Apply for AIDA clinical 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 tailormade 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 an opportunity to participate in AIDA as a clinical fellow.

Clinical fellowship opportunity

AIDA welcomes proposals from healthcare providers regarding individual fellowship projects for staff members that want to expand their knowledge in AI-based methods in imaging diagnostics. The individual in question can be a radiologist or pathologist, resident or consultant, or have another relevant professional role such as physicist, radiographer, or biomedical scientist. Proposals need to include a defined project with concrete activities and a time plan. A 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 - 400 kSEK. The total annual budget for AIDA clinical fellowships is tentatively 0,8 MSEK, thus, the corresponding budget for VINNOVA funding is about 0,4 MSEK.

Clinical fellowships may be connected to existing AIDA projects, this must then be clearly stated in the application.

Terms

The maximum level of funding from AIDA/VINNOVA is 50% of the project cost. In addition, each fellowship will be entitled to a free-of-charge allotment of AIDA's central resources for computation and storage. The project should start within 6 months from the call deadline and end at the latest Dec 31, 2021. The application must be approved and signed by the individual's line manager.

For fellowships being a regular ST project financed by the normal employment, the following apply. AIDA funds can then not be used for salary cost, but for up to 100% of other costs such as travel/accommodation and equipment, as long as the AIDA financing is no more than 50% of the total ST project cost.

A foundational part of AIDA is knowledge exchange with all AIDA partners, why the fellowship includes on-premise participation at the "AIDA Days" workshops: lunch-to-lunch events organized approximately eight times per year. The participation is mandatory, but the occasional exception can be allowed.

The proposals will be evaluated according to the following meriting criteria:
- Topic relevance for AIDA (AI and imaging diagnostics)
- Potential for clinical usefulness
- Connection to AIDA core and/or AIDA projects
- Contributions to, and benefits from, the AIDA connection

For non-physicians it is important to ensure access to medical expertise, for instance by designating a local physician as advisor to the project.

It is possible to be awarded a fellowship more than once, if the additional benefit can be clearly shown. Being a first-time applicant is, however, a positive factor in the evaluation of candidate profile relevance.

In addition to the AIDA-specific rules, general VINNOVA terms apply for allowed cost types, cost levels, funding levels etc. The costs are defined according to the general VINNOVA standard, a full description is found here (in Swedish): Guide om stödberättigade kostnader.

Application procedure

Proposals should be described using the template available on medtech4health.se/aida. The proposal is submitted to the Arena Director at aida-director@medtech4health.se. Incoming proposals are then refined in a dialog with the Arena Director. After the dialog, the Arena Director brings the finalized proposal to the AIDA Steering Group for decision. The proposing party is entitled to request decision from the Steering Group even if the Arena Director does not consider the proposal finalized. The AIDA Steering Group reserves the right to award a smaller amount of funding than what a proposal asks for or to make part of the funding dependent on a specific condition, such as sharing data within AIDA.

AIDA currently plans for several batches of accepting proposals in 2018-2020. The deadlines for submitting proposals will be announced on medtech4health.se/aida.

Please note that if a proposal is submitted close to the deadline, there is little time for dialog regarding the proposal. 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 means that there is no guarantee of future rounds of accepting proposals.