BBMRI-NL 'voucher for biobank science'

Biobanks are collections of samples, data and images of individuals taken at different times in their lives, either when they are ill or when they are healthy. These individuals have agreed to take part in health examinations or population studies. If you think you can reach a biobank communities with your new tool, excite scientists with a revolutionary analysis pipeline, create beautiful visuals or if you have a fantastic state-of-the-art idea that will have a huge impact on biobanks and their participants or funding agencies, then you should apply for a BBMRI-NL 'voucher for biobank science'.

The BBMRI-NL voucher project is to be a breeding ground for innovation and talent. The aim is to promote high quality innovative scientific ideas as well as creative expressions across the entire range of biobanks. This includes not only access to datasets and tool development, but also enlargement of public knowledge on biobanking and stimulating engagement of participants and the general public.
Voucher proposals must have the so-called 'WOW factor'. To give you some inspiration, you can think of: visualization tools for data and information, infographics on biobank issues, quantified self data collection and integration, sample logistics, user-friendly graphical interfaces and information services for various target groups.

So, think outside the box, open your mind and submit your idea. You can apply for a voucher of € 20,000 to 40,000. Please check if you meet all selection criteria before you fill in the application form.

Selection criteria:

Submission

- Closing date: December 15 2015 at 17.00 hours.
- Send your application to: info@bbmri.nl
- Applications will be evaluated for funding by the BBMRI-NL2.0 Scientific Executive Board.

Scientific content

- The project must have a link with one of the BBMRI-NL2.0 research lines:

  WP1 is the administrative hub of BBMRI-NL2.0. It is the central point of coordination for communication activities, such as the yearly conference, website and newsletters. This WP will tune and promote cooperation with the other national and European infrastructures and will stimulate development of tools and materials for engaging the general public in biobank activities.
  Contact person: Prof. Cisca Wijmenga, cisca.wijmenga@gmail.com

  WP2 enriches existing cohorts and biobanks with -omics analyses, such as genetics, metabolomics, epigenomics and proteomics. It seeks to involve as many collections of data and samples as possible to build a methodological, harmonized infrastructure for all participants to share and use in their research. This infrastructure will speed up understanding the context of molecular variation and will allow identification of molecular profiles and biomarkers that predict onset and course of disease.
  Contact person: Prof. Eline Slagboom, p.slagboom@lumc.nl

  WP3 is committed to extend the existing wealth of biobank information with imaging data. It will stimulate the collection, storage and analysis of biomedical imaging data in a standardized fashion by creating standards for acquisition and storage and provision of (semi)automated image-analysis pipelines for imaging biomarker extraction. Large scale analyses of images will lead to the

development of a normative reference of imaging biomarkers for scientific research. This WP will also guide researchers, who want to add imaging data to their collections, with the development of protocols for acquisition and analysis, in a standardized way.
Contact person: Prof. Aad van der Lugt, a.vanderlugt@erasmusmc.nl

WP4 aims for the link between data and materials collected for biomedical research and gleaned in clinical processes, thus bridging the gap between 'theoretical' and applied biomedical science. Previously stored biomaterials from pathology archives and material gathered as part of large national initiatives, like the Parelsnoer Institute (PSI) projects, only have value if they can be associated with phenotypic data. Integration is possible by linking and making available already saved biomaterials (including PALGA archive), histodiagnostic images and clinical data, demographic information from the cancer registry, CBS, pharmacies and other national registries. This will give researchers the opportunity to do a prospective study on early biomakers through prospective data already present in biobanks and will unlock a wealth of information to develop healthcare standards.
Contact person: Prof. Folkert van Kemenade, f.vankemenade@erasmusmc.nl

WP5 will build the infrastructures and IT pipelines that permit researchers and biobank initiatives to interact optimally, facilitating the availability of bioresources to all who need them for their research. This WP will manage, find, access-granting and using all Dutch biobank and life science data in line with global data integration standards such as the FAIR (Find Able, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) standard. This comprises broadening and deepening of the national biobank data catalog, effective continuation and further professionalization of data and computing infrastructure, and incorporation of state-of-the-art tools to interact with BBMRI data sources. To this end systems and tools are adopted and adapted from national (NFU Data4lifesciences, DTL, SURF, CTMM-TraIT, Population Imaging) and European (BBMRI-ERIC, ELIXIR, EATRIS, EGI EUDAT) research IT infrastructures.
Contact person: Prof. Morris Swertz, m.a.swertz@gmail.com

WP6 focuses on ELSI (Ethical, Legal and Social Implications) and long term sustainability of biobank research. It will formulate and integrate solutions for ELSI issues of biobank consolidation, including legal aspects and sharing of data and samples. WP6 will further develop and promote the wider availability of the MyBiobank application that intents to actively involve biobank participants with their biobank, and explore opportunities for quantified self participation in biobank research. On the intersection of scientific and societal issues the potential for sustainable biobanking is identified, for example by participants providing data themselves by digital eHealth approaches or by non-scientific sources of funding.
Contact person: Prof. Ronald Stolk, r.p.stolk@umcg.nl

- The voucher project will be evaluated on both the "WOW" factor and the quality of the project:
  - Originality and innovative character;
  - Importance and urgency of the investment for biobank research;
  - Technical feasibility and technological innovativeness;
  - Effectiveness of the approach;
  - Potential utilization of knowledge;
  - Accessibility (also in the longer term) of results and/or tools for researchers or biobank participants other than those directly involved in the application;
  - If applicable, a data stewardship section has to be part of the voucher proposal (see: http://www.zonmw.nl/fileadmin/documenten/Enabling_Technologies/Background_info.pdf);
  - Quality and competence of applicant(s).

Funding

- Funding will be 20,000 to 40,000 euro per voucher; 80% of the granted funding will be paid at the start of the project, 20% after approval of a submitted end report.
- Budget must be spent on personnel listed in the application or on consumables needed to perform the project described. It is not permitted to use the voucher to pay for overhead, administration costs, salary payments during pregnancy leave or sick leave or the employment of any other personnel than stated in the application.
- Applicants must have a paid appointment for at least the duration of the application process and the proposal for which the grant is requested. Applicants with a temporary position, which ends during the period of the application process or duration of the proposed project, can only apply in case the knowledge institution states that she will guarantee the position of the applicant for the period of the project.
- SMEs, freelancers and commercial parties can also be part of the applying team.
- In case of a possible premature discontinuation of the project, the BBMRI-NL2.0 Scientific Executive Board will decide if the grant should be returned and if it should be returned partly or completely.
- The granted project must be finished before July 1, 2017.