The Challenge

ZNM - Zusammen Stark! e.V. - (CNM – Together Strong!) is a self-help association for centronuclear myopathies (CNM = ZNM). We represent 210 individuals from 74 families with a CNM in Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland, and Belgium. As a patient-led organization, we collect donations to finance worldwide the best available research in areas that will have the greatest potential to move towards urgently needed treatments and cures for centronuclear myopathies.

All researchers worldwide willing to work in the field of centronuclear myopathies are welcome to submit their research proposals in the following priorities:

A. Novel therapeutic approaches to centronuclear myopathies;
   These approaches may include cellular and molecular approaches that aim to enhance cell function (muscle and other CNM-relevant tissues) such as gene editing, gene replacement therapies, modulation of downstream effects. Furthermore, symptomatic treatments approached directly aiming to improve the quality of life of patients are considered.

B. Cell and Molecular Mechanisms of centronuclear myopathies;
   Utilization of basic research to improve the understanding of the nature and causes of centronuclear myopathies, so that methods for treatment can be developed.

C. Regenerative Medicine;
   Development of strategies that provide functional rescue or replacement of degenerated or dysfunctional muscle or other CNM-relevant cells that can lead to improvement of muscle function and/or general physiology.

Proposals of excellent research groups that have so far not worked in the field of congenital myopathies but aim to apply their expertise to rescue the lives of patients with these devastating muscle disorders are also invited to apply.

The Financial Support

For the implementation of the project(s), ZNM - Zusammen Stark! e.V. will provide up to €150,000 for a period of two to three years. The maximum funding amount should not be considered as a target. Applications with smaller amounts are also very welcome. In addition, co-financing is also possible.

The Timing

Fully completed applications must be submitted as a single PDF document to the following email address, research@znm-zusammenstark.org by April 28th, 2023, 17:00 CET. Funded projects receive their approval on September 30th, 2023. The funding period is expected to start in the 4th quarter of 2023.