

‘Research AIOS Pediatric Oncology’ - Description and Procedure

Introduction

The opportunities for talented pediatricians (or other medical specialists) in training to continue their scientific research during and as part of their specialization are scarce. We seek to overcome this by means of introducing the ‘Research AIOS Pediatric Oncology’. This plan fits in well with our talent program, which is designed to bind talented pediatricians to us at an early stage and to keep them captivated.

Goal

To enable talented researchers to combine their pediatric oncology research with their pediatrician (or otherwise clinical) training and to continue it afterwards.

Target group

Pediatricians in training who combine scientific (PhD) research with training as a pediatrician. This includes both trainee physicians who have not yet obtained a PhD and researchers who have already obtained a PhD. Other medical specialists in training are eligible as well.

Funding

Each year a maximum of 2 ‘Research AIOS Pediatric Oncology’ are appointed, for 0.2 FTE per trainee and for a maximum of 4 years. This costs about €14k per person per year. Research costs themselves (bench fee) must be funded by the PI group to which the trainee is appointed. The funding stops as soon as the clinical training is completed, or after 4 years.

Number

A maximum of 2 trainees can be appointed each year, for a maximum of 4 years. This means that from the 4th year after the start of this program, a maximum of 8 pediatric oncology trainee research assistants will have been appointed.

Arrangements

- The fellowship is personal.
- Candidates sign up personally.
- The financial resources are used for 0.2 FTE of the salary costs, excluding an allowance for shifts.

Conditions

- Candidates are guaranteed a training post (AIOS position) and should start or already be in clinical training within 12 months at the time of the deadline.
- The minimum requirement for submission is that at least 12 months of training have yet to be completed at the time of the deadline.
- Candidates must spend 20% of the time period covered by the grant on research. This 20% research time should be divided during the training in consultation with the trainer and the (co-)PI who supervises the research part at their discretion (1 day a week for 4 years, twice a 5-month period or all variations in between).

Selection criteria

In the assessment, the résumé and the scientific quality of the research proposal are taken into account in the final decision. When assessing the résumé, special attention is paid to the interest shown in scientific research, experience in scientific research, the number and type of publications, initiative, sidelines and versatility of the candidate.

For the scientific quality, clarity of the question, clinical relevance, degree of challenge, embedding, added value of the grant in light of ongoing research, funding and feasibility of the work plan, as well as the potential contribution to the mission of the Princess Máxima Center and to the focal points identified in the long-term strategic policy plan are elements on the basis of which individual committee members reach their final verdict.

Selection procedure

The applications are assessed by the “Research AIOS Pediatric Oncology” committee. This committee includes the CSO, CMO, Academy Director, Clinical Directors and a research director. The grants are awarded on the basis of the résumé and a research plan.

1. There is a continuous possibility to apply for a position as ‘Research AIOS Pediatric Oncology.
2. The nomination must be accompanied by a letter of recommendation signed by the (co-) promotor and/or the (co-) PI from the Princess Máxima Center and the trainer (from a UMC).
3. The nomination also comprises the following:
 - Résumé of the candidate (see application form);
 - A research plan for the duration of the grant according to the format of the application form, consisting of:
 - A research plan;
 - The candidate’s motivation to combine the specialization with scientific research;
 - A description of how the candidate intends to spend the 20% research time within the medical specialization;
 - A description of the added value of the grant for the candidate’s research in light of ongoing research and funding.
4. The nomination is to be submitted to academy@prinsesmaximacentrum.nl
5. The Academy Desk checks the nomination for completeness, requests additional information if required, and arranges a meeting between the selection committee and the candidate.
6. The selection committee is to receive the nomination no later than one week before the meeting.
7. The selection committee provides a well-founded prioritization of the nominated candidate.
8. The Academy is responsible for the administrative office and supports the committee by attending the meeting and taking minutes.
9. The selection committee decides whether the grant for ‘Research AIOS Pediatric Oncology’ is to be awarded to the candidate and informs the candidate accordingly.
10. Progress is assessed annually by the trainer, the Academy director and the relevant (co-)PI. If progress is insufficient, the grant can be withdrawn. In that case, the full selection committee will consult with the (co-)PI before this decision is made.