



To
Universities and academic institutions
in the Nordic countries

Oslo, August 2025

The Olav Thon Foundation – support for Nordic research projects in medicine 2026

The Olav Thon Foundation was established in December 2013.

The Foundation has decided to reserve up to NOK 48 million for grants to *Nordic research collaboration in medicine* for 2026. Only researchers associated with universities, university hospitals, or other academic institutions in the Nordic countries are eligible for support. Previous collaboration will be regarded as an advantage and should be documented (by co-publications or similar). The collaboration must include specific research groups in at least two Nordic countries and be led by personnel holding professorships or equivalent permanent academic positions.

Applications will be assessed based on their academic quality and the projects' potential to develop new and groundbreaking knowledge in medicine. For 2026, the Foundation's board has decided to invite applications for research on age-related neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease. In this context, reference is made to the importance of research on neurological disorders related to the demographic trend in the Nordic countries (population ageing) that takes a significant toll on society regarding economic and social costs.

Projects should use stem cell biology, genetic approaches, tissue engineering, regenerative medicine or other state-of-the-art technologies to prevent disease or to repair, regrow, or replace damaged or diseased cells or tissues.

Research support for each project is restricted to NOK 4 million per year for a maximum of four years. Up to three separate projects will be supported.

Practical issues

The application for research support must be submitted by the project leader and signed by the heads of departments participating in the project. The application must be accompanied by a letter of endorsement signed by the heads of the relevant faculty (or their equivalent). The letter of endorsement (max. 1 page) must give an account of how provisions will be made for



the research collaboration. The application must include a project justification, a project description, a work plan with deliverables and a budget, and CVs for all central project staff (max two pages pr. CV). The amount applied for - the purposes for which the funding is foreseen to be used and for how long - must be clearly stated.

Proposals must be in PDF format – one (1) file, including attachments. Project - file size should not exceed 4 MB. Please use a 12-point font size.

Proposals must be sent by **email** to Special Adviser Bjørnar Vold-Sarnes
Email address: bjornar.vold-sarnes@admin.uio.no

Deadline: 15 October 2025

All submitted material must be in English.

All proposals submitted will be assessed by an independent academic council, which will enlist international expert advisers. The Foundation has appointed the academic council. The academic council's recommendations for grant allocation will be deliberated on and finally decided upon by the board of the Olav Thon Foundation. The board will announce their decision on 19 January 2026.

The recipients of project support will be invited to the Award Ceremony, which will take place on Thursday, 5 March 2026, at 18:00 at the University of Oslo, in the University Aula, followed by a banquet at the Bristol Hotel in Oslo.

The academic council has decided to keep applicants' identities strictly confidential. We kindly request that this be respected.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Bjørnar Vold-Sarnes by email only. The email address is above.

Yours sincerely,

Ole Petter Ottersen /s. /

Professor MD, PhD

Head of the Academic Council - The Olav Thon Foundation