



Prof. dr. Jaap Swierenga Stichting

Requirements Longfonds-Swierenga Grant 2025

A grant made available by Longfonds and the Swierenga Foundation

Early Career Research Grant for Rare Pulmonary Conditions

Advancing preliminary research to unlock tomorrow's answers in rare lung disease

Should you have any questions about the conditions listed below, please feel free to contact us via research@longfonds.nl. If you consider your project a good fit for this specific grant, but it does not meet one or more of the criteria below, please include a justification in your application.

Longfonds and the Swierenga Foundation apply the following criteria to determine whether your research proposal is suitable for submission

1. Applicant, institution and eligibility

- The target group for this personal grant consists of excellent researchers. Grant applicants are expected to convincingly demonstrate the originality and potential of their ideas to others.
- Applicants are free to choose the institution where they will conduct their research. They must be affiliated with a Dutch institution, defined as a university (including affiliated academic medical centers, NKI, or KNAW institutes), hospitals linked to the Dutch Association of Top Clinical Teaching Hospitals (STZ), or general hospitals. It is allowed to carry out part of the research abroad.
- Applications can be submitted by researchers both with and without a permanent employment contract.
- Applicants can apply up to five years after obtaining their PhD. Delays due to (medical / medical specialist) training or parental leave will be taken into account.
'Parental leave' is defined as maternity leave, adoption leave, partners' leave and leave in relation to the arrival of a foster child. Longfonds follow the NWO (the Dutch Research Council) grant regulations:
 - Biological mothers receive an 18-month extension per child, up to a maximum of 5 years in total. This extension compensates for the time involved in pregnancy, childbirth, and child care, and includes any parental leave and/or reduction in formal working hours.

- Other parents (fathers and non-biological mothers) with a child that is part of their household receive a 6-month extension per child, up to a maximum of 5 years in total.

To make use of this extended eligibility, the applicant must submit a written, reasoned request via the Grant Application Form. This request should include all necessary information on which Longfonds and the Swierenga Foundation can base their decision.

2. Duration

The maximum duration of project supported by this grant is twelve months. Exceptions are possible if well-justified and approved by the Scientific Review Committee.

3. Themes

The research project submitted for this grant should focus on rare diseases that primarily originate in the lungs. Please note: lung cancer does not fall within the scope of this grant.

It may specifically address rare lung conditions, which are defined as diseases affecting fewer than 1 in 2,000 people in the Netherlands. In addition, it must align with the three **themes** outlined below:

a. Prevention

Prevention is critically important to society, yet many chronic lung diseases, esp. rare lung diseases, remain understudied. Gaining a deeper understanding of their origins and causes is essential to developing effective prevention strategies.

b. Early detection

Increased knowledge in (early) diagnosis and phenotyping is crucial for patients. Early detection is also a societal challenge.

c. Treatment and cure

Many rare lung diseases are chronic and progressive. For most, there are no definitive cures. Accelerating advances in the treatment and potential cure of rare lung diseases will improve the lives of people with rare lung diseases and will have an impact on society.

Patients' participation

Patients' involvement in scientific research ensures that studies address real-world needs and priorities. Their perspectives improve the relevance and quality of the research. Additionally, it enhances trust and the likelihood of successful implementation of findings.

Longfonds encourages applicants to involve patients in their preparation for the application and, where possible, during the pilot study. If this is not feasible, please provide an explanation on the application form.

Before submitting your application, please review the information on patient participation available on [our website](#). A patient representative or patient (expert by experience) is also part of the review committee.