

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Berlin, January 26, 2021

BIH CLINICAL FELLOWS 2021

1. Funding objectives

BIH Clinical Fellows are experienced senior physicians (*Oberärzte*) who demonstrate particularly strong performance in patient care. With this funding program, Stiftung Charité supports BIH Clinical Fellows to conduct projects, which are inspired by their clinical engagement and generate added value for their individual medical activities as senior physicians. The fellowship aims at providing these clinicians protected time that does not exist in the day-to-day provision of patient care and cannot be realized by usual third-party funding.

The following types of projects are generally eligible for consideration:

- **knowledge acquisition / one's own further education** (e.g. attendance of specialized scientific or clinical further education programs, systematic participation in academic events or training on the job measures),
- **knowledge exchange** with other university medicine locations or relevant actors in Germany and abroad (e.g. sitting in on lectures or knowledge transfer projects),
- **knowledge transfer** (e.g. university courses and lectures or new education formats, information events for the wider public, innovative dissemination projects provided that they exceed the conventional publication of scientific results), and
- **research projects** as long as they are strongly application-oriented and accompanied by above mentioned measures of knowledge acquisition, knowledge exchange, or knowledge transfer.

Pure research projects, including clinical trials and pilot studies, will **not** be funded within the BIH Clinical Fellows program. Those projects might be eligible for public third-party funding. Physicians, though, who plan to conduct **purely** scientific projects apart from their clinical work, might consider to apply for the [Clinician Scientist Program](#).

Non-research related projects that solely focus on either knowledge acquisition, knowledge exchange, or knowledge transfer are actively promoted within the BIH Clinical Fellows program.

Overall, the BIH Clinical Fellows program is aimed at strengthening Berlin life sciences, especially the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin (Charité) and its Berlin Institute of Health (BIH) (integrated into Charité since January 2021) with its guiding notion of translational systems medicine. In particular, in addition to individuals and projects demonstrating strong research performance, the top performers in patient care, who are of equal importance to translation, are to be supported. Here, senior physicians play a key role. But except for the usual third party-based and research oriented instruments, no funding programs exist that are tailored to their special requirements.

Stiftung Charité supports the BIH Clinical Fellows with funds from its own [Private Excellence Initiative Johanna Quandt](#).

2. Funding volume

A BIH Clinical Fellow receives funding totaling up to 75,000.00 Euro for an overall period of up to 36 months.

The Fellows may use the title "BIH Clinical Fellow, funded by Stiftung Charité".

3. Application of funds

Funding can be provided for personnel as well as for material and equipment needed for the specific project.

According to the funding objectives of this program, the focus should be on personnel funds enabling the Fellow to pursue his/her project by releasing him/her from clinical work to a certain extent and providing him/her protected time for the project. In case of a full-time employed fellow, the personnel funds should be used to release the Fellow from clinical work to a certain extent by funding clinical replacement personnel (acting senior physicians). The clinical replacement personnel should fill-in to the exact extent the Fellow is released from clinical work to pursue his/her project – either by hiring additional clinical staff or by raising the work time of existing part-time employed clinicians.

In case of a part-time employed Fellow, the personnel funds can be used to fill-up the Fellow's own position by up to 25 percent of a full-time equivalent (FTE). The employment volume by the time of the application is the one that counts. Subsequent changes of the volume of clinical employment from the volume stated in the application will usually not be considered.

Personnel funds can also be used to hire scientific and technical staff necessary to pursue the project. Time wise, the Fellow's leadership of the project must always be guaranteed.

Additionally, facilities necessary to pursue the project may be funded.

Funding of a BIH Clinical Fellow by Stiftung Charité is carried out in the form of an approval addressed to Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin (Charité) or BIH to be forwarded to the BIH Clinical Fellow; Charité remains the employer of the scientists paid with the Stiftung Charité funds and is in charge of the funds approved. No contractual relations exist between Stiftung Charité and the BIH Clinical Fellow.

4. Eligibility requirements

Proposals may be submitted by individuals who

- are current senior physicians (*Oberärztinnen/Oberärzte*) employed by Charité,
- have performed this function for at least five years and at least one year with a position as senior physician and not only as a substitute or an acting senior physician, and
- are currently focusing predominantly on tasks in patient care and who are not already permanently or largely on leave from patient care for scientific activities either by agrees with Charité or by external funding.

The head of the clinic in which the applicant is active has to support the application and commit to guarantee the (temporary) release of the fellow as requested in her or his application in case that it will be funded.

5. Proposal and assessment criteria

The proposal consists of

- (a) details of the applicant's own clinical and academic qualifications and experience (incl. CV and list of publications),
- (b) a description of the applicant's own area of responsibilities as a physician at the respective clinic and her or his own focal areas in patient care during the last five years, and
- (c) a description of the project with special reference to her or his added value to the activities of a physician in the respective individual context of care.

In assessing the proposal, particular importance is attached to the clinical achievements of the applicant as well as the added value for medical activities that her or his project is expected to provide. While academic qualifications and experience are to be considered, the applicant's success in the context of the usual competition for third-party funding during the last few years is not relevant.

The proposal is drawn up using the [proposal forms](#) provided by Stiftung Charité.

When applying, the applicant agrees to the Stiftung Charité [data protection notice \(Datenschutzhinweise\)](#), the [Rules of Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft](#) as well as to the ethical principles of the European Union's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020), including the [European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#). In addition, in case of approval, the [Stiftung Charité approval principles](#) apply.

6. Selection procedure

The proposal is submitted to Stiftung Charité. Stiftung Charité evaluates the application formally. If the application passes the formal evaluation, a statement is obtained from the BIH's Chair of Board of Directors as well as from the Charité's Chief Medical Officer. Stiftung Charité subsequently conducts a review procedure. Based on the statements, a selection committee consisting of experienced Charité clinicians and external experts makes a pre-selection of the candidates. The short-listed candidates are invited to personal interviews, where they present their project and answer questions of the selection committee. Based on the interviews, the selection committee gives funding recommendations. The Academic Advisory Council appointed for the Private Excellence Initiative Johanna Quandt takes the final funding decision.

7. Deadlines / dates

May 3, 2021 23.59 PM	Application deadline
September, 2021	Announcement of funding decision / approval
October 1, 2021	Earliest start of funding

8. Contact

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