

“Pioneers Grant”: Funding Bold, High-Impact Research

Leveraging its unique position as an agile and research-driven organization, Only Project is committed to fostering innovations in Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) and other neuromuscular diseases. This grant aims to support **bold, high-risk, high-gain projects** that have the potential to significantly advance patient care and treatment. Selected projects will benefit from the AMM-Only Project’s scientific network, fostering collaboration and visibility within the research community.

Funding & Scope

- Funding per project: Starting at €500,000, with the potential to reach €2M.
- Focus: Supporting early-stage research and proof-of-concept studies with strong clinical or translational potential, as well as large-scale natural history studies that provide essential data for future treatment development and trial design.

Eligibility Criteria

The Pioneers Grant is open to:

- **Academic research groups** in universities, research institutes, and hospitals under some conditions:
 - Funding for overhead should **not exceed 20%** of the total budget
- **Small to medium-sized companies** (biotech, chemtech, etc.) under specific conditions:
 - Funding must be used **exclusively for R&D**, not general operations.
 - AMM-Only Project will **retain oversight** on governance and financial reporting.

Application & Review Process

To streamline the application process while maintaining scientific rigor, the following structure will be implemented.

1. Initial Submission:

- Applicants must submit a concise abstract (~250 words) outlining **research scope, project goals and estimated budget** to grants@onlyproject.org
- The SAB will assess whether the proposal aligns with the **grant’s strategic priorities** and will **give the greenlight** for candidates to complete a detailed application.



2. Full Proposal Submission:

- Shortlisted candidates will be invited to submit a **detailed application (maximum 10 pages)**, ensuring a structured yet efficient review process.
- Additional information may be requested where necessary.

3. Expert Review & Interviews:

- Applications will be evaluated by the SAB and as needed, external experts.
- **Candidate interviews** may be conducted to clarify project feasibility and potential impact.

4. Final Selection & Oversight:

- The Association's Scientific Advisory Board will make final funding recommendations based on **scientific merit, feasibility, and potential for impact**.
- Funded projects will be **monitored through progress reports, calls and, when relevant, visits to facilities** to ensure continued alignment with objectives.

*As this is a **new initiative**, we are uncertain about the volume of interest we will receive. Our goal is to keep this application **open on a rolling basis**; however, we may need to **temporarily pause accepting applications** if our evaluation capacity becomes limited. Any updates or changes to the application process will be posted on this page.*

*Given the **substantial funding amounts available**, applications undergo a **rigorous multi-stage review process**, including **external expert evaluations** that support **Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) recommendations**. As a result, it may take **several months** from application submission to final grant approval.*