Q&A: Novo Nordisk Foundation Regenerative Medicine Catalyst Grants 2026

1) Which theme should I apply to if my project includes *in vivo* validation of stem cell–derived target progenitors?

If your proposal includes *in vivo* testing/validation of a cell therapy, it typically fits best under Theme 4: Clinical development of cell therapies. If your project overlaps multiple themes, select the most relevant one - NNF will review and adjust the theme classification if needed.

2) What balance do you expect between national grants (DKK 5 million) and collaborative grants (DKK 10 million)?

Based on last year's application pool, approximately two-thirds of applications were for DKK 10 million collaborative grants and around one-third for DKK 5 million national grants. The awarding balance also followed this distribution.

3) How can international investigators connect with Nordic investigators who are interested in applying?

NNF recognises this as an important point. We have considered developing more of a network around the call to connect potential applicants, but we do not currently have a formal mechanism to recommend.

4) Are any countries or territories ineligible?

No. There are no ineligible countries or territories for international collaboration (subject to the eligibility requirements for applicants and institutions in the call guidelines).

5) Can I apply as main applicant if I hold an active NNF grant (e.g., an NNF Tandem grant)?

Yes, provided there is no double funding. The same activities cannot be funded by more than one grant (NNF or non-NNF). Multiple grants can support a broader programme of research, but each budgeted activity must be funded by only one entity.

6) Can small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) participate in projects?

NNF cannot fund for-profit entities as main applicants or co-applicants. However, companies (including SMEs) can be included as service providers (e.g., as CROs/consultants) and their costs can be included in the project budget where relevant.

7) For collaborative grants, is there a minimum share of funding that must go to the international co-applicant?

No. There is no minimum percentage requirement. The key requirement is that the co-applicant's activities (and associated costs) are important and/or essential to the project.

8) Is there an advantage to having partners from countries that are advanced in regenerative medicine (e.g., Japan or South Korea)?

NNF does not assess applications based on the country of international partners. However, partners who contribute unique capabilities or expertise that strengthen the project can be an advantage. NNF encourages broad international collaboration.

9) Are there restrictions on using patented or patent-pending cell lines (where the applicants hold the patent/patent pending)?

No. There are no restrictions regarding the use of patented or patent-pending cell lines under this call.

10) How is funding transferred to international partners (co-applicants)?

Funding is transferred to the host institution of the main applicant. The host institution is responsible for distributing funds to co-applicants/partners according to the collaboration agreement and institutional procedures. NNF transfers funds only to the main applicant's host institution.

11) Does NNF welcome projects focused on platform technologies?

Yes. NNF welcomes projects that develop high-impact platform technologies – i.e., tools, methods, or set-ups that can be used across multiple cell therapy projects and help advance the broader field.

12) Can regulatory consultants be included in the project?

Yes. Regulatory consultants can be included as **paid services** in the project budget (similar to a CRO). They cannot be included as co-applicants.

13) Can patient organisations be involved in projects?

Yes. Patient organisations can be involved depending on the role they play in the project. They may be included as collaborators; whether costs can be budgeted depends on the set-up and capacity in which they contribute.

14) Can support letters be submitted in Phase 1 (concept note)?

No appendices (including support letters) are allowed in Phase 1. Appendices/support letters are reserved for Phase 2.

15) What should be included in the “Lay Project Description” section?

The Lay Project Description should be a simple public-facing summary of the project and its expected impact. It may be used for public communication about projects supported by NNF.