

## Call for Application

### KICKBOX SEED GRANT & FLEXIBLE FUNDS

#### ADVANCED SCIENTIST



The Einstein Center for *Regenerative Therapies* is a joint initiative of the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, the Freie Universität Berlin, the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the Technische Universität Berlin, as well as the non-university partners Max Planck Institut für Kolloid und Grenzflächenforschung, Zuse Institut Berlin, Max-Delbrück-Center für Molekulare Medizin and the Helmholtz-Zentrum für Biomaterialforschung.

### Objectives

The Einstein Center *Regenerative Therapies* aims at gaining fundamental understanding of the underlying mechanisms that modulate endogenous regenerative cascades during aging, infections or other **compromised situations** in order to explore new therapies to overcome unmet clinical needs. Therefore, basic science, biotechnology, materials science, computational science, bioinformatics and clinical disciplines are being combined by the Einstein Center for *Regenerative Therapies*.

In order to stimulate excellent and creative research ideas that might take regenerative therapies a vital step forward, **two successive funding programs are available:**

The ***Kickbox seed grant – advanced scientist*** promotes up to 15 novel ideas in 2017 by assisting their development towards becoming elaborate research concepts. – (01.05.-31.10.2017).

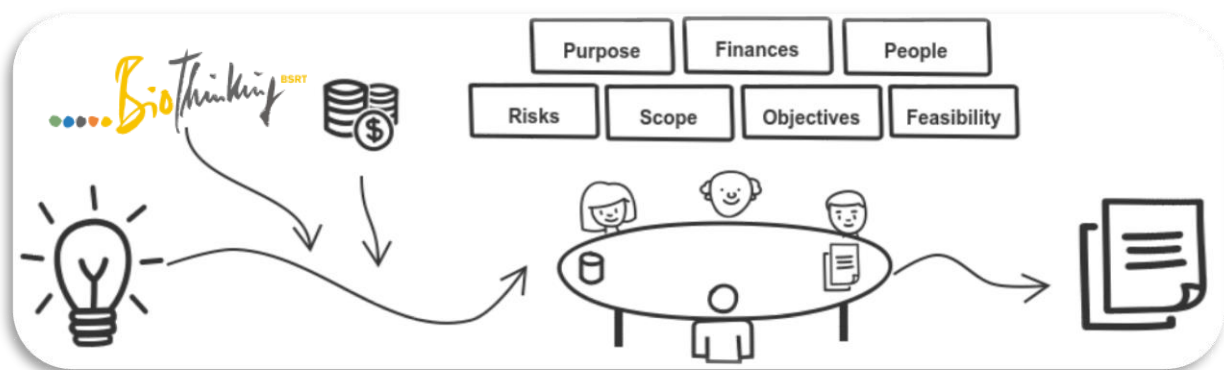


Figure 1: Einstein Kickbox Seed Grant

Following the successful participation in the *Kickbox* program, the ***Flexible Funds – advanced package*** functions as research grants especially for projects that evolved from the *Kickbox* and whose nature might be too innovative or high-risk for conventional funding organizations (Start: 01.01.18).



Figure 2: Einstein Flexible Funds

## Scope of funding

The ***Kickbox seed grant – advanced scientist*** gives skilled researchers the opportunity to explore the feasibility of new ideas in order to develop research concepts around complex clinical challenges whose solutions may lie beyond the scope of a single discipline or field of research practice.

Accepted *Kickbox* proposals will receive a flexible financial budget of up to 20000€ for a period of six months to facilitate preliminary study and data collection, receiving expert feedback or identifying and addressing new collaborations to the end of working out a research concept. Please note **that no personnel costs except student assistants** can be covered.

Along with the financial budget, the Einstein Center offers support from the *BioThinking* program to facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration. Projects will be supported from 01.05.2017 – 31.10.2017.

The ***Flexible Funds – advanced package*** finance research projects that proceeded through the *Kickbox* initiation phase in order to reach the scientific goals of the Einstein Center for Regenerative Therapies. They are designed to be as flexible as possible to come up to the researcher's needs. Besides the monetary resources the *BioThinking* support will continue to maintain the team's collaborative and innovative mindset.

Accepted projects (from the *Kickbox* program 2017) will receive a budget to fund a postdoc for up to two years plus 10.000€ for consumables each year. Up to ten\* postdoc positions plus 10.000€ for consumables can be covered for up to two years 2018/2019 - funded by the BSRT; \*depending on financial resources.

For projects starting 2019 (from the *Kickbox* program 2018) the Flexible Funds will rise up to 200.000€ per year.

## Eligibility

The Einstein Center Regenerate invites Berlin's and Brandenburg's **advanced scientists** (PI, AI and independent research group leaders), who want to explore new aspects of regenerative medicine to apply for the *Kickbox seed grant – advanced scientist*, especially when their idea is considered to be too risky, premature or unconventional for traditional funding schemes. Projects can engage in basic, applied or translational research. Collaborative approaches will be viewed favorably, in particular if they foster new collaborations.

The Participation in the program requires the **involvement of two senior scientists as chief investigators (PI, AI of the Einstein Center)** from two different institutes and fields of research.

**Individuals are limited to holding only one Einstein *Kickbox* / *Flexible Fund* project as chief investigator.**

**Ideas for the *Kickbox* must fit into one of the Einstein focus areas** (Cellular mechanisms in compromised healing; Steer cell-matrix interactions; Shape the inflammatory phase of regeneration or Modeling; Simulation and data analysis of regeneration processes).

**The idea should represent a novel approach.** It must not be the next logical step of previous work or supplement of existing funding. Thus, there is no need to include preliminary data.

**The *Flexible Funds* are only available for projects, which have been developed through the *Kickbox* program.**

## **Application Process**

In order to apply for the Einstein *Kickbox seed grant – advanced scientist* you have to:

- Appoint the team's **Corresponding applicant** for the project, who submits the application and serves as contact person.
- Fill out the application form
- Submit the completed proposal electronically – as a single pdf - to Felix.Fischer1@charite.de by Friday, **March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017**.

Applications for the *Flexible Funds – advanced package* will require a written proposal of ~20 pages and an oral presentation in November.

## **Selection Criteria and Review Process**

The key assessment criteria to be used by the evaluation committee in assessing ideas for the *Kickbox seed grant* are:

- Clarity of the project;
- Novelty of the research concept & originality of the approach;
- Conclusive team composition (commitments of involved researchers);
- Relevance for the strategic and scientific goals of the Einstein Center

The competitive selection process for *Kickbox* proposals includes the application form and a short oral presentation of the idea in mid-April.

Applications for the *Flexible Funds* will require a written proposal of 15-20 pages and a presentation in November.