

## **VASAS - Vasculitis Association Switzerland Research Grant Funding Criteria**

VASAS (Vasculitis Association Switzerland) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving understanding, diagnosis, and treatment of vasculitis, a group of rare autoimmune diseases that cause blood vessel inflammation. Consistent with its mission to support innovative research in the field of vasculitis, VASAS offers research grants ranging from 5'000 to 20'000 CHF to eligible individuals and teams working towards innovations and advancements in vasculitis research.

The following document outlines the criteria that applicants must meet to be considered for VASAS research grants.

### **A) Eligibility Criteria:**

To ensure that grant funds are allocated to impactful, high-quality research and aligned with the VASAS mission, applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

#### **1. VASAS Membership:**

- ❖ The primary applicant must be an active VASAS member at the time of application submission.
- ❖ If not already a member, prospective applicants must join VASAS before grant submission

#### **2. Research Focus:**

- ❖ The proposed research must focus on vasculitis, including its underlying mechanisms, diagnostics, treatment options, or patient outcomes.
- ❖ Research proposals that address rare subtypes of vasculitis, innovative therapeutic approaches, patient quality of life, or translational research projects will be particularly welcomed.
- ❖ Projects that include a multidisciplinary approach are encouraged

#### **3. Location of Research:**

- ❖ The research must be based in Switzerland, either entirely conducted in a Swiss institution or under the oversight of a Swiss-based principal investigator (PI).

#### **4. Track Record and Collaboration:**

- ❖ Applicants should demonstrate a proven track record in vasculitis research or clinical expertise.
- ❖ If the applicant has a non-vasculitis research focus or is an early-career researcher, they must collaborate with an established research group within VASAS
- ❖ For collaborative projects, a formal agreement detailing each research partner's roles and responsibilities must be included in the application.

#### **5. Ethical and Scientific Standards:**

- ❖ The research must comply with ethical, regulatory, and legal requirements in Switzerland.
- ❖ Ethical approval from an appropriate Swiss ethics committee should be obtained and provided at the latest before the awarded project starts.

#### **6. Funding Scope and Accountability:**

- ❖ The grant funding can be used for direct research costs, including personnel, equipment, consumables, and participant-related costs. Overhead and administrative costs are not covered.
- ❖ Recipients of the VASAS grant must provide a final report detailing the study's outcome. Reports should outline how the funds helped the project and mention publications or presentations resulting from the project.

The support from VASAS should be acknowledged in any publications.

## **B) Evaluation and Selection Process:**

Applications will be evaluated by an expert review panel convened by VASAS, consisting of leading vasculitis researchers, clinicians, and patient advocates. The selection criteria will focus on the following:

1. **Scientific Merit:** The innovation, rigor, and potential impact of the research on the vasculitis community.
2. **Feasibility:** The viability of the project's methodology, timeline, and objectives.
3. **Relevance:** The alignment of the research with VASAS's mission and the needs of the vasculitis patient community.
4. **Track Record:** The experience and expertise of the research team or collaboration group in the field of vasculitis.

VASAS is dedicated to funding projects that have the potential to improve the understanding and treatment of vasculitis and to enhance patient outcomes. By establishing clear funding criteria, VASAS ensures that its support fosters meaningful advancements in this important area of medical research.

## **C) Application**

Submit an abstract (maximum 1 page) and the full proposal not exceeding 5 pages. The application should be structured in background, objectives, methodology, the proposal's significance, Budget Justification, and Timeline.

Add Qualifications of PI and collaborators and previous research accomplishments, and mention any institutional resources that will support your project, such as lab space or administrative assistance

Provide CVs for the PI and key team members. The complete application should be sent via e-mail to [research@vasas.ch](mailto:research@vasas.ch).

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**Contact Information:** For any questions regarding the grant application process or eligibility criteria, please contact VASAS at [research@vasas.ch](mailto:research@vasas.ch) or visit our website at [www.vasas.ch](http://www.vasas.ch).