approval of the other Party.</p> <p>Neither Party shall for any purpose mention, co-brand or use the name or logo of the other Party, whether for advertisement or other form of publicity, without promptly consulting and having obtained the prior written consent of the other Party.</p>