



## Call for applications for a grant from the Rate Adjustment Pool

### “Research project regarding side effects of ECT-treatment”

**Application deadline on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 12.00 pm.**

As part of the Rate Adjustment Pool agreement in the health field for 2019-2022, 5.6 million DKK have been allocated to a research project regarding the side effects related to ECT (electroconvulsive therapy), in order to detect the extent of potential side effects, including cognitive side effects (influence on cognitive processes such as learning, attention, memory etc.). The aim of the research project is – based on research-based knowledge to obtain a better knowledge of the risk of potential side effects in ECT, in order to give the patients better advice prior to treatment.

#### **Background**

ECT, also known as electroconvulsive therapy, is a well-documented and efficient treatment with relatively few side effects. In some cases, ECT can be lifesaving due to the fast onset of effect, and it can be the most efficient treatment for patients with severe depression. However, there is a lack of knowledge as to why some patients experience cognitive side effects after ECT while others do not. The frequency and duration of cognitive side effects, including memory functions especially, are not yet fully understood. Studies have shown that patients are asking for more information on efficiency and possible side effects before starting treatment.

Therefore, 6 million DKK have been allocated to the Rate Adjustment Pool to strengthen the existing knowledge about the risk of side effects due to ECT. The funds are allocated partly to an external analysis of patient information on the effects and risks of side effects due to ECT (0.4 million DKK), and partly to a research project on side effects related to ECT (5.6 million DKK).

This financial posting concerns only the research project on side effects related to ECT.

#### **Application requirements**

The following criteria are emphasised to ensure that the allocation of funds support a professional focus:

- **Project description:** A clear description of the aim of the project and relevance in relation to the posting's overall purpose with a clear and well-reasoned description of the needs and challenges the project aims at.
- **Method:** A clear description of the technological and scientific methods used, type of study, data sources, and planned analysis with a critical assessment of strengths and weaknesses of chosen the material and methods. There should be well founded considerations of recruitment of patients and the size of the population. Emphasis will be placed on state-of-the-art (SoA) of research and innovation respectively, as well as the quality of the question(s) the project is investigating, and the solution and method(s) in the project.
- **Regulatory and ethical requirements:** Applicants must describe the ethical aspects of the project, as well as permits from relevant authorities to insure the project can be implemented, including an expected timetable for these.
- **Patient perspective:** Focus on patient involvement with a description of how the patient perspective is expected to be included in the project.

- **Implementation:** A description of how the project's results are intended to be used in practice.
- **Expected results and communication:** A description of how the project's results will be communicated, including how the project intends to compare potential side effects and the benefits of ECT with other treatment methods.
- **Qualifications of the project group:** The applications must contain, in addition to the project description, a description of the qualifications of the applicant(s) and a description of any relevant research they previously have completed. The description must also include prospective partners in the project.
- **Organisation of the project group:** A description of the organisation of the research project, partners, as well as a detailed timetable and project plan including all significant milestones and deliveries.

The Danish Health Authority administers the financing and together with Innovation Fund Denmark handles the selection of the research project that will receive the funding.

## Economy

5.6 million DKK are allocated to research projects on the side effects related to ECT.

Funding is generally allocated to one research project (e.g. a PhD), to which full or partial funding can be applied for. However, the research project can consist of several subprojects (e.g. postdocs). If the research project has applied for or received funding from other sources, this must be stated in the application.

If the Danish Health Authority receives applications for an amount of funding that exceeds the size of the aforementioned funding, it will be necessary to prioritise between the applicants. In that case, the Danish Health Authority will distribute funding for the project that best meets the application requirements. In addition, it may be necessary to adjust the amount of funding applied for.

## Who can apply and receive funding?

Any lawful unit in Denmark (i.e. a company, a research institute, a public institution, etc.) can apply or participate as a partner. If a key person of the project is no longer affiliated with the recipient of the funding, the Danish Health Authority reserves the right to regulate the continuation of the funding according to the conditions, which apply to the funding.

## Conditions for receiving funding

A project must meet the following general conditions for eligibility:

- The project supports the aim of this call for funding from the Rate Adjustment Pool.
- There has been appointed a legally responsible manager of the project by the organisations involved.
- The organisation of the project must be clearly stated, including the leadership designation.

- The activities of the project and a clear timetable that shows which processes and deliveries must be achieved at which time, are described.
- Applicants submit a detailed and specified budget.
- Submission of status reports to the Danish Health Authority during the project period.

### **Status reports**

Recipients of funding commit to report regularly to the Danish Health Authority through status reports during the project period, and to submit a final report after the project has ended. For this purpose, the template of the Danish Health Authority must be used.

A yearly status-report must be submitted.

The reports must include a description and assessment of:

- The completion of the project and results in relation to the project description and any later approved changes.
- Any deviations between the expected results and the actual results of the project.
- Application of experiences and results obtained during the project.

It is a requirement that the status reports to the Danish Health Authority as well as other reports project state that funding has been granted by the Ministry of Health.

### **Deadlines and application procedure**

Application including project description must reach the Danish Health Authority no later than March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 12.00 pm.

The application form from the Danish Health Authority must be used. The application Form 2 (project description) cannot exceed five pages, excl. CVs, and must be written in English. All applicants will receive a receipt for the application as soon as possible after submission.

The Danish Health Authority expects to select the research project in June 2019. The project is expected to start in September 2019 and end in September 2022. No funds are allocated for expenses incurred outside the project period, i.e. start of the project must take place no later than 2 months from receipt of the grant letter, and project termination must take place 3 years after project start.

Applicants, or others with relevant affiliation with the project, must be available throughout the application period in case any questions arise.

This publication is also available in a Danish version. In case of any discrepancies between the Danish and the English version, the Danish version applies.

The application and any affiliated application forms must be sent by e-mail to [kasj@sst.dk](mailto:kasj@sst.dk) marked "Research project regarding side effects of ECT-treatment" – file number 4-1613-360/1".

**More information**

The Danish Health Authority can be contacted during the application period regarding questions about the fund.

Medical/Professional questions can be addressed to:

Amra Reko

T: 93 51 87 59

M: [amrr@sst.dk](mailto:amrr@sst.dk)

Financial and administrative questions can be addressed to:

Kasper Dahl

T: 72 26 94 54

M: [kad@sst.dk](mailto:kad@sst.dk)