



METAKIDS
Stop metabole ziekten.

umd.nl united for
metabolic diseases

The Jelte NextGen Award 2025

Theme: Matters of the Mind

(Neurometabolic brain diseases in children)

General Information

At Metakids, we believe that scientific research is essential to advance the fight against metabolic diseases. That is why, in consultation with United for Metabolic Diseases, Metakids has decided to introduce a new award for one of the talented young researchers in the metabolic field in the Netherlands.

The financial grant associated with this award gives a young researcher the opportunity to submit a fully independent and innovative project proposal. The aim is to lay the foundation for creative, impactful, and pioneering research in the metabolic field in the Netherlands. The award can also serve as a strong stepping stone in the researcher's career in the metabolic field. The total grant awarded is €320,000, which must be used entirely for the proposed research topic. The proposal may include a fellowship at a national or international university and/or a part-time support appointment.

Special sponsorship

This call has been made possible thanks to the initiative of some major donors who have provided the full funding amount of €320,000. These donors will be involved in the progress and evaluation process of the submitted applications.

Theme and principles

This call invites proposals with a focus on:

young patients affected by severe neurometabolic brain disease

In addition, proposals will be evaluated based on the following:

- A motivation letter, along with the applicant's CV and list of publications
- Letters of recommendation from the applicant's mentor/supervisor and the head of the department
- Alignment with the Translational Knowledge Agenda for Metabolic Diseases
- Collaboration between different metabolic research centers, or between teams within a single center, is considered a plus
- Gaining external expertise not readily available in the Netherlands is an advantage but not a requirement

Who can apply?

PhD candidates in the final phase of their doctoral research or Postdocs (up to two years after the end of their Postdoc appointment).

Application for Funding

Young researchers (under the age of 38) employed at a Dutch academic institution and who have the ambition to build a career in the metabolic research field are invited to apply for funding through the Jelte NextGen Award 2025. The call, titled **'Matters of the Mind'**, is now open. The deadline for submitting a grant application is the 31st of May.

How to Apply

The pre-proposal form can be downloaded from the "For Researchers" page on the Metakids website. The maximum grant available per project is €320,000. The pre-proposal must be submitted in English and can be sent by email to i.vandervelde@metakids.nl

Next Steps

All submitted pre-proposals will be reviewed by the Metakids Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). Selected candidates will be invited to submit a full-format proposal. These full proposals will be assessed by an independent panel of expert (international) reviewers. Based on their assessments, the SAB will advise the Metakids Board and the Major Donor(s). The selection process may include an interview. The final funding decision will be made by the Metakids Board in consultation with the Major Donor(s), based on the advice of the SAB and the Review Panel.

Project on the Shelf

In addition to research proposals that are granted immediately, the advice of the the SAB may include one or more promising applications for which Metakids (in consultation with the research team, of course) will launch fundraising actions for up to 1 year. These projects are referred to as 'on the shelf'.

For questions, please contact: i.vandervelde@metakids.nl