



Amsterdam Public Health

APH Strategic Research 2024-2027

Call for Proposals 2024

October, 2023

Amsterdam Public Health



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1. APH Strategic Call 2024

1.1 Scope

We issue a strategic call for research proposals that fit within the strategic goals of APH and its research programs. APH has recently updated its strategic goals by adding the themes: digitalization, environmental sustainability and diversity, equity & inclusion. For this call, the scope of the research proposal may be self-selected from APH's eight strategic themes (Figure 1). The topic and design of the research project should be a logical continuation of previous scientific work of the applicant.

The 2024 scheme offers room for **4 Postdoc Fellowships**. Postdoctoral researchers (defined as up to 8 years after PhD) affiliated with APH working on project funding with a temporary position at VU, Amsterdam UMC or AMR¹ are eligible to submit a proposal. The grant covers approximately 50% of the costs proposed in the total budget of the proposal, including salary costs and excluding a bench fee. The remaining salary costs should be matched by the applicant's research department or an external (non-)academic partner.

1.2 Strategic themes of APH



Figure 1. Strategic themes of APH

Below you can find a short summary of the definition or explanation of APH's strategic themes. Proposals need to be linked to at least one of these strategic themes, which can be interpreted in the broadest sense. In the application form the choice of the strategic theme(s) needs to be explained and motivated. For more information on APH's strategic themes, consult [APH's Strategic Plan 2020-2023](#).

Prevention: Public health focuses primarily on prevention of disease and promotion of health rather than diagnosis and treatment of diseases. Prevention is at the core of the APH research institute and is therefore reflected in its overall strategy and across all APH research programs.

¹ This also includes staff with a temporary or permanent AMR contract

Cohorts and registries: APH stimulates and facilitates cohorts and registries, as large-scale multimodal and epidemiological data collection provides a rich resource of information for public health researchers. Research groups within APH coordinate and maintain more than 25 large- or smaller-scale longitudinal cohort studies and health and healthcare registries. See the [APH website](#) for APH's cohorts and registries.

Valorization: APH supports researchers in producing excellent research, but such research can only fulfill its potential if it benefits society at large. Valorization can be defined as the process of creating value from knowledge by making knowledge suitable and/or available for societal use and translating that knowledge, whenever possible, into competitive products, services, processes and entrepreneurial activity.

Implementation: Much of the research carried out in APH potentially has a direct impact on clinical, non-clinical, and preventive care and support. Researchers are stimulated to consider intended research applications in practice settings at an early stage of the research life cycle. APH established the knowledge-hub Amsterdam Center of Implementation Science (AmsCIS), which provides APH researchers with an overview of tools, resources, and guidance in the world of implementation studies and practices.

Societal impact: Societal impact can be defined as the effects or significance of research on stakeholders outside of academia, measured by patent citations, media occurrences, policy documents, clinical guidelines, collaborations in non-academic organizations, and more. It is an outcome that can and is stimulated to occur through the processes of valorization and implementation.

Digitalization: Digital solutions, technological innovations, and big data offer new opportunities in the areas of diagnostics and treatment, prevention, and the organization and management of healthcare services at individual, institutional, and system levels. Digitalization is pivotal for addressing the health and healthcare challenges our society faces today. At the start of 2023, APH's new Digital Health program was launched which is dedicated to digitalization and its underlying research themes.

Environmental sustainability: Environmental sustainability in healthcare means providing health and care services and managing facilities in a way that is good for the environment. It involves using resources wisely, reducing waste and pollution, and ensuring that our actions today don't harm the planet for future generations. This approach connects the health of people with the health of the Earth, aiming to provide healthcare and services while being responsible and considerate of our planet's well-being. APH aims to reduce its negative impact on climate and waste by stimulating and rewarding sustainable research efforts.

Diversity, equity & inclusion (DEI): APH believes in advancing the health of all citizens in Amsterdam and beyond while respecting social, ethnic and cultural diversity. APH is convinced that science is best pursued with a wide diversity of staff members, teams and participants. APH believes that research and healthcare should respond to the needs of a diversifying society and world, which is reflected in APH's research programs. A new dedicated APH DEI committee will help implement various DEI-related activities and events in the coming years.

2. Guidelines for applicants

2.1 Who can apply?

A postdoctoral researcher (defined as up to 8 years after PhD) affiliated with APH working on project funding and with a temporary position at the VU, Amsterdam UMC or AMR¹ can submit an application for a fellowship. The candidate should currently work within an APH affiliated department or should have finished his/her PhD trajectory within APH. The PhD must have been obtained after October, 2015. Researchers with an appointment as assistant professor, are not eligible to apply.

APH Postdoc fellows have the opportunity and are stimulated to make optimal use of APH resources, notably talented researchers, APH data collections from cohorts, registries or other, and expertise

related to our research programs and their themes. The postdoc fellow is expected to provide a progress presentation at one meeting of the APH Board of Directors or the Program Leaders and is willing to present at APH's Annual or Spring meeting.

2.2 What can you apply for?

The 2024 scheme offers room for **4 Postdoc Fellowships**. The maximum salary budget that is available in this APH scheme for 4 fellowships amounts to a total of €369.000,-, which must be matched with its equivalent by the applicant's department or an external partner. The budget for these grants should be spent on salary costs of the candidate up to a maximum of 50% of the proposed budget in the application.

A postdoctoral researcher should dedicate his/her working time at an APH affiliated department during 2 years on a research project, funded for a maximum of 50% by APH and matched by the applicant's department and/or by (an) external (non-)academic partner(s) involved. The total budget that an application for a Postdoc Fellowship may propose amounts to a maximum of €184.500.- (equals salary scale CAO UMC max. 10.8, 1.0 fte), spread over 2 years, of which a maximum of €92.250.- (50%) can be financed by APH in this call. This excludes a bench fee of up to €5,000.- in total for 2 years. All applications must take into account the following terms:

- The maximum amounts mentioned above take into account the different internal surcharge rates that apply to direct funding (i.e., APH funding and in some cases the funding matched by the department) and other funding (i.e., the funding matched by external partners and, in some cases, the department).
- Depending on the proposed structure for matching the APH funding and the salary scale of the proposed candidate, the budget applied for may be lower than the maximum amount stated above. This may not be supplemented with material or other costs.
- Only budget plans verified by the department's financial advisor/controller will be accepted.

2.3 When to apply?

The call will open on Monday October 2nd, 2023 and closes Tuesday November 28th, 2023, 23:59 hrs. Decisions on awarded grants will be announced around December 21st, 2023. The ultimate starting date of the granted research projects is March 1st, 2024.

2.4 How to submit?

Applications must be submitted by email to aph@amsterdamumc.nl no later than **Tuesday November 28th, 2023, 23:59 hrs.**

Applications include:

- An **Application form** (completely filled out and signed) [<DOWNLOAD APPLICATION FORM>](#)

and the following attachments:

- (A) Curriculum Vitae of the candidate
- (B) Personal development plan (max. 1 A4) specifying the candidate's expertise and competencies as well as personal development points and a training plan [<DOWNLOAD TEMPLATE B>](#)
- (C) Research proposal, containing a work plan, timeline and publication plan for at least 3 publications (max. 2 A4) [<DOWNLOAD TEMPLATE C>](#)
- (D) Letter of intent by head of department hosting the fellowship
- (E) Letter of intent by external partner organization(s) or research program leader financially involved in the research project (if applicable)

The application documents must be filled out in English. Incomplete applications cannot be processed.

3. Assessment procedure

3.1 General procedure

The quality of the submitted proposals will be assessed by an independent Grant Review Council representing methodologic and thematic expertise within APH. Based on this assessment the Grant Review Council will advise the APH Board of Directors. The APH Board of Directors will then decide which proposals will be funded.

3.2 Timeline

October 2, 2023	Opening call for proposals
November 28, 2023, 23:59 hrs.	Submission deadline
November 30 - December 10, 2023	Round 1: Written assessment of proposals by the Grant Review Council
December 12 - December 19, 2023	Round 2: Group assessment of proposals by the Grant Review Council
December 21, 2023	Decision by the APH Board of Directors
March 1, 2024	Ultimate starting date of the granted projects

3.3 Assessment criteria

The research project:

- fits within APH and its APH research programs;
- is linked to at least one of APH's strategic themes;
- has an original research question and an innovative character;
- is of high scientific quality;
- has potential societal impact;
- considers environmental sustainability aspects, for instance reducing the climate footprint of the research project;
- strives for diverse and inclusive research, for instance in design, recruitment, and data collection;
- incorporates team science, this includes how the applicant collaborates with other researchers from different disciplines, other APH research programs, and/or APH committees, and how the individual strengths and expertise of the team members demonstrably reinforce each other;
- will be executed by a suitable candidate assessed by the motivation and Curriculum Vitae of the proposed candidate (incl. dissertation, peer reviewed publications, innovation skills, successful fund raising, societal impact, outreach activities and collaboration).

4. Contact and other information

Scientific questions

For scientific questions about the call for proposals please get in touch with:

Prof. dr. Martine C. de Bruijne

Director of Amsterdam Public Health research institute & Professor of Public Health, especially Quality of Care at Dept. of Public and Occupational Health

Email: mc.debruyne@amsterdamumc.nl

Technical questions

For technical questions about the application, please get in touch with one the APH policy officers via aph@amsterdamumc.nl

For more information and the application form and attachments templates visit the [APH website](#).