Statement of Purpose

LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer awards grants for basic, translational and clinical research into the underlying mechanisms of, and possible therapeutic treatments for Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. The main criterion for the evaluation of the application is whether the proposed research is likely to improve our understanding of the pathophysiology and underlying mechanisms causing Alzheimer’s disease and/or is likely to effectively promote therapeutic strategies.

It is understood that more senior Alzheimer's disease investigators will have other funding in related areas of research, but the application to LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer should not be used to simply subsidize these other efforts or to compensate for grant cutbacks. Therefore, the applicant is advised to focus on a specific project that can be addressed in terms of a clear and well-defined hypothesis and specific aims, and completed within a reasonable time. Please keep this in mind when preparing the research/work plan section of the application.

Terms and Restrictions

LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer grants are awarded to public universities and research institutions (EPST and EPSCP). Standard Awards, PhD Fellowships, and Pilot Awards are not made to individuals but to the group to whom the Principal Investigator (P.I.) is affiliated with.

Funds awarded are to be used solely for research. LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer does not fund institutional overhead, large capital equipment, construction of buildings or VAT. LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer will not fund the salary of the Principle Investigator except under extraordinary circumstances. If salary for the P.I. is requested, it must be clearly and thoroughly justified.

LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer will work with a first round of brief Letters of Intent (LoI) that will be subject to peer review. The best applications will then be invited to submit a full application a few months later.

Applications will be accepted for amounts up to a maximum of €100,000 for 2 years (divided over a maximum of €50,000 per year) for a Standard Award. Standard Award can be used either for equipment, supplies and/or salary (except for the P.I. and Master M2). This Award cannot be used for a part or an end of a PhD’s salary.

PhD fellowships of €100,000 for 3 years are exclusively reserved to pay the salary of a PhD student during the 3 years of thesis (divided over a maximum of €33,334 per year for 3 years).

Pilot Awards are designed to support the academic career of postdoctoral researchers. Financial support up to a maximum of €40,000 for two years can be applied (with a maximum of €20,000 per year). LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer also grants Pilot Award of €20,000 for one year, which may be competitively renewed once. The Pilot Award can be used for equipment, supplies and/or salary (except for the P.I.).
LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer also grants Cross-border Awards for collaborative projects between 2 countries: France-Germany or France-the Netherlands. Standard applications will be accepted for amounts up to a maximum of €100,000 for 2 years & Pilot applications up to a maximum of €40,000 for 2 years (amounts divided between both countries).

Applicants for Standard Awards should fulfil the following criteria:
1) In order to be eligible for a LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer Standard Award, the Principal Investigator (P.I.) must be working at a French University or research institutions (EPST and EPSCP) and hold the academic rank of tenured researcher, associate professor or higher. The P.I. should not use grants for his salary or for salaries of other tenured scientists. Investigators of the same laboratory can apply for a grant provided that there is no scientific or financial overlap between the proposed research projects. A P.I. can be part of another application as consultant/advisor only (involved in 5% max). The P.I. should not include in his project a European SAB member as collaborator of the study. For ethical reasons a SAB member should be requested as consultant only (time spent <5%).
2) The scientific research plan should be hypothesis driven, coherent and focused. The work plan should be efficiently planned and it should be illustrated in a convincing manner that the proposed research can be completed within the time available.

Applicants for PhD Fellowships should fulfil the following criteria:
1) In order to be eligible for a LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer PhD Fellowship, the Principal Investigator (P.I.) must be working at a French University or research institutions (EPST and EPSCP) and hold the academic rank of tenured researcher, associate professor or higher. The P.I. should be the supervisor of the thesis; the P.I. could request a possible delayed start of the project to have time to recruit a PhD student. Investigators of the same laboratory can apply for a grant provided that there is no scientific or financial overlap between the proposed research projects. A P.I. can be part of another application as consultant/advisor only (involved in 5% max). The P.I. should not include in his project a European SAB member as collaborator of the study. For ethical reasons a European SAB member should be requested as consultant only (time spent <5%).
2) The scientific research plan should be hypothesis driven, coherent and focused. The work plan should be efficiently planned and it should be illustrated in a convincing manner that the proposed research can be completed within the time available.

Applicants for Pilot Awards, should fulfil the following criteria:
In order to be eligible for grant funding from the LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer Pilot Award, the Principal Investigator (P.I.) must be working at a French University or research institutions (EPST and EPSCP) and is expected to be at a post-doctoral level (ATER and IR are also eligible), up to a maximum of ten years after its PhD or the PI will obtain his PhD before December 31st. The 10 years period is counted from PhD date to the date of the beginning of funding. For medical doctors, an MD will not be accepted by itself as equivalent to a PhD award.
Leaves: For maternity, the effective elapsed time since the award of the PhD will be reduced by 1 year for each child before or after the PhD award. For paternity, the effective elapsed time since the award of the PhD will be reduced by the amount of paternity leave actually taken for each child born before or after the PhD award.
Applicants should be aware that Pilot Awards will not be used for their salary. This means they must ensure they are paid during the duration of the grant.
Investigators of the same laboratory can apply for a grant provided that there is no scientific or financial overlap between the proposed research projects. A P.I. can be part of another application.
as consultant/advisor only (involved in 5% max). The PI should not include in his project a European SAB member as collaborator of the study. For ethical reasons a SAB member should be requested as consultant only (time spent <5%).

Applicants for Cross-border Awards, should fulfil the following criteria:
The application involves a real collaboration between French and German or Dutch group that focuses on Alzheimer research. The scientific research plan should be hypothesis driven, coherent and focused. The work plan should be efficiently planned and it should be illustrated in a convincing manner that the proposed research can be completed within the time available. Also the respective contributions from each country should be highlighted and it should be made clear what the added value of the collaboration is and why this collaboration is likely to facilitate the research questions involved. Potential articles should be published together with both groups. Applications should be sent either to LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer (if the P.I. works in France) or to the German/Dutch partner organizations AFI/Alzheimer Nederland (if the P.I. works in Germany/The Netherlands). If the P.I. submits a cross-border project to one organization, the co-P.I. does not need to submit anything to the other organization. Each organization funds in its own country.

Please note that co-funding by LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer and Fondation Plan Alzheimer on the same project is allowed if their budgets support the project separately. The separate categories of budget are: “Personnel” (postdoctoral salary or PhD fellowship) for LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer and “supplies/equipment/other staff costs” for Fondation Plan Alzheimer. This clause does not affect the independent Guidelines and review process of each call for projects.

Review of Applications

Awards are granted on the basis of scientific merit of the applicant’s research proposal, and its relevance to improving our understanding of Alzheimer’s disease. LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer uses a two-tier review process. In the first tier, a brief Letter of Intent (LoI) is written. The LoI will be selected based on feasibility of the research plan, the applicant’s past performance and relevance of the topic for Alzheimer’s disease. Upon selection, applicants are invited to submit a full proposal that will be peer reviewed by members of the European Scientific Advisory Board (LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer, AFI, Alzheimer Nederland) as well as by external experts. In October the applications and evaluations will be discussed and ranked in a joint meeting of the European Scientific Advisory Board during which the applicant could be interviewed to present his/her project and/or clarify any remaining issues (conference call).

Provisional timetable of Call for Proposals 2017:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Open call for proposals</td>
<td>January 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submission deadline for Letters of Intent</td>
<td>March 6, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preselection of Letters of Intent</td>
<td>Mid of May, 2017</td>
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<td>Deadline for Full Applications</td>
<td>End of June, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full applications review</td>
<td>July-September 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selection of Full Applications</td>
<td>October 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final decision</td>
<td>October 31\textsuperscript{st}, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant provision</td>
<td>January 2018</td>
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The Board of Directors makes decisions on funding in the end of October and grants are intended to start in the beginning of January. To ensure that LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer is funding meritorious research proposals that have a high potential for success, the Board of Directors bases its funding decisions on the results of a formal, rigorous peer-review process, taking program goals and the availability of funds into consideration.

Within the constraints of the peer review system, LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer will seek to maintain a good balance of funding between:

a. experienced, established investigators and young, promising investigators

b. applications from scientists never before funded by LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer and applications from scientists seeking to renew funding from LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer

c. topics or areas of study within the field of Alzheimer’s disease research, so that LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer is not funding an unusually high proportion of grants in any one particular area.

According to these criteria, the SAB and BOD will select only grants that have received a sufficient, pre-set high rank which guarantees the quality of the research. Applications that receive a low quality score, i.e. ranking below "good" (numerical score 2.5-3) get a low priority and will not be funded.

Applicants normally will be notified by email of the Board of Director’s decision concerning their application from November 3rd. LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer staff is not authorized to provide information on priority scores, ranking, or likelihood of funding of applications prior to written notification of applicants. Please do not phone LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer, or SAB members, to request such information.

Please note that applicants and grantees (after the end of their grant) could be committed to review future LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer, Alzheimer Nederland or AFI applications.

Shifting dates of the grant

The Principal Investigator, after notification he will receive the grant, should inform LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer about:
- A possible delayed start of the project (6 months maximum)
- A request of cost-neutral prolongation (6 months maximum)

Please note that the PI will receive funds only when the project will be actually operational.

New grant application & Competitive Renewals for Standard/PhD Fellowship awards

LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer will not limit the total number of years of funding that an individual researcher may receive. However, the current grantees can submit a new grant application at least 1 year after the end of the last budget year of their active grant.

In the same way, a researcher may submit an application for competitive renewal at least 1 year after the end of the last budget year of their active grant.
Competitive renewal applications will undergo peer review in the same manner as new applications. Progress made during the previous funding period will be considered during review of the competitive renewal application.

No P.I. may receive more than one LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer grant. No P.I. may submit more than one grant application in the same grant cycle.

**Overlapping Grant Awards**

LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer awards funds with the express understanding that LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer is the main financial supporter of the research project for which grant monies were requested. Although combinations of complementary, non-overlapping approaches are possible, LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer does not allow LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer grant funds to be used for identical and/or overlapping research projects that are already funded by another source without written LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer permission and full knowledge. Failure to report the receipt of overlapping grant funds may require, as determined at the sole discretion of LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer, the return of all, or part of, the monies awarded by LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer to the grantee. Furthermore, the grantee is responsible for all costs expended by LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer in obtaining the return of the grant award funds including but not limited to reasonable attorney’s fees incurred.

**Human/Animal Research Subjects**

LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer requires that research supported by LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer meets or exceeds national regulations regarding the use of human subjects or animals in research. Applicants must provide written certification of approval by the appropriate Ethic Commission before funding begins.

**Public Education**

LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer is a publicly supported charitable organization funded by donor contributions, and has an active public education program that informs donors and other interested individuals about the research we sponsor. Information provided to the public by LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer may include the title of the project, the name and institutional affiliation of the Principal Investigator, the amount of the award, and the non-technical project description provided by the applicant. Therefore, the non-technical description should not contain confidential information. The submission of this application shall be deemed consent of the applicant to the publication of this information should a grant be awarded. Awardees are aware that they may be asked by LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer to assist LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer in other ways to inform the general audience, e.g. by providing information on new developments in their research field or give an interview, a presentation or lecture at meetings, lab tours or workshops supported by LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer. Several different photos of the Principal Investigator and his/her team must be made available without restrictions.

**Publication Acknowledgement**

All publications, papers, book chapters or presentations, resulting from research sponsored by LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer must be acknowledged as follows: “Funding was provided by LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer”, followed by the number of grant application.
Sharing of Reagents

LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer believes that biological reagents (e.g. recombinant DNA clones, cultured cell lines, hybridoma cell lines, mutant or unique organisms etc.) developed during the course of LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer-sponsored research must be made available to qualified investigators after the publication of reports using or describing the reagents. These materials represent a valuable resource for the scientific community at large, paid for by the generous contributions of LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer’s donors. The availability of these reagents directly affects the ability of the members of the scientific community to replicate the experiments of others and the pace and cost of future research. Therefore, LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer requires that the Principal Investigator and the grantee institution accept the responsibility of providing biological reagents developed during the course of LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer-sponsored research to investigators who request them.

Discontinuation of Grant Funding

Although LECMA-Vaincre Alzheimer has committed grant funding for the stated term of the grant, it reserves the right to discontinue the grant at any time in the event the work performed is in breach of the terms and obligations stated herein.