

Health technology
for more healthy years of life
— we are HTRIC

Call for Research Proposals: Health technology for more healthy years of life

This Health Technology Research and Innovation Cluster (HTRIC) call focuses on the entire chain from basic research through development and engineering to clinical assessment and implementation of human-centered health technology.

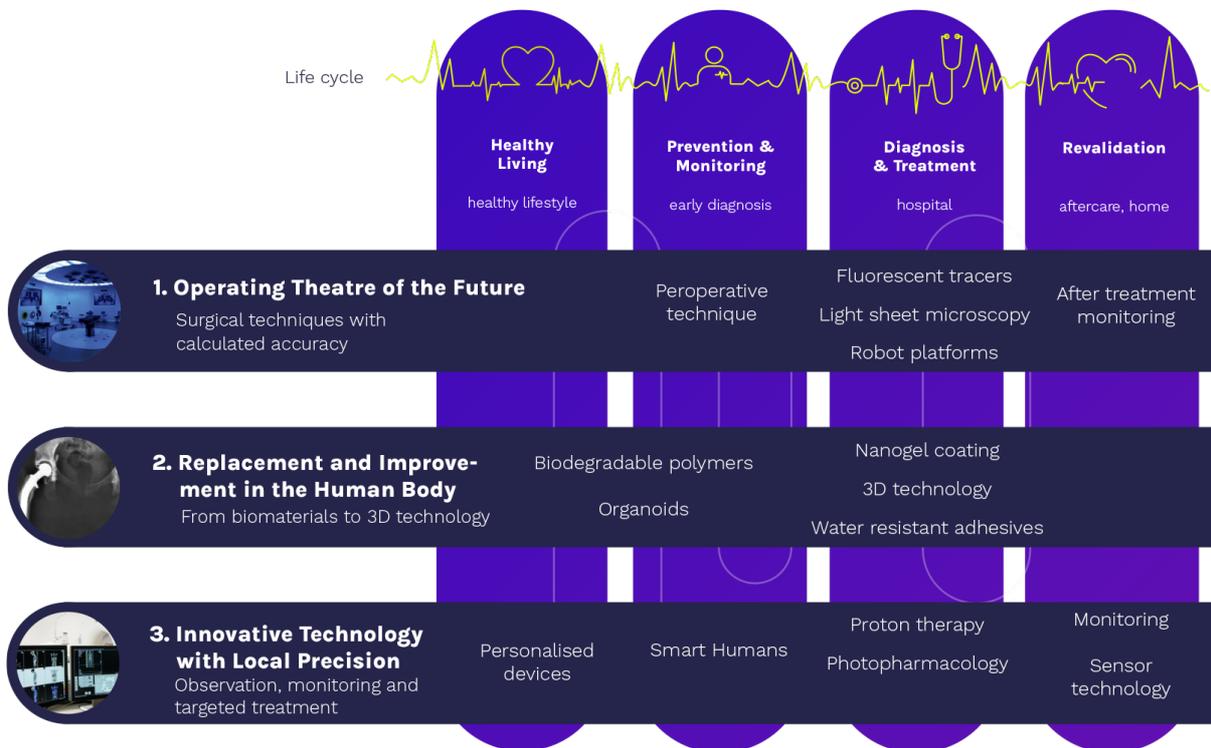
General Information

The pressure on healthcare is rising and the challenges are substantial. If we want to keep healthcare manageable in the future, scientific as well technological innovations are an absolute must in strengthening the entire knowledge chain between basic science and clinical practice. Together these can lead to fewer invasive procedures, more advanced medical interventions, faster recovery and earlier detection. As a connector within a (still) fragmented landscape, HTRIC is committed to bringing curious people, innovative research and technology, and clinical practice together.

Purpose

HTRIC's interfaculty PhD programme offers research talents the opportunity to conduct interdisciplinary cross-border research on health technology. Technology is to be interpreted in a broad sense, yet it should be a convincing link in the chain between basic science and clinical practice. The proposed research concerns an innovation that could lead to a clinical or societal application. Projects that directly involve technological innovation in a clinical setting will be favoured.

For the 2022 call for proposals, applications should fit with one or more of HTRIC's three themes:



What to apply for?

For the 2022 call, a total of four PhD positions are available, two for students at the Faculty of Science and Engineering (FSE) and two for students at the Faculty of Medical Science (FMS) at the UMCG. The students will be employed at the University of Groningen.

Granted projects will include a bench fee of €6000.

Who can apply?

Researchers at FSE or UMCG with a permanent position or a tenure-track agreement can be Principal Investigator (PI). Every PI can apply only once in the present call. In order to guarantee a truly interdisciplinary project, the following additional conditions apply:

1. Each proposal is supported by two PIs:
 - For a PhD position in FSE: first applicant from FSE and the second from UMCG;
 - For a PhD position in FMS: first applicant from UMCG and the second from FSE.
2. The first applicant will serve as the first supervisor of the PhD student if the grant is awarded, and eventually as the first promotor.

Assessment

Proposals are limited to a total of eight pages and have the following outline:

1. Brief background to the topic;
2. Aims of the proposed research;
3. Description of the research plan, including timeline;
4. Societal or clinical impact/benefit.

Proposals will be assessed on:

1. Originality
2. Clear and novel cooperative research between FSE and UMCG
3. Quality of the proposed plan, including feasibility
4. Urgency
5. Potential impact including readiness for user adaptation

The first two criteria add up to 60% of the final score, the latter two contribute to 40%. The relevance of the proposed UMCG/FSE collaboration within HTRIC, in addition to the cooperation between tech companies and Hanze University/NHL Stenden, will be regarded as an added benefit.

The assessment will be carried out by the UMCG/FSE evaluation committee consisting of: Sjoerd Bulstra (UMCG), Erik Van der Giessen (FSE), Erik Boddeke (UMCG), Jacquélien Scherpen (FSE) and Johannes Wolters (Life Cooperative).

Additional Information

The accepted research proposals are expected to be part of a yearly joint evaluation with a HTRIC committee and deliver a pitch at the annual HTRIC Research Meetup.

Time frame for the 2022 call

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| 10 January: | Deadline for the submission of the proposals (by e-mail to info@htric.nl) |
| 11 February: | Ranking of the proposals by the evaluation committee |
| 21-25 February: | Possibility of interviews with the top eight project applicants |
| 4 March: | Project applicants will be informed about the decisions at the HTRIC kick-off |