

DKMS Stiftung Leben Spenden

DKMS John Hansen Research Grant

FUNDING GUIDELINES

August 2026

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1 Foreword

- 1.1 The DKMS Stiftung Leben Spenden (hereafter called “**DKMS SLS**”) is a non-profit organization founded in 1997 to raise awareness about the need of unrelated donors for patients diagnosed with disorders with an indication for allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation.
- 1.2 In 2015, the DKMS SLS established the *DKMS Mechtild Harf Research Grant* to support scientific projects in the field of blood cancer and allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. In 2019, the Grant was renamed to DKMS John Hansen Research Grant (hereafter called “**DKMS JHRG**”) to honor Dr. John A. Hansen, an outstanding oncologist and immune-geneticist, who made major advances towards improving the success and efficacy of stem cell transplants in blood cancer patients. Dr. Hansen was a long-standing board member of the DKMS SLS, where he supported the development and the expansion of DKMS to other countries with a deep commitment and passion.
- 1.3 The DKMS JHRG Funding Guidelines (hereafter called “**Guidelines**”) describe the defined rules and conditions for the allocation of funding. The circle of funding recipients is defined in more detail and the general objectives and content of this funding program are set out herein.

2 General Conditions

- 2.1 The DKMS JHRG aims to support promising young scientists in advancing scientific understanding in the field of blood cancer, with a focus on hematopoietic stem cell transplantation and cell therapy for hematological diseases. Funding under this grant is limited to the research areas outlined above. This grant does not provide funding for any other research areas or for projects primarily focused on product development, commercialization, or other commercial activities. For this purpose, the selected scientist (hereafter called “**awardee**”) is awarded with the grant. The funding will be transferred to the institution at which the awardee is affiliated (hereafter called “**host institution**”). The grant is to be used exclusively for the selected scientific project of the awardee.
- 2.2 The award of this Grant is preceded by an application phase, after which a committee will reach a selection decision. Even if all the conditions for funding in these Guidelines are met, there is no legal entitlement to funding. The decision on funding falls to the respective DKMS SLS committees alone. The relevant committee may justify its decision to decline funding, although it is not under obligation to do so.
- 2.3 The entire funding period has a maximum duration of three (3) years. Each annual funding period begins on July 1st and ends on June 30th of the following year.
- 2.4 During the application process as well as the funding period, DKMS SLS must be immediately informed when circumstances relevant to the granting of funds are foreseen, including but not limited to:
 - i. Changes of contact information of the awardee or the host institution.
 - ii. Changes in the project financial plans (scope, quantity, etc.).

- iii. Changes in the project design or any other information contained in the initial approved application.
- iv. Changes in the conditions for the realization of a project (e.g. partners, project location, timelines, primary supervisor).
- v. Changes that concern the legal requirements applicable to the project, such as regulatory prerequisites, assessments by the competent authorities or by ethics committees, and similar matters.
- vi. Changes regarding planned patenting or commercialization of partial or final results of the project.
- vii. Changes in the affiliation of the awardee.
- viii. Changes in the legal status of the host institution (e.g. change in legal status, changes to the articles of association; please refer to section 3.5).
- ix. Insolvency or settlement proceedings filed or initiated against the host institution, or if other official approvals for the project are withdrawn, changed in terms of content or cease to exist.
- x. Donations, grants and other financial support received by the awardee or the host institution for the awarded project from other sponsoring institutions or persons while receiving funding from the DKMS SLS.

2.5 DKMS SLS reserves the right to review these changes. DKMS SLS also reserves the right to cancel the funding, either wholly or in part, in light of substantial changes in circumstances, for example related to the scope of the research project.

2.6 When applicable, it is the responsibility of the awardee to ensure the necessary involvement of the ethics committee and compliance with legal provisions as well as for obtaining the necessary official permits and approvals (i.e. IRB approval, animal test approvals). This shall also apply to obtaining and assessing any requirements under data protection law and to ensuring an appropriate concept, if and to the extent necessary.

2.7 DKMS SLS shall not be responsible for the conduct, execution, results, safety, regulatory & legal compliance, or overall implementation of the funded project. This shall not affect any liability that cannot be excluded or limited under applicable mandatory law, including liability for intent, gross negligence, injury to life, body or health, or liability under mandatory statutory liability regimes. In the event of a negligent breach of material contractual obligations, DKMS SLS's liability shall be limited to the typical, foreseeable damage.

2.8 To the extent that a permitted change of host institution as defined in section 11.1 and 11.2 of these Guidelines occurs prior to the expiration of the funding period, the host institution agrees to comply with the conditions in section 11.3, 11.4 and 11.5.

3 Eligibility

3.1 Applicants from all countries are welcome to apply. Awardees from previous years cannot apply a second time.

- 3.2 Funding through the DKMS JHRG is dependent on the eligibility of the applicant: The Applicant must have received a doctoral degree (PhD, MD, or equivalent achievements) in a field pertinent to the grant within the 10 years preceding the grant call start date.
- 3.3 Applicants whose careers have been interrupted after receiving a doctoral degree may request an extension of the degree requirement insofar as the interruption occurred for example to one of the following reasons:
- family care responsibilities,
 - applicant's disability or illness,
 - active duty, community service, etc..

Such request for extension shall be initiated within the scope of the application phase by contacting grant@dkms.org. Upon request, the reasons leading to an extension request must be substantiated by appropriate documentation. Requests for extension will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

- 3.4 Applicants must appoint a supervisor in their application. The supervisor should ideally be a senior scientist in the applicant's host institution with experience in the research proposal topic, who can provide guidance and support for an adequate project progress.
- 3.5 The host institution where the applicant is affiliated must be an organization eligible for funding by DKMS SLS as imposed on DKMS SLS by the German tax authorities. Eligible organizations are governmental organizations (legal person under public law) defined as:
- legal persons under public law including regional authorities of the federation,
 - member states and municipalities,
 - chambers of industry and
 - commerce public law institutions, e.g. universities or schools and state foundations.

Generally, legal persons under public law carry out regulatory tasks. Furthermore, other non-governmental non-profit organizations are eligible for funding by DKMS SLS if they meet the German tax requirements for nonprofit organizations.

German organizations are eligible for funding if they can provide a valid individually issued tax exemption certificate (called in German "Freistellungsbescheid").

- 3.6 The host institution must provide the DKMS SLS with any document required to demonstrate compliance with the requirements set out in to section 3.5 of these Guidelines. This may include founding documents such as articles of association, statutes, a memorandum of incorporation, or equivalent documents. For governmental organizations, a letter from the responsible ministry or an equivalent authority confirming the organization's governmental status is sufficient. All documents must be submitted in English or German. The DKMS SLS does not pay translation fees.

4 Application

- 4.1 The Application Instructions and these Guidelines are published each year on the DKMS JHRG website at the beginning of the application period.
- 4.2 For application, information on the applicant, together with a description of the research project and a budget plan, must be submitted to the DKMS SLS in accordance with the Application Instructions.
- 4.3 A “*Declaration of Agreement*” (see Annex I) accepting the conditions set out in these Guidelines must be signed in writing by both the applicant and an authorized signatory (e.g. grant office, head of department according to internal requirements) of the host institution together with an official stamp or the full official address of the host institution itself.
- 4.4 Any required document can be submitted by e-mail. Originals should be kept in case they need to be requested by the DKMS SLS for checking compliance with these Guidelines.
- 4.5 Application documents and reports must be submitted in English. Invoices and other documents can be submitted in the original language, but preferably in English or German.

5 Funding Amount

- 5.1 With the DKMS JHRG, the awardee will be given a maximum of up to EUR 240,000 (up to EUR 80,000 annual budget) over a maximum funding period of three (3) years (see 2.3).
- 5.2 The funds will be disbursed in Euros. In the event of a currency conversion, the exchange rate on the date of payment shall apply. If, as a result of the currency conversion on the date of disbursement, discrepancies to the detriment of the awardee occur, these shall not be compensated by additional payments. If the currency conversion results in an “overpayment” compared with the euro amount at the time the grant was awarded, such overpayments shall not be required to be reimbursed. Once the amount has been received, proof of payment must be submitted to DKMS SLS, which shows the conversion amount. Costs associated with currency exchange or bank transfer fees are not eligible for reimbursement under this grant.
- 5.3 The prerequisite for payment for the first funding period is to send the complete application documents to demonstrate eligibility of the awardee and host institution as required in section 3 and 4 of these Guidelines.
- 5.4 A “*Notice of Award*”, which entitles the host institution to receive the funds, will be issued after verification of the eligibility criteria described in section 3.

- 5.5 The funds will be transferred by the DKMS SLS to the bank account specified by the host institution. A separate account or a separate project-specific cost center should be set up for project transactions. We assume that transfers of grants from abroad to your bank account in Euros (€) are possible. Please inform us if a transfer of grant funds is restricted in your country.
- 5.6 Each installment (partial payment in the fiscal sense) is to be used by the end of the 2nd calendar year following the disbursement in accordance with the funded project.
- 5.7 After the end of each funding period, the awardee must submit the records of the appropriation of funds as laid out in section 10 at the time as described in section 9 of these Guidelines, in order to enable DKMS SLS to verify the proper use of the funding amount as described in section 6 for the expired period. The funding amount for a subsequent period will only be paid after the documents have been submitted in full and the audit has been completed.

6 Funding Restrictions

- 6.1 The funds granted by the DKMS SLS may only be used for the fulfilment of the awarded research project. They are not bound to financial years. The awardee must use the funds granted cost-effectively and sparingly and must make use of all achievable cost advantages.
- 6.2 The funds granted by the DKMS SLS may not be used to cover costs that are already funded by other means. Double funding of staff positions, consumables, or any other expenditures is not permitted.
- 6.3 Supplies such as disposables, chemicals, reagent kits, animals, etc., may be included.
- 6.4 The awardee is allowed to use the grant to fund the own PI position. The budget requested to fund the position should be commensurate with the actual effort on the project. The funding of a PhD student dedicated to the project is also allowed.
- 6.5 Hiring technicians with at least 30% of their time dedicated to the awarded project is allowed. The employment contracts shall be presented to the DKMS SLS for inspection upon request. Hiring requirements must be fulfilled in line with the respective national legal regulations.
- 6.6 Salaries for supervisor or collaborators are not eligible for funding.
- 6.7 A maximum of EUR 2,500 per year for travel, accommodation costs and registration fee to a scientific meeting for presentation of the awarded project data by the awardee may be used. Expenses for childcare costs at the conference site (if offered) may be added on extra. The maximum travel amount provided annually may only be used for travel expenses to the conference location on the following listed conditions:
- One participant, preferably the awardee. Upon prior written approval by DKMS SLS and with appropriate justification, another project-related person may also be chosen instead.

- The resulting costs are absolutely necessary to reach the conference destination.
- Plane and train tickets must be economy class.
- There must not be more than 24h of layover between connecting flights or rail journeys.
- Accommodation must be in adequate hotels. Use of luxury or five-star hotels is not allowed.
- Per diems for meals and other food or beverage costs are not allowed.
- Taxi rides and parking fees will only be reimbursed if the unavoidability is demonstrated.

Furthermore, the following expenses are not allowed:

- In-flight movies/refreshments.
- Hotel room movies and other forms of personal entertainment.
- Traffic fines.
- Tips in excess of 10% and/or tips in addition to pre-applied gratuity.
- Meals and drinks.
- Parties and gifts.

- 6.8 Publication costs: Reasonable publication costs directly related to the awarded project, including open access fees, may be included in the project budget, within the maximum grant amount set out in section 5.1 and up to a maximum amount of EUR 10,000, provided that they are necessary for the dissemination of project results, not covered by other funding, and evidenced by appropriate documentation.
- 6.9 Training costs: Reasonable costs for training directly relevant for the implementation of the awarded project may be included in the project budget, provided that such costs are project-specific, proportionate, and not part of general career development or institutional training obligations.
- 6.10 High-speed internet connection, cloud services, and software licenses are eligible for funding if they are immediately necessary for the successful execution of the project. A brief justification is required.
- 6.11 The use of the funds granted for the following expenses in particular is excluded:
- i. Fringe benefits without legal basis (e.g., supplementary insurances, car leasing, profit sharing for employees)
 - ii. Equipment purchases with a single item value of greater than EUR 1,000.
 - iii. Institute-related overheads of the host institution.
 - iv. Secretarial or clerical work.
 - v. Acquisition of land and property.
 - vi. Books and journals.
 - vii. Buildings (renovations or new builds), assembly work or furnishings.
 - viii. Building, laboratories and office space rentals.
 - ix. Office supplies and phone bills.
 - x. VAT, if deductible.
 - xi. National income tax as a result of the inflow of funding.

- xii. Costs related to development or commercialization activities (e.g., legal consulting fees, translations, patent filing and protection costs).

7 Dissemination and Public Engagement

- 7.1 The awardee agrees to submit a recent photograph, a lay-language (non-technical, English) summary of the project and a visual abstract within two weeks of being notified of the award. The photo of the awardee must be in landscape format and at least 1 MB/300dpi in size. The summary and visual abstract must not contain confidential information, unpublished protectable intellectual property, third-party rights, or personal data of third parties unless all required rights and consents have been obtained.
- 7.2 DKMS SLS is pleased to invite all awardees to attend the award ceremony, which will be held during the Annual Meeting of the European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT) in Europe. In-person participation is strongly encouraged. DKMS SLS will cover reasonable travel expenses (air/train) and may provide a reasonable accommodation contribution for attending awardees.
- 7.3 The DKMS SLS may seek to make the funded research projects and its results publicly accessible. Therefore, the awardee is expected to collaborate with the DKMS SLS in related communication activities. These may include interviews, photo and video recordings, as well as participation in networking events such as round table discussions. All activities will be coordinated in advance with the awardee. If required by the awardee's affiliated institution, the awardee is responsible for notifying the institution of these planned activities. The awardee grants DKMS SLS a non-exclusive, royalty-free right to use the submitted project summaries, photograph, visual abstract and other communication materials provided in connection with the grant for grant-related communication and non-commercial public engagement purposes, including publication on DKMS websites and platforms, DKMS social media channels, press materials and reports. The awardee shall ensure that such materials do not infringe third-party rights or contain confidential information, unpublished protectable intellectual property or personal data of third parties unless the awardee has obtained all necessary rights, permissions and consents.
- 7.4 A summary of the results in lay language must be submitted with the final report.
- 7.5 In order to carry out the communication activities in the meaning of 7.3, it is necessary for the awardee to provide a declaration of consent to the processing of their personal data. The form will be sent to the awardee following the funding decision.
- 7.6 The DKMS SLS welcomes the awardee's interest in participating in networking initiatives (e.g., an alumni program) and in future communication activities highlighting the fellowship's impact on their scientific career beyond its completion.
- 7.7 The awardee must inform the DKMS SLS in advance about any content in the application abstract, lay summary, or progress report that should not be published due to confidentiality or intellectual property restrictions. Such content will not be disclosed by the DKMS SLS without the awardee's prior written approval.

8 Acknowledgment of Funding by the DKMS SLS

- 8.1 At the end all publications and communications related to the funded project – such as press releases, oral presentations, posters at scientific meetings, or project description on the host institution’s website – must acknowledge the financial support provided by the DKMS SLS and the DKMS JHRG. For this purpose, the DKMS logo will be provided and must be visibly included in both oral and poster presentations. Other uses of the DKMS logo that are not related to the funded project are not permitted.

9 Progress and Final Reports; Exploitation Rights

- 9.1 At the end of each annual funding period, the awardee must submit a report describing the progress of the project by completing report templates provided by DKMS SLS.
- 9.2 The progress report is due on June 15th of the first and second funding year at the latest. The continued annual provision of funding is bound to the results in the progress report.
- 9.3 The final report must be submitted to the DKMS SLS no later than three months after the end of the third funding year, including a summarizing abstract of the project in lay language for press release.
- 9.4 DKMS SLS expressly does **not** retain any rights of use or exploitation in the scientific results of the project. The aim of the fund is to support scientific projects as defined in section 2.1 of these Guidelines and to make the results of those projects available to the scientific community. DKMS SLS therefore strongly encourages publications.

10 Records of the Appropriation of Funds

- 10.1 Due to the nonprofit status of DKMS SLS, the foundation is required to verify the proper use of the grant funding. Therefore, DKMS SLS requires a list of all expenses incurred with the grant funds for its own records and for financial audit purposes at the end of each annual funding period (please refer to section 2.3). These shall be submitted together with the progress/final report as laid out in section 9.
- 10.2 Randomly selected copies of invoices, travel expenses and payroll accounts may be requested by the DKMS SLS at any time during or after the funding period. The documents must be retained for at least three (3) years after termination of the funding period for any potential reviews.
- 10.3 Expenditures incurred before receiving the grant notice or after termination of the total funding period are not eligible to be included, unless authorization by DKMS SLS is expressly granted.
- 10.4 If the awardee has the option of a VAT input tax deduction, then this must be used. If the awardee is not entitled to VAT input tax deduction, then all expenses should be financed gross from the allocated funding budget.

- 10.5 There must be a statement in each report that the expenses were necessary, that funds were used economically and efficiently and that supporting documentation about the use of the funds is available upon request.
- 10.6 If the funds are not completely used in the corresponding funding year, a transfer request of the residual grant funds to the next funding period shall be submitted timely to the DKMS SLS by e-mail to grant@dkms.org and at least when providing the annual progress report. The financial progress report of the next funding period shall include proof for the use of these residual funds.

11 Change of Host Institution

- 11.1 Although the grant payment is always linked to the host institution where the awardee is employed and carries out the funded scientific project within the scope of that employment, a change of host institution may be possible in principle if the awardee changes their place of work.
- 11.2 Such request about changing the host institution shall be initiated as early as possible by contacting grant@dkms.org. Further instructions will be provided individually on a case-by-case basis. The administrative processing may take several weeks. Awardees are expected to actively support the process.
- 11.3 The prerequisite for such a change is that the new employer fulfills all the requirements for the eligibility of a host institution specified by these Guidelines and accepts these Guidelines by signing the current version of the “*Declaration of Agreement*” as named in section 4.3 of these Guidelines. In addition, the awardee shall continue working with his/her/its existing supervisor or nominate a new suitable supervisor.
- 11.4 The remaining amount of the grant will be transferred from the original host institution back to DKMS SLS, who will then arrange the transfer to the new host institution. The remaining funds will be disbursed in Euros. Exchange rate differences and banking fees are not covered by the DKMS SLS. Direct transfers of funds between host institutions are not permitted. Costs associated with currency exchange or bank transfer fees are not eligible for reimbursement under this grant.
- 11.5 The sum of the amount to be transferred within the meaning of section 11.4 must be traceable. For this purpose, the expenses incurred for the scientific project at the original host institution up to the time of the change of the host institution must be proven.
- 11.6 As far as the grant funds are used to purchase items with a significant purchase price and which are intended for the implementation of the scientific project, these items will be transferred to the new host institution and will be at the disposal of the awardee for his/her/its work within the framework of the funded scientific project.

12 Reduction, Repayment and Revocation of Granted Funds

- 12.1 A whole or partial revocation of the grant by the DKMS SLS with retroactive effect may be considered if:

- i. The grant has been obtained using incorrect or incomplete details given to the DKMS SLS.
- ii. The required summary of expenditures or invoices described in section 10 of these Guidelines are permanently and definitively not provided.
- iii. The awardee and/or host institution fail to provide notification of significant changes to the conduct of the project or key personnel to the DKMS SLS.
- iv. The interests of DKMS SLS in the publicity work are violated or if its funding is not acknowledged.
- v. There is evidence of scientific fraud in the research conduct.
- vi. IRB approval or animal care certification was not obtained prior to research start.
- vii. Failure to demonstrate appropriate use of the funds.

12.2 The disbursed funds must be returned to the DKMS SLS as soon as a grant notice is withdrawn or revoked by the DKMS SLS.

13 Termination

13.1 DKMS SLS has the right to terminate the grant for cause, for example if:

- i. The awardee changes to an employer who does not fulfill the requirements on host institutions as laid out in these Guidelines; or
- ii. If the awardee does not continue the scientific project; or
- iii. If the behavior of the awardee is likely to damage the reputation of DKMS SLS.

13.2 The awardee has the right of termination for cause if he/she/it cannot continue the scientific project for a reason beyond his/her/its control.

13.3 In the event of termination, the funds already disbursed less the justified expenses incurred for the scientific project must be repaid to DKMS SLS.

14 Data Protection

14.1 Within the framework of the DKMS John Hansen Research Grant, DKMS SLS processes personal data of applicants as well as of awardees, host institutions and other persons involved or affected. Personal data that are processed include identification data and in individual cases health information, e.g. regarding family care times.

14.2 DKMS SLS is committed to comply with the relevant data protection regulations (GDPR) and will only process data made available to it for the required purposes of application review, selection, grant administration, documentation, communication activities in accordance with section 7, and fulfilment of applicable legal retention obligations and periods of time as laid down in these Guidelines. Data of the awardees relevant under commercial law, including records of appropriate use of funds, shall be retained for a period of ten (10) years beginning with the end of the last year of funding.

14.3 DKMS SLS undertakes to treat all data confidential and will not disclose confidential information for other purposes than the Guidelines are based on. The accessibility to confidential data is limited to a necessary minimum.

- 14.4 For the purposes set out in section 14.2, personal data may be accessed by DKMS SLS, members of the selection committee, external reviewers, service providers and, where applicable, other DKMS entities involved in the application, selection or grant administration process. Applicants and awardees may contact DKMS SLS for any data protection-related questions and to exercise their rights under applicable data protection law.

15 Miscellaneous

- 15.1 These Guidelines apply equally to all applicants and host institutions. Individual amendments, deviations or side agreements shall only be valid if expressly approved by DKMS SLS in writing. General terms and conditions or similar standard terms of the host institution shall not apply unless expressly accepted by DKMS SLS in writing.
- 15.2 These Guidelines and any rights and obligations arising from or in connection with them shall be governed by the laws of Germany.
- 15.3 To the extent legally permissible, the exclusive place of jurisdiction for any disputes concerning the rights and obligations arising from these Guidelines shall be Tübingen, Germany.

DKMS Stiftung Leben Spenden
c/o DKMS Group gGmbH
Kressbach 1
72072 Tübingen
Germany

Declaration of Agreement

We hereby declare that we agree to comply with the terms and conditions set in the “DKMS John Hansen Research Grant Funding Guidelines” (version dated August 2026) issued by the DKMS Stiftung Leben Spenden.

Applicant:

Name of the signatory (in block capitals)

Date	Signature
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Host institution:

Name of the signatory (in block capitals)

Date	Signature	Stamp or official address of the host institution
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