

Apply for AIDA project & fellowship funding

Analytic Imaging Diagnostic Arena (AIDA) is a national arena for research and innovation on analytic image-based diagnostics. AIDA is a cross-disciplinary and cross-sectoral collaboration aiming for large-scale usefulness from Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare. The arena scope includes tailor-made IT systems and relevant human expertise, firmly rooted in a realistic healthcare environment. AIDA is part of the national Strategic Innovation Program Medtech4Health, a joint initiative by VINNOVA, Formas and the Swedish Energy Agency. More information can be found at medtech4health.se/aida.

A main part of the AIDA initiative is to host efforts from the entire country, aiming to contribute to development and adoption of AI methods in imaging diagnostics. We hereby announce two opportunities to participate in AIDA. Both opportunities include 50% funding from VINNOVA, a chance to benefit from a strong platform of technical infrastructure and human expertise in the AIDA core, and a possibility to closely interact with fellow innovators in the area.

Opportunities

1. Focus projects decision support

AIDA welcomes proposals from groups of researchers and innovators, from both academia and industry, that aims to develop AI-based decision support methods for imaging diagnostics. Proposals are expected to include one or more components of: analysis method development, annotation method development, and method evaluation by clinical staff.

The expected total size of each project proposal is 500 – 1000 kSEK. There is also a possibility to apply for a pilot effort of about 200 kSEK. The total budget for this type of projects until the end of 2019 is tentatively 6 MSEK, thus, the corresponding budget for VINNOVA funding is 3 MSEK.

2. Clinical fellowships

AIDA welcomes proposals from healthcare providers regarding individual fellowships for radiologists and pathologists, residents or consultants, that want to expand their knowledge in AI-based methods in imaging diagnostics. Proposals can include a specific project idea, but it is also possible to submit without a concrete idea as AIDA then can assist in developing project contents by matching with other AIDA activities. A key part of the proposal should be an active effort towards the end of the project in the home organization to disseminate the gained knowledge.

The expected total size of each project is 100 kSEK – 500 kSEK. The total budget for this type of projects until the end of 2019 is tentatively 3 MSEK, thus, the corresponding budget for VINNOVA funding is 1,5 MSEK.

Efforts by clinical collaborators can be an integral part of type 1 proposals, but the model of connecting type 1 and type 2 projects is also allowed. In that case, this must be clearly stated in the respective applications.

Terms

The maximum level of funding from AIDA/VINNOVA is 50% of the project cost. The project should start within 3 months from the respective call deadline (see below for schedule) and end at the latest Dec 31, 2019. A foundational part of AIDA is physical meetings, why proposals should include plans for the key individuals to spend extensive periods of time physically at CMIV.

The proposals will be evaluated according to the following meriting criteria:

- Topic relevance for AIDA
- Potential for clinical usefulness
- Scientific excellence
- Practical feasibility (such as time plan, access to relevant expertise etc)
- Gender equality

- Value of AIDA environment for subproject
- Potential for exchange with other AIDA parties (requires physical presence at AIDA)
- Contribution to AIDA core
- Previous successful AIDA efforts or constituting a new AIDA party

In addition to the AIDA-specific rules, general VINNOVA terms apply for allowed cost types, cost levels, funding levels etc.

Application procedure

Proposals should be described using the templates available on medtech4health.se/aida, either for type 1 or type 2 proposal. The proposal is submitted to the Arena Director Claes Lundström at claes.lundstrom@liu.se. Incoming proposals are then refined in a dialog with the Arena Director. After the dialog, the Arena Director brings the proposal along with his recommendation to the AIDA Steering Group for decision. The proposing party is entitled to request decision from the Steering Group even without positive recommendation from the Arena Director. The AIDA Steering Group reserves the right to award a smaller amount of funding than what a proposal asks for.

AIDA currently plans for three batches of accepting proposals: early September 2017, late October 2017, and mid-January 2018. The deadline for submitting proposals to the Arena Director for the respective occasions are:

- August 18, 2017
- October 6, 2017
- December 22, 2017

Please note that if a proposal is submitted close to the deadline, there is little time for dialog regarding the proposal, which might lead to that a decision is not taken until the next occasion. Therefore, we recommend submitting a first version well in advance of the deadline.

Also note that AIDA will accept high-quality proposals until the budget is reached, which may mean that planned occasions may be cancelled, or that additional occasions will be opened.