



# PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

## 2022 CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

ELA International represents national ELA associations from different countries that contribute together to the financing of research on leukodystrophies. It is run by parents and /or patients affected by leukodystrophies. Accordingly, ELA International wishes to focus funding on programs devoted to the improvement of the health and welfare of patients. This objective can be achieved through studies aimed at understanding disease mechanisms, developing natural history studies including outcome measures and biomarkers, and conducting clinical trials.

**Themes proposed in the 2022 call for proposals will focus on unmet needs in the field of leukodystrophies.**

**Research Topics of Interest** include

- Clinical trial / clinical trial readiness for leukodystrophies including the development of longitudinal outcome measures, biomarker characterization, imaging modalities and pharmacodynamics /pharmacokinetic studies.
- Preclinical studies specifically testing therapies (gene, cell, enzyme or pharmacologic therapies) for leukodystrophies.
- Developing animal or cell-based models (e.g. patient derived iPSC) relevant to human leukodystrophies.
- Study of mechanisms responsible for leukodystrophies, in order to identify new therapeutic approaches.

Studies should address a knowledge gap in the field of leukodystrophies and a preference will be given to clinical trials and clinical trial readiness for leukodystrophies. Translational studies using animal models should use genetic models of leukodystrophies. Novel gene discovery studies fall outside of this funding opportunity. Joint funding initiatives for clinical trials are encouraged.

Direct costs cannot exceed 100,000€ per year, for a maximum funding period of two years.

The application forms and instructions are available online at

<https://call.elainternational.eu>

**Application submission deadline: June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

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