

CAIM RESEARCH FUND APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Deadline for submission 15 September 2021 17.00 (CEST)

1. AIM OF THE FUND

To fund high-impact projects focusing on digitalization and AI with clear clinical impact. This funding program provides early-stage support to researchers from the University of Bern, the Insel Gruppe/Bern University Hospital, the Universitäre Psychiatrische Dienste Bern (UPD)/Bern University Psychiatric Services and sitem-insel to pump prime projects. These must be designed to lead to follow-on external funding for clinical translation research of AI/digitization applications in medicine after support by the CAIM Research Fund.

Scientific scope: Milestone-driven projects may be discovery, proof-of-concept, or translational and have a strong potential to be groundbreaking for future medical and clinical approaches. Projects supported by the CAIM Research Fund must be inter-disciplinary (inter-/intra faculty) and foster collaboration between/within the Faculty of Medicine and ideally include other disciplines and/Faculties of the University of Bern.

2. FUNDING

Rounds

- 1 round, every 2 years
- Minimum of 2 funding rounds expected

Length of project funding

- Maximum 2 years

Start of funding:

- Within 6 months of granted date

Available funds

- For individual projects: up to 100'000 CHF

Follow-up funding:

- Qualifying projects may apply for follow-on funding in 2 consecutive rounds (total of 2 rounds, max CHF 200'000). Follow-on funding is subject to the same review criteria as initial funding.

Co-funding/matching funds:

- Co-funding from participating institutes is encouraged but is not required. Applicants submitting projects with matching/co-funding should include a letter from the department head confirming availability and commitment of matching funds/resources.

Computational resource:

- Project-specific priority CPU and GPU access to the high-performance computing of the University Bern (Ubelix) and Inselspital (Insel Data Science Center) can be applied for **in addition to project funding**.

3. REQUIREMENTS**CV**

- Please include Swiss National Science Foundation format CV's for the lead and co-applicants (i.e., 3 page CV).

Application Form

- Complete the CAIM Research Fund application form

Letters of support

- A letter of support from the Head of the department or institute is required for applicants without permanent employment
- A letter of support confirming matched resources or funding

Subcontracting

- Formal quotations for subcontracting services requested in the budget

File Format

Combine all submission material in a single PDF file with the following naming convention: CRF_LastNamePI_FirstNamePI.pdf (e.g., CRF_Muller_Patrick.pdf)

4. EXPENDITURES**Allowable expenditures:**

- Salary support for research personnel or Co-PIs on time-limited contracts (e.g., PhD students, post-docs)/data managers at the University of Bern, and/or the Insel Gruppe/Bern University Hospital and/or the Universitäre Psychiatrische Dienste Bern (UPD)/Bern University Psychiatric Services
- Consultation/sub-contracting fees (quote from supplier must be included)
- Laboratory supplies and expenses
- User fees for Core Facilities (other than those provided by CAIM)
- Software purchases required for the applied project
- International travel and conference/meeting expenses

Non-allowable expenditures:

- PI salary support
- Salary support at institutions outside of the University of Bern, and/or Inselgruppe/Bern University Hospital and/or the Universitäre Psychiatrische Dienste Bern (UPD)/Bern University Psychiatric Services
- Secretarial/administrative personnel
- Capital costs/equipment, including maintenance/service contracts
- Office furniture and supplies
- Construction, renovation, or maintenance of buildings/laboratories
- Rental of laboratory or office space
- Computers/computing infrastructure (already provided by CAIM)
- Publication costs, including reprints
- Purchasing or binding of periodicals and books
- Dues and membership fees in scientific societies

5. APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be employees of the University of Bern, and/or the Insel Gruppe/Bern University Hospital and/or the Universitäre Psychiatrische Dienste Bern (UPD)/Bern University Psychiatric Services.

Applicants can be:

- 1 PI with up to 1 Co-PI,
- At least one applicant needs to be a member of the Medical Faculty, University of Bern,
- Junior researchers are encouraged to apply as co-investigators

6. PROPOSAL ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be employed at the University of Bern, and/or Insel Gruppe/Bern University Hospital and/or the Universitäre Psychiatrische Dienste Bern (UPD)/Bern University Psychiatric Services. Support by the CAIM Research Fund is not available to employees of other institutions.

7. DEADLINES

Please submit a single PDF application compiled according to the document checklist in the Application Form by **15 September 2021** to the online submission portal:

<https://cmt3.research.microsoft.com/CAIM2021/>.

A short list of projects will be invited to present their project on **6 December 2021** in an elevator pitch format. Awards will be announced in early **February 2022**.

8. ASSISTANCE

Please send any queries regarding applications to fund.aim@unibe.ch and use "CRF_LastNamePI_FirstNamePI" as the subject of your email in any correspondence.

9. POSTAWARD PROCESS

Data sharing:

- Data used in CAIM-funded projects will be made available to other funded researchers, where "added value" or enhancements to the original data were made.

Data use:

- Will be highly regulated and pre-agreed. Details to follow on at <https://www.aim.unibe.ch/>

Reporting:

- A scientific and financial report to CAIM detailing the outcome of the project at the end of the funding period (max 3 months after end of funding period) is mandatory
- Applicants will be asked to present their project at a CAIM event
- Any publication derived from CAIM support should include acknowledgement of support "Supported by the Center of Artificial Intelligence in Medicine (CAIM), University of Bern".

No cost extensions:

- Possible, but not encouraged. Any such requests must be received in writing to Prof. Inti Zlobec inti.zlobec@pathology.unibe.ch with a justification, no less than 60 days before the original end date of the grant and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.