

UMD CATALYST GRANTS GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS

The UMD Catalyst Grants are intended for investigators who want to catalyze research projects that aim to improve and/or accelerate diagnosis, treatment and care for patients and families with inherited metabolic diseases.

Eligibility criteria

Projects that meet the following criteria are eligible to apply for funding through the UMD Catalyst Grant program:

- The project fits within the objectives of the UMD,
- The project fits within the research questions of the [Research Agenda for Inherited Metabolic Diseases](#) (Kennisagenda Erfelijke Metabole Ziekten)
- The project contains a clear financial substantiation,
- The project preferably involves collaboration between two or more UMD academic centers, or between a patient organization and one or more academic centers. The contribution of each partner is clearly specified in the proposal. If such a collaboration is not possible, this should be explicitly motivated and justified in the proposal.
- The applicants and participating investigators are all registered on the '[Metabole kenniskaart](#)' page on the UMD website. If they are not yet registered, a request for registration must be submitted before the application is filed.

In case an application does not meet (one of) these criteria, please indicate the reason for deviation in your proposal.

UMD Catalyst Grant Process

There will be three UMD Catalyst Grant rounds per year and thus there will be a deadline for submitting applications every four months. Exact dates for the deadlines will be announced on the [UMD website](#). Decisions will be made and communicated within eight weeks after the submission deadline.

The number of projects that are selected for funding depends on the quality of applications as well as on the available budget. The overall success rate in the period 2019-2025 was 44%.

Each proposal is initially reviewed by three members of the UMD Catalyst Grant review committee and evaluated according to the following criteria:

- **Quality** of the project design
- **Novelty** of the proposed project
- **Eligibility** (i.e. meets UMD conditions, see [eligibility criteria](#))
- **Impact** on UMD successes (i.e. does the project have an impact on the lives of metabolic patients and contributes to UMD objectives and IMD Research Agenda).
- **Feasibility** of the project (incl. budget)

The possible outcomes of this assessment are:

- Appropriate for funding, depending on ranking and available budget
- Revision and/or more data required
- Not appropriate for funding

For proposals evaluated by the committee as 'appropriate for funding' or 'revision and/or more data required', the committee may request a rebuttal from the applicants, in response to questions and comments of the review committee and/or the patient panel. The rebuttal must be submitted within two weeks. The committee will assess the rebuttal and subsequently communicate the final decision.

In addition, these proposals will be reviewed by a patient panel, which focuses on the 'impact on lives of metabolic patients' and 'layman summary' sections. Based on their assessment, the panel advises the Catalyst Grant committee to either 1) select the project for funding, or to 2) request revision of the 'impact on lives' and/or 'layman summary' sections. The final decision will be taken by the Catalyst Grant committee.

Research Agenda IMD (Kennisagenda EMZ)

In 2023, the Research agenda for inherited metabolic diseases ('*Kennisagenda voor erfelijke metabole ziekten*') was published, in which the priorities of metabolic research for the coming decade have been specified. UMD places high importance on research proposals that align with the priorities outlined in this document. To consult the *Kennisagenda*, please refer to

https://www.unitedformetabolicdiseases.nl/resources/Kennisagenda_digitaal.pdf. *

Requested budget

Applicants can submit a UMD Catalyst Grant application for one of the four categories (€0-5 K, €5-10 K, €10-15 K and €15-20 K), with a maximum of €20.000. In case the total budget for the proposed work exceeds the budget of the specific UMD Catalyst Grant category, applicants are required to specify the part that will be covered by the UMD Catalyst Grant fund and how additional funds will be obtained. In the case additional funding has already been requested, please also indicate how this will affect the amount that is requested in the UMD application (if this additional funding is awarded). Please note that institutional overhead charges will not be covered.

Reporting

Upon completion of the project, a short report summarizing the findings and financial reporting (incl. specification of expenditures and deviations from the submitted budget) will be due. This evaluation report should also include a short Dutch lay summary which can be used for communication to the public (~ 150 words). This final report (evaluation form) must be emailed to info@umd.nl no later than one month after the project's end. Applicants will receive a reminder of this obligation shortly before or upon completion of the project.

* An English translation can be requested via info@umd.nl

General requirements and information

- The main applicant should either be affiliated to a UMC or a registered patient organization and should be appointed at their institution for the entire duration of the submitted project. By submitting an application, all applicants endorse the UMD mission and approve listing of their name as UMD health professional / researcher.
- Per Catalyst Grant round, a researcher can submit *one* proposal as an applicant, he/she can be involved in more applicants as a participating investigator.
- Proposals must be written in English.
- A digital version of the application must be submitted through the UMD website before the deadline to be taken into consideration for the quarterly funding round. Dates of upcoming deadlines will be communicated through the UMD website.
- Proposals can only be resubmitted if the proposal has been (substantially) revised.
- Reporting obligations are described under '[Reporting](#)': the evaluation report is due no later than one month after the project's end.
- An extension of the project period is in principle not possible. Only in highly exceptional cases, and in close consultation with UMD, can an extension be granted. Requests for extension should be submitted to info@umd.nl well before the indicated completion date of the project.
- In case the Catalyst Grant is awarded, the applicants are expected to present their study results at a future UMD meeting or UMD symposium upon request. The laymen summary will be published on the UMD website.
- In case the Catalyst Grant is awarded, the financial contribution will be paid by Metakids in two installments: a maximum of three quarters upfront and the final quarter after approval of the evaluation report.
- In case the Catalyst Grant is awarded, the financial contribution should be acknowledged in the following manner: 'This work was funded by a Catalyst Grant from United for Metabolic Diseases (YYYY-CG-XXX / UMD-CG-XXXX-XXX) which is financially supported by Metakids.'
- The UMD affiliation ('United for Metabolic Diseases, The Netherlands') should be mentioned on all publications that arise from this project. Applicants are requested to inform UMD (info@umd.nl) of any such publications.

In case of questions please contact the UMD project coordinator via info@umd.nl.