

Call for Application
KICKBOX SEED GRANT & FLEXIBLE FUNDS
YOUNG SCIENTIST



The Einstein Center for *Regenerative Therapies* is a joint initiative of the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, the Freie Universität Berlin, the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the Technische Universität Berlin, as well as the non-university partners Max Planck Institut für Kolloid und Grenzflächenforschung, Zuse Institut Berlin, Max-Delbrück-Center für Molekulare Medizin and the Helmholtz-Zentrum für Biomaterialforschung.

Objectives

The Einstein Center *Regenerative Therapies* aims at gaining fundamental understanding of the underlying mechanisms that modulate endogenous regenerative cascades during aging, infections or other **compromised situations** in order to explore new therapies to overcome unmet clinical needs. Therefore, basic science, biotechnology, materials science, computational science, bioinformatics and clinical disciplines are being combined by the Einstein Center for *Regenerative Therapies*.

In order to stimulate excellent and creative research ideas that might take regenerative therapies a vital step forward, **two successive funding programs are available**: *Kickbox seed grant & flexible funds*.

Scope of funding

The ***Kickbox seed grant – young scientist*** gives skilled researchers the opportunity to explore the feasibility of **new ideas** in order to develop research concepts around complex clinical challenges whose solutions may lie beyond the scope of a single discipline or field of research practice.

Accepted *Kickbox* proposals will receive a flexible financial budget of 5000 € for a period of six months to facilitate preliminary study and data collection, receiving expert feedback or identifying and addressing new collaborations to the end of working out a research concept. Please note **that no personnel costs except student assistants** can be covered.

Along with the financial budget, the Einstein Center offers support from the *BioThinking* program, e.g. workshops for collaboration methods, project management and need finding (partners, appropriate funding or clinical questions). The support focusses on bringing different perspectives together to improve the team performance.

Ten *Kickboxes – young scientist* are available; Projects will be supported from 01.04.2017 – 30.09.2017.

Future of the project

Subsequently, projects which have been developed through the *Kickbox* can apply for the ***Flexible Funds – basis package*** (up to 30.000€ for 1.5 years) to push their idea forward independently.

Furthermore, young scientists who convince and motivate two principle investigators from two different fields of study to join their team during the *Kickbox* phase have the chance to advance to the application process for the ***Flexible Funds – advanced package*** (one postdoc position for up to two years + 10.000€ for consumables per year).

Eligibility

The Einstein Center Regenerate invites Berlin's and Brandenburg's **young scientists** – from master's students to postdocs, who want to explore new aspects of regenerative medicine to apply for the *Kickbox seed grant – young scientist*, especially when their idea is considered to be too risky, premature or unconventional for traditional funding schemes. Projects can engage in basic, applied or translational research. Collaborative approaches will be viewed favorably, in particular if they foster new collaborations.

Ideas for the *Kickbox* must fit into one of the Einstein focus areas: Cellular mechanisms in compromised healing; Steer cell-matrix interactions; Shape the inflammatory phase of regeneration or Modeling; Simulation and data analysis of regeneration processes.

The idea should represent a novel approach. It must not be the next logical step of previous work or supplement of existing funding. Thus, there is no need to include preliminary data.

Teams that want to apply for the ***Flexible Funds – advanced package*** need the participation of **two senior scientists as chief investigators** (PI, AI or independent research group leader) from two different institutes and fields of research.

Application Process

In order to apply for the Einstein *Kickbox seed grant – young scientist* you have to:

- Appoint the team's **Corresponding applicant** for the project, who submits the application and serves as contact person.
- Fill out the application form
- Submit the completed proposal electronically – as a single pdf - to Felix.Fischer1@charite.de by Tuesday, **February 28th, 2017**.

Selection Criteria and Review Process

The key assessment criteria to be used by the evaluation committee in assessing ideas for the *Kickbox seed grant* are:

- Clarity of the project;
- Novelty of the research concept & originality of the approach;
- Conclusive team composition (commitments of involved researchers)

The competitive selection process for *Kickbox* proposals includes the application form and a short oral presentation of the project in mid-March.

Applications for the *Flexible Funds* will require a written proposal of 10-20 pages and a presentation in November.