

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT/LAY REVIEWER PROFILE

Call for Proposals for Research Projects on Neurodevelopmental Disorders

NEURON invites patients, carers or patient organisation representatives to participate in the evaluation of research proposals in 2021. As a first step NEURON and EFNA will deliver a workshop **‘Together for Brain Research’** in April 2021 to enable anyone interested in getting involved in the research evaluation process. Please find below information for people interested in joining us for this session.

About the funding call

“The aim of the call is to facilitate multinational, collaborative research projects that will address important translational questions relating to the neurodevelopmental nature of neurological and mental disorders.

Neurodevelopmental disorders are behavioural and cognitive disorders that arise during the developmental period that involve significant difficulties in the acquisition and execution of specific intellectual, motor, or social functions.

This call is limited to disorders, which show their first manifestations before the end of adolescence and impair the development and the function of the nervous system. Research on the continuation or progression of those symptoms with a lifetime perspective is allowed if addressing the consequences of disorders starting before adolescence...”

Please follow this link to learn more about the research funding call:
[ERA-NET NEURON funding call 2021](#)

Who should join us as a lay reviewer?

- People affected themselves or carers for people affected by neurodevelopmental disorders. Typical neurodevelopmental disorders might be Autism Spectrum Disorders, childhood epilepsy, intellectual disability, impaired motor function, genetic disorders, traumatic brain injury (e.g. birth injuries), ADHD but also other disorders.
- Also, patients and carers from other areas of neurological or psychiatric disorders are most welcome if they find themselves interested in engaging with this funding call.
- Good English reading and writing skills are required to read the applications, write the assessments, and actively partake at the panel discussion
- Interest/background in natural sciences is beneficial, but not essential
- Experience as lay reviewer or being involved in research is most welcome, but not essential
- Willingness to commit to the workload and availability for the respective time (described below)

Timeline and workload

- The lay reviewers participate at each **full proposal step** for the evaluation of research proposals.
- The review process starts in **early July** (see figure below: **orange** indicates when your time commitment is requested)
- The basis for the patient evaluation will be the patient relevant information (3-4 pages in the full proposal)
- Each patient reviewer will have to evaluate around 5-7 proposals
- Therefore, patient reviewers will be expected to read between 15 and 30 pages
- The patient evaluations will be needed **by the end of August** in a written format
- For the written evaluation detailed instructions will be provided and a specific form will guide you through your evaluation (which will be submitted by a simple online tool)
- On the **13th-14th of September** the proposals are discussed on the basis of the scientific and patient reviews in a review panel meeting (please reserve this date incl. travel times).
- If favored, patients can serve as remote reviewers, meaning they will contribute with their written votes, but will not attend the meeting.



Remuneration/reimbursement

- For a remote review (only written assessment no attendance at the meeting): 250€
- For written reviews and attendance at the meeting: 750€
- Travel costs for the face-to-face meeting in September will be reimbursed by NEURON; we will also take care of your accommodation at the venue.
- If an accompanying person is required, NEURON will also compensate for the according travel and accommodation costs.
- If the meeting in September will be face-to-face or virtual will be decided according to pandemic situation at the time

Benefits of being a lay reviewer!

- Influencing what research is funded in your field of interest
- Interacting with leading researchers and building your scientific knowledge/expertise
- Connecting with other similarly-minded advocates to share experiences and perspectives
- Volunteering, but being reimbursed for a task that matters to your community

PLEASE CONSIDER GETTING INVOLVED – WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU!
SHOULD YOU NEED MORE INFORMATION OR HAVE ANY COMMENTS/QUESTIONS, PLEASE EMAIL:
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