

Newsletter for Researchers – 10 July 2026

Dear researcher,

In this newsletter for researchers, we introduce a new funding call in collaboration with Oncode Institute, our upcoming Grant Management System, and highlight eight recently approved research projects. Continue reading for the latest updates!

How we assess your application

When assessing applications, the Scientific Board KiKa (WR KiKa) currently issues one of three recommendations: approval, conditional approval, or rejection. An explanation of these recommendations and the whole reviewing process of KiKa can be found in the updated document *'Reviewing process and quality assessment'* on our website.

[See the full document](#)

New project applications approved for funding

Since the previous newsletter, KiKa has approved eight applications for funding:

- Molecular and functional dissection of the origin of astroblastoma molecular subtypes and its sex-specific biology. Project leaders: Marcel Kool, Jens Bunt, Benedetta Artergiani, and Delilah Hendriks (Princess Máxima Center for paediatric oncology).
- ONCARE – Oxygen therapy in Pediatric Critical Care Oncology. Project leaders: Roelie Wösten-van Asperen (UMC Utrecht/Wilhelmina Kinderziekenhuis), Wim Tissing (Princess Máxima Center for paediatric oncology), and Marta Fiocco (Leiden University).
- Towards enhanced knowledge of rare Pediatric Renal Tumors by exploring a large-scale, longitudinal InternatiOnal RegIsTrY, The PRIORITY study. Project leaders: Martine van Grotel, Marry van den Heuvel-Eibrink, and Harm van Tinteren (Princess Máxima Center for paediatric oncology).
- Intratumoral DNX-2401 Administration for Recurrent and Refractory High-Grade Brain Tumors in Pediatric and Young Adult Patients. Project leaders: Jasper van der Lugt, Esther van Mastrigt, and Eelco Hoving (Princess Máxima Center for paediatric oncology).
- Development of a novel CAR microglia cell therapy for diffuse midline glioma. Project leader: Daan Kloosterman (Princess Máxima Center for paediatric oncology).
- Decoding and preventing chemotherapy-induced mutational damage in normal human cells. Project leader: Ruben van Boxtel (Princess Máxima Center for paediatric oncology).
- MICROBE-BRAIN - MICROBiome modulation strategies for Enhancing therapeutic efficacy in pediatric BRAIN tumors. Project leaders: Jasper van der Lugt and Raoull Hoogendijk (Princess Máxima Center for paediatric oncology).
- Towards more equitable survivorship care for childhood cancer survivors: The LATER-EQUITY study. Project leaders: Cindy Verberkt and Iris Walraven (Radboudumc).

[More information](#)

Get ready for the paediatric synergy call!

Oncode Institute, in partnership with KiKa, is launching a new funding call focused on paediatric cancer research. The aim of this call is to mobilize the Oncode research community to prepare research proposals that address key challenges in the treatment and diagnosis of childhood cancer. Proposals can be submitted until 24 September 2026, 14h.



[Read more](#)

New Grant Management System

This summer, KiKa is implementing an online portal to submit grant applications. This portal will allow the submission of applications and will keep track of the status and to-dos of your grants. To make sure the portal works well for you, we are looking for researchers willing to test the new system. Testing is expected to take place towards the end of August or beginning of September. Interested? Let us know by July 31st. We will keep you updated about the launch of the portal, which is expected in the beginning of next year.

[Get in touch](#)

Attend the Tom Voûte Young Investigator Awards 2026

This year, the [Tom Voûte Young Investigator Awards](#) will be held on Monday October 12th (13:00-18:00h) in Utrecht. During this event, PhD students compete for the awards by presenting their research on paediatric oncology to fellow researchers and an expert jury. This is always a lot of fun! Registration to attend the event is open for PhD candidates in paediatric oncology, their supervisors, and group members.

[Sign up](#)



Calendar

<u>Opening of the next FIGHT KIDS CANCER (general) call</u>	1 September 2026
<u>Submitting a proposal for the Pediatric Synergy call by Oncode Institute</u>	Deadline: 24 September 2026 (14:00)
<u>Submitting a research or pilot project to KiKa</u>	Deadlines: 1 October 2026 (23:59) and 1 February 2027 (23:59)
<u>Tom Voûte Young Investigator Awards</u>	12 October 2026 (13:00-18:00; Walk-in between 12:30-13:00)