JPIAMR 14th Joint Call: Disrupting drug Resistance by Using Innovative Design

Q&A Online Webinar for applicants January 25th, 2022

This is a selection of questions and answers from the global webinar that invited researchers to learn more about the call and to ask questions to representatives from funders participating in the call. For more information, please visit the call webpage: https://www.jpiamr.eu/calls/therapeutics-call-2022/

Q: Is it possible to propose an original chemical shape/structure?
A: The proposed research should be related to already licensed agents, or agents already under clinical, or pre-clinical development. If you wish to improve the efficacy of the agent, through modification of the chemical structure, it should be in the scope.

Q: Is it a mistake that non-licensed antimicrobials are not eligible?
A: The proposed research should be related to already licensed agents, or agents already under clinical, or pre-clinical development.

Q: Is it eligible a project that deals with repurposed drugs? For example, studies on clinically approve drugs for other indications repurposed as antimicrobials?
A: Yes, such a topic would be eligible.

Q: Can you clarify « pre-clinical »? Are compounds active against a bug in vitro eligible?
A: A compound at the pre-clinical stage means that the compound should be almost ready to go to the clinical stage. You need to prove that your original compound has been already characterized, and that you have enough data on feasibility, efficiency and preliminary data on drug safety. In vitro results can be accepted but research using animals are generally stronger. The evaluation panel will be in charge of checking that your proposal is in the scope of the call.

Q: Is it an asset to cover more than one "One Health" aspect?
A: One aspect is fine; there are no extra points for using more than one.

Q: Are veterinary drugs (that are not approved for human use) also eligible under a repurposing program?
A: Yes, veterinary drugs would be eligible.

Q: Will we have the slides after the event?
A: Presentations are registered and the videos will be available on YouTube.

Q: Can you clarify what you mean by pre-clinical development. Is a hit to lead project eligible?
A: Pre-clinical: before the start of clinical trials.

Q: Is it possible a consortium with 3 (or 4) partners from the same country, as long as 3 countries are represented in the project?
A: Normally yes, if there is a minimum of 3 partners asking for funding from 3 different participating countries (with at least 2 EU countries). But you will have to check with the particular national funding agency, they might have restrictions on the number of partners per project.

Q: Chemical modification even of licensed antimicrobials leads to new chemical compounds requiring new studies, similar to completely new compounds. Thus, to which degree is chemical modification eligible?
A: Chemical modification to improve the efficacy, delivery, or specificity of licensed antimicrobials would be eligible.

Q: What about licensed drugs, which are licensed for treatment of another disease, not a microbial infection?
A: Those drugs would be eligible.

Q: Is this call only for therapeutics and related to drugs or plant pesticides and new integrated pest management for safer environment can be eligible for this call?
A: This call includes the improvement of efficacy, delivery and specificity of plant protection agents.

Q: Are industrial partners able to receive funding?
A: Industrial partners can join a proposal as funded partners or non-funded partners. You need to check eligibility of the industrial partners with funding organizations.

Q: Is it possible to have USA as partner with or without funding request?
A: Partners from the US can join a consortium but they will have to be on own funds, as the US is not participating in the call.

Q: Tunisia can participate as a LMIC?
A: Unfortunately not; Sida will only support participation of least-developed countries in sub-Saharan Africa plus countries in the region where Sweden has bilateral development cooperation.

Q: Is it possible to join two different consortia on different topics?
A: Yes, it is possible be a partner in two different consortia but it may depend on national rules. We invite you to check with your funding organization.

Q: Antiviral and antiparasitic are out of scope, and at the same time, repurposing drugs are in the aims of the call. Could an antiviral or antiparasitic compound accepted for repurposing as antimicrobial compound?
A: If you characterize a new antibacterial or antifungal effect, yes. The original agent should of course be already licensed or under clinical test for parasitic/ viral infection.

Q: Can we use antibacterial metal ions and nanoparticles (such as silver ions or silver nanoparticles) in this call?
A: If it's for improved application, efficacy and delivery of single or combinations of antibiotic/antifungals, yes!

Q: Can SIDA fund two projects in which a same researcher is involved?
A: Researchers may only be listed as a project coordinator or research partner on one project application. However, multiple submissions from multiple projects with researchers based at the same institution are allowed.

Q: Is a scientific consultancy eligible as a 'company' to lead or be involved in a consortium?
A: You will have to check with the national funding agency to find out which partners they can fund.

Q: Hit to lead optimisation is specifically included in the call. How can those projects have collected data on iterative testing and drug safety?
A: You need to have enough data proving that the original compound has already been characterized. The evaluation panel will estimate if enough characterisation of the original drug has been performed to consider that improvement of the original agent is useful and meaningful

Q: What is the list of Sub-Saharan Africa countries?
A: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo (Dem. Rep.), Eritrea, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Q: Are H2020 associated countries considered equal as EU?
A: Yes, in the frame of this call, H2020 associated countries are equal to EU countries.

Q: We are planning a clinical RCT in humans. We will compare one licensed antimicrobial in each arm. For one of the antimicrobials we have, we will do PK/PD modelling. We will use a different dosage than currently used and also the indication is new. Is that study eligible?
A: Based on the information given, yes. However, the adequacy to the topic of the scope will be evaluated by the evaluation panel.

Q: Can we change the consortium between 1st and second round application?
A: Only to include a non-funded partner or a partner supported by an under-subscribed funding organization.

Q: Is the derivatization of a known, approved food additive ok for this call?
A: If the approved food additive has an antibacterial or antifungal effect yes.

Q: Is there a copy of the application form available off-line to think about the questions before filling in on line?
A: Yes, this is available on the JPIAMR call webpage:
https://www.jpiamr.eu/calls/therapeutics-call-2022/

Q: Will reviewers give their evaluation in descriptive form based on criteria, or also score them?
A: Only the descriptive form based on criteria will be sent to the project coordinator.

Q: What is the maximum amount we can ask in this call?
A: This is dependent on the national funder, there is no maximum amount per proposal. You find this information in the national annexes in the call text.

Q: For the 3 funded partners who will be requesting for funding, should their project be the same protocol but performed in the 3 different countries?
A: No, it should be a collaborative project, in which each partner has a specific role. The setting can be in one country or more.

Q: What is the expected success rate in this year's call or how many projects (approximately) are planned to be funded?
A: The success rate cannot be known in advance. It depends of the number of proposals submitted and of the available funding of the different funding organisations.

Q: Are the scientific reviewers 2 for the pre-proposals and 3 for the full proposals?
A: Yes this will be a minimum of 2 for pre-proposal and 3 for full proposals.

Q: Is Egypt eligible to apply for that call?
A: No, Egypt is not part of the call and partners from Egypt cannot be funded by SIDA. However, it is still possible to join a consortium as a non-funded partner.

Q: Is this call include the plant fungicides and modified chemical fungicides with other active molecules too as it is specific for therapeutics related to human?
A: This is a one health call, thus, plant protection agents and in particular plant fungicides are eligible.

Q: Greece and USA are eligible to be partners?
A: These two countries do not participate in the call. However, partners from these countries can participate as non-funded partners.

Q: Since each partner in the consortium will be working on something different from their partners in the consortium. Does it mean that their budgets will also be different. Or the leader of the consortium will be in charge with the management of the funds and the partners will have to request for funds whenever they need to purchase anything required for their labwork?
A: Yes, the budget for each partner would be different, based on their part in the project. Each partner will be in charge of his/her own budget (each partner will be financed by his/her national funding agency)

Q: Can a partner from a UK university be the coordinator and a funding partner?
A: Yes, it is possible.

Q: Bacteriophages or endolysins are currently not licensed antimicrobials but they are currently undergoing clinical trials. Are proposals in this field allowed?
A: Yes, if the project is focused on the improvement of these agents.

Q: Would be a company based in Switzerland eligible?
A: According to SNSF rules, employees of companies are not eligible as applicants, but they can be partners to applicants from eligible Swiss based research institutions

Q: Is Finland a partner country in this call?
A: Finland is not participating in this call.

Q: What about antibacterials for topical/local application, for treatment of infected wounds?
A: It is possible to work on these types of antibacterials if they are licensed or under pre-clinical/ clinical studies and if you intend to improve these antibacterials.

Q: Is work on Non-Tuberculosis Mycobacteria elegible?
A: All antibacterial agents are eligible if licensed or clinical/under pre-clinical development.

Q: Could African countries be partners if they are not part of SIDA?
A: Partners coming from African countries that are not funded by Sida can join a consortium but by bringing their own funding.

Q: What about drugs targeting virulence?
A: If you are working on the improvement of the efficacy, delivery or specificity of drugs that are licensed or under pre-clinical/ clinical development, yes.

Q: Adjuvant therapies (immunomodulators) with not antimicrobial effect and their impact on management of pan drug resistant microorganism could be eligible?
A: Adjuvant therapies can be used in combination with already existing antimicrobial agents with proven effects.

Q: Is work on metal nanoparticles based anti-microbial surfaces eligible?
A: Nanoparticles can be used to improve the efficacy, delivery, or specificity of already known antimicrobials agents.

Q: What about antifungals for use in agriculture, what level of safety testing would be expected? Do these need to be licensed antifungals from humans?
A: Antifungals licensed for use on crops are eligible for a project on plants.

Q: What about combinations between licenced antimicrobials and non-licenced "partner" compounds?
A: It is possible to work on drugs combination if your research is focused on the

improvement of licensed antimicrobials or under pre-clinical/ clinical studies.

Q: Local delivery of antibacterial agents for periprosthetic joint infections in orthopedic surgery, may be an eligible project?
A: If you improve the delivery of already licensed agents or under pre-clinical/ clinical development, yes.

Q: What about lead structures that have been in testing in clinical studies to treat malaria, but is also in preclinical developement for tuberculosis and other bacterial diseases?
A: If the research is focused on the optimization of these lead structures, this would be eligible.

Q: What about antimicrobials combined with food grade products?
A: Your proposal should improve the efficacy of the already existing antimicrobial.

Q: Nutraceuticals demonstrating antimicrobial properties, eligible?
A: If nutraceuticals are licensed or under preclinical/ clinical development and your research is based on the improvement of these nutraceuticals, it would be eligible.

Q: Obtaining of bioactive preparation with potential antibacterial properties in the basis of cyanobacteria biomass, can be included in this call?
A: Discovery of new compounds is out of scope.

Q: Are bacteriophages included within the call? And how far towards 'technology readiness level' do they need to be?
A: Bacteriophages are eligible if they are already under pre-clinical development.

Q: Are new rapid methods for detection of resistance eligible?
A: Diagnostic should not be the main subject of the proposal.

Q: Can a Canadian company apply or only be part of a consortium?
A: The Nominated Principal Applicant must be an independent researcher
The Nominated Principal Applicant must be appointed at an eligible institution (see Institutional Eligibility Requirements for eligibility process and associated timelines) at the time of application.
The Nominated Principal Applicant must have successfully completed one of the sex- and gender-based analysis training modules available online through the CIHR Institute of Gender and Health and have submitted a Certificate of Completion (see How to Apply section). Select and complete the training module most applicable to your research project. Applicants are encouraged to review the "How to integrate sex and gender in research" section on the CIHR website.

Q: For the active Pharmaceutical ingredient to be already known what about the delivery system?
A: Research has to be focused on the improvement of already existing antimicrobials, you can improve delivery (thanks to new technologies), efficacy or specificity of these drugs.