MARC
MOUNIR ARMANIOUS RESEARCH CENTER

Innovation in Research and Industrial Applications

Call for proposals

September 2021

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Contents

I. Grant Objectives

"If you look at history, innovation comes from creating environments where ideas can connect."- Steven Johnson

Innovation in research often requires passion and dedication, looking beyond the obvious to find new ways to change people's lives for the better. Innovative research is an area that needs greater focus, which it has not received extensively outside academic circles.

Research is a fundamental building block of the process of idea development. For this reason, EVA Pharma, a leader in the research and pharmaceutical industry that has been internationally recognized for innovation and the highest quality standards, is offering a grant for innovation in research and its industrial applications.

The main purpose of this funding opportunity is to direct resources and efforts towards translating scientific discoveries into real-life healthcare solutions, specifically in areas of unmet medical needs, for the advance of research and delivery of care in pre-clinical, translational, and clinical settings, for conditions and diseases within the missions of the participating institutes.

EVA Pharma is providing competitive funding to conduct high-priority, basic biomedical, ethical clinical research which will seek to bridge the gap between science and community, in order to improve health and quality of life for patients, and to transform research ideas into industrial applications. This directly serves the national need for innovation in research and industrial application.

We are committed to collaborative research to advance and shift the standard of care towards the best healthcare solutions, and to innovating and accelerating the translation of scientific discoveries into effective medical practices for better healthcare, using knowledge, and scientific approaches to help build a better future for humanity.

We are also committed to sharing knowledge, innovation, and supporting collaboration between researchers and the different sections of society. Collaborative working highly impacts both the researchers and the individuals and organizations involved. Collaboration connects us and allows us to learn about each other's expertise and knowledge: "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much more."

We particularly encourage innovative and novel research proposals addressing new concepts and techniques, as well as those with the potential for significant scientific or societal and economic impact. Our funding decisions are based on a number of criteria, including quality, timeliness, potential impact, and value for money.

Opportunities for making an impact should be exploited at any stage during the research lifecycle, including the planning stage, the research design stage, the methodology and the project execution. The research lifecycle, therefore, includes knowledge exchange, including reporting and publication, and the archiving, future use, sharing, and linking of data.

II. Research Topics

Research projects with a focus on the following areas will be considered:

- Immunotherapy in cancer and cancer research
- Multidrug-resistant bacteria
- NASH

III. Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants should hold Egyptian citizenship and be affiliated with an Egyptian research entity (universities, research centers/institutes, etc.).
- He/she should hold a Ph.D./MD and should have good research experience (a high h-index for the principal investigator is a favorable indication).
- A research team operating within an Egyptian university or a research institution should consist of a principal investigator (group leader), plus at least one other qualified researcher and a number of doctoral and master's graduate students.
- Industrial experience for one or more members of the research team would be a bonus point.
- Grant requests must be for prospective research projects, not for already ongoing research.
- Submission of a number of application and supporting documents is required (IRB/IEC approval, any necessary regulatory approval, exemption or waiver of approvals and the final protocol).
- The grant recipient must provide an online update of the study status at least twice a year. Each update will include publication plans, adjustments in the estimated study completion date, and any other information reasonably requested by MARC.
- The grant recipient will use the funding solely for purposes of the study. The funding may not be used to pay physicians or other healthcare providers or healthcare institutions for referring potential subjects (if any) for enrolment in the study.
- The grant recipient is free to publish the study results and is free to use the study results for any other lawful purpose. The grant recipient owns and is free to use the study data for research, educational, and patient care purposes.
- Excluding industrial or commercial exploitation, in some cases there must be alternatives to publishing in scientific journals, providing knowledge in any way that makes it available to the public, taking into account the nature of the project and the results and the interests of the contractors.

➢ Regulations of the collaboration between MARC and the beneficiaries:

- MARC has the ownership of the intellectual property of the research product as per Egyptian law on the protection of intellectual property rights (if a person commissions another to make a specific invention, all rights derived from such an invention shall belong to the former). https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:d6347626-e89b-4236-b44d-932ba7b8eef0
- The name of the inventor shall be mentioned in the patent, and he/she shall be remunerated in all cases. If such remuneration was not agreed upon, he/she shall be entitled to fair compensation from the person who requested the invention, or from the funder, provided the choice is made within three months of the date of notifying the grant of the patent. In all cases, the invention shall be attributed to the inventor.
- Data protection and legal rights should be applied if project will be implemented industrially or commercially and if data protection is not provided by the principal investigator, MARC should be notified, and will have the right to protection of data on behalf of the principal investigator.

➢ MARC's contribution:

- As a research center whose main mission is to conduct high-priority basic biomedical and ethical research, bridging the gap between science and community to improve health and quality of life, MARC is committed to collaborative research to advance and shift the standard of care towards the best healthcare solutions through:
    - Evaluating research proposals in terms of idea, methodologies, feasibility and potential of the research proposal.
    - Evaluation of proposals carried out by MARC with the assistance of national/international independent experts; MARC staff ensure that the evaluation process is transparent, robust, fair, and in alignment with EVA Pharma's rules, ethical guidelines, and regulations.
    - Supporting investigators and research institutes by providing them with advanced services in the implementation of their research, with the possibility of collaboration on the research itself.

IV. Submission Process

Applications should be submitted to MARC for scientific and technical evaluation. Eligible proposals will be technically evaluated for a final decision by an independent committee.

Deadline: 1 November 2021; application form will be closed at 11:59pm Egypt Standard Time.

Proposals must be submitted through the link below.

Link: https://nlisicrc.com/redcap/surveys/?s=FXWK83K3WW

- All proposals MUST be in English.
- The application must include a signed and stamped endorsement letter from the institution's legal representative.
- The same proposal should not be submitted in more than one grant.

- DO NOT submit proposals previously funded either by EVA Pharma or any other funding agency. Proposals deemed to be funded by other grants will be disqualified and applicants will be banned from submitting proposals.
- Any publications delivered as a result of funded proposals should acknowledge EVA Pharma's funding in the publication.
- The developed product or the findings of the funded research project MUST NOT be shared with, utilized or implemented for industrial application or production by any other entity than MARC or EVA Pharma.

The application form must include:

- Cover letter
- Research team information, CV of the principal investigator and all other members of the research team)
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Background
- Rationale
- Objectives
- Description of the proposed research work including the methodology to achieve its objectives
- Proposed timeline
- Budget table
- Budget justification
- Expected project outcomes and impact
- References
- Acknowledgment form
- Institutional endorsement letter

V. Evaluation Criteria

The grant will be awarded based on the following criteria:

1. The extent of direct impact on patient care (whether in diagnostic, preventive or therapeutic areas), especially in highly unmet medical needs in the abovementioned topics.
2. The significance of the research proposal and the potential benefits gained through its proposed aims.
3. The proposal's innovation, meaning that the research idea has not been implemented, used or published before.
4. The approach and quality of description in terms of clarity, completeness, and comprehensiveness.
5. The primary investigator's expertise and his/her team's qualifications.
6. The feasibility, proper budgeting and project management outlined in the proposal.

7. The industrial application of the project, meaning the potential of the research idea to have an industrial application that could be translated into a product.

Overall score

The overall score is calculated by reviewers at MARC to reflect their assessment of the project in terms of adherence to evaluation criteria and the potential impact it is believed to have on the research fields involved.

VI. Budget Estimation

A grant not exceeding **EGP 3,000,000** (**three million Egyptian pounds)** is awarded to the accepted project, to cover all costs required to accomplish the project through its entire duration. Each item in the budget should be accurately justified and failure to do so will mean the proposal will be rejected.

The period of the project can be up to two years. The full proposal must include a detailed budget in which all prices are given in Egyptian pounds.

VII. Payment Procedure

When a project is approved, a contract agreement will be signed between EVA Pharma, MARC, the principal investigator, and the host institute. The budget will be disbursed as installments. The number of installments depends on the duration of the project. The first installment will be disbursed at the beginning of the project. The other installments will be paid after the receipt and approval of the progress reports.

The disbursement of the final installment of the project (5% of the budget) is conditioned upon the delivery of the outputs specified in the proposal in the scheduled time (such as the developed product, specific methodology, high-impact publications, submission of articles to an international journal, presentations at renowned international conferences, etc.) which should be highlighted in the final report. The payment of the final installment is subject to the internal rules and regulations of EVA Pharma and can cover only the indirect costs as well as the remaining incentives.

VIII. Follow-Up

Bi-annual progress and financial reports are required from the grant recipient, to be evaluated by MARC and EVA Pharma. Feedback is sent to the principal investigator of the project and the research institute.

A final achievement report should be submitted at the end of the research project. If, on evaluation, it is found that the grant recipient did not achieve the planned objectives in the initial proposal, EVA Pharma has the right to terminate the project as a consequence.

IX. General Considerations

- Researchers must have in place a robust strategy for maximizing the likelihood of impact opportunities and their capacity for taking advantage of these.
- Research without obvious or immediate societal or economic impact will be disadvantaged in the assessment process.
- Research ethics requires that the research we support is designed and conducted in such a way that it meets certain ethical principles and is subject to proper professional and institutional oversight in terms of research governance.
- MARC intellectual property rights' (IPR) rules and regulations, in addition to the code of ethics, are applied to all submitted proposals.
- Foreign partners are allowed in this grant only as consultants, given that the relevant approvals should be obtained, and only consultants' fees are allowed for those partners.
- Equipment purchased using funds must be made available to all Egyptian researchers, provided that the project work is not disrupted.
- If more than one institution is involved, it should be clearly stated which institution is in charge and the role of each partner institution should be specified.
- The extension of the duration of a project is not allowed under most circumstances; only under very strict, justified conditions will project extension be permitted, and any request for project extension will negatively affect future decisions regarding the performance of the research team members.
- The inclusion of members from different departments or research institutes on the same research team is encouraged.
- Conflicts of interest should be avoided in any proposal application.
- All proposals will be evaluated on a competitive basis.
- Applicants should articulate a clear understanding of the context and needs of users and consider ways for the proposed research to meet or impact these needs.
- The proposal should also outline how the legacy of the proposed activity will be managed to engage beneficiaries and increase the likelihood of its impact in providing lasting value to participants, stakeholders, and the wider social science community.
- If your grant is approved, your institution will be required to enter into a written grant agreement with MARC and EVA Pharma.

For questions regarding this grant, please send inquiries to:

Dr. Sameera Ezzat, Head of Clinical Research, MARC

Dr. Lina Kamal, CRA, MARC

Email: research.marc@armaniousgroup.com