

# VIRCHOW 2.0

BERLIN BRANDENBURG  
INNOVATION CLUSTER  
FOR CELL-BASED MEDICINE



KONZEPTIONSPHASENPROJEKT

**CLUSTERS  
4 FUTURE**

Innovationsnetzwerke  
für unsere Zukunft

GEFÖRDERT VOM



Bundesministerium  
für Bildung  
und Forschung

## Open call info event

Sonja Hansen & Marie Vidal

8th November 2021

**MDC** MAX-DELBRÜCK-CENTRUM  
FÜR MOLEKULARE MEDIZIN  
IN DER HELMHOLTZ-GEMEINSCHAFT

**CHARITÉ**  
UNIVERSITÄTSMEDIZIN BERLIN

**BIH** Berlin Institute  
of Health  
@Charité

**BIFOLD**

**ZIB**  
ZUSE INSTITUTE BERLIN

**Aim:** Promote cooperation between regional future-shaping actors from companies, society and science with a long-term perspective via

- (i) R&D projects and
- (ii) innovation-supporting activities

➔ Transfer the latest technologies, scientific methods and instruments into applications as quickly as possible

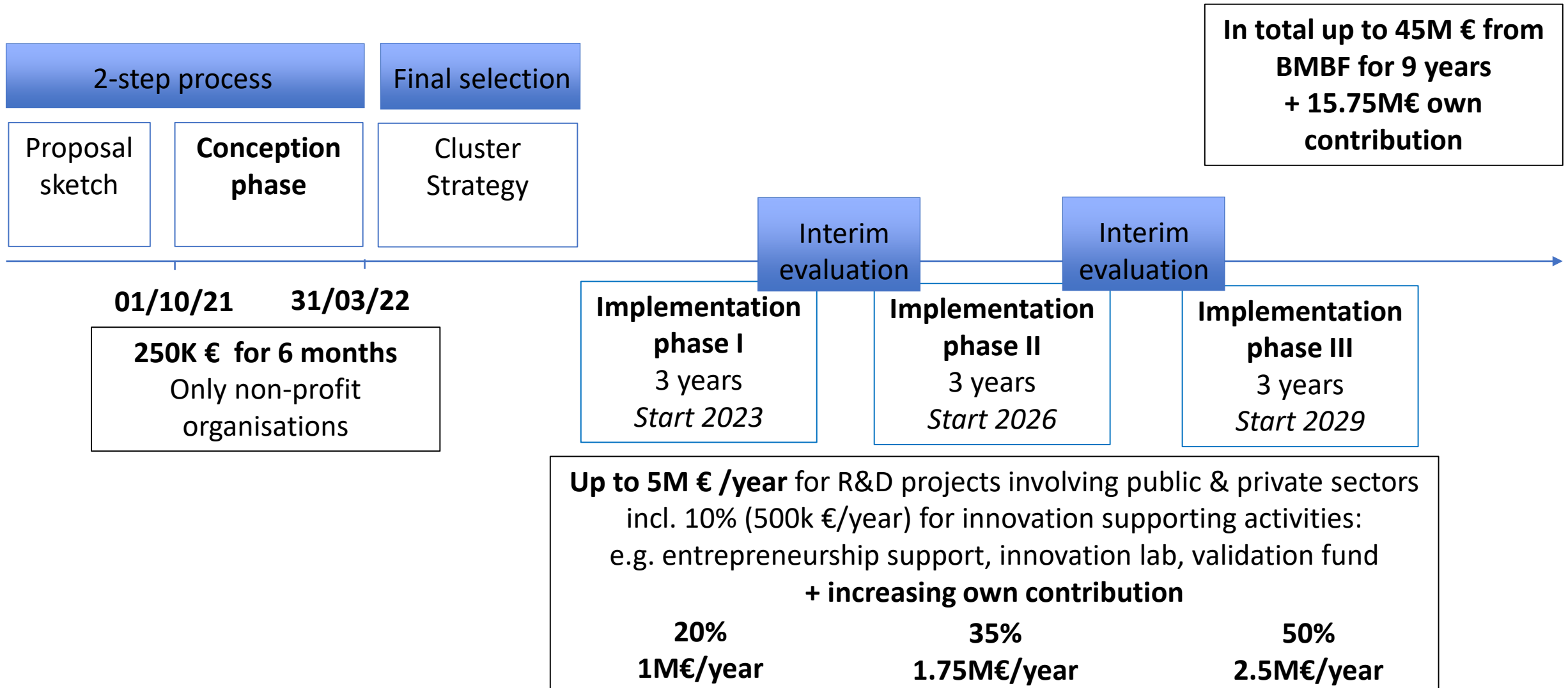
**Program:**

7 clusters will be supported for up to **9 years with 45 M€ each**

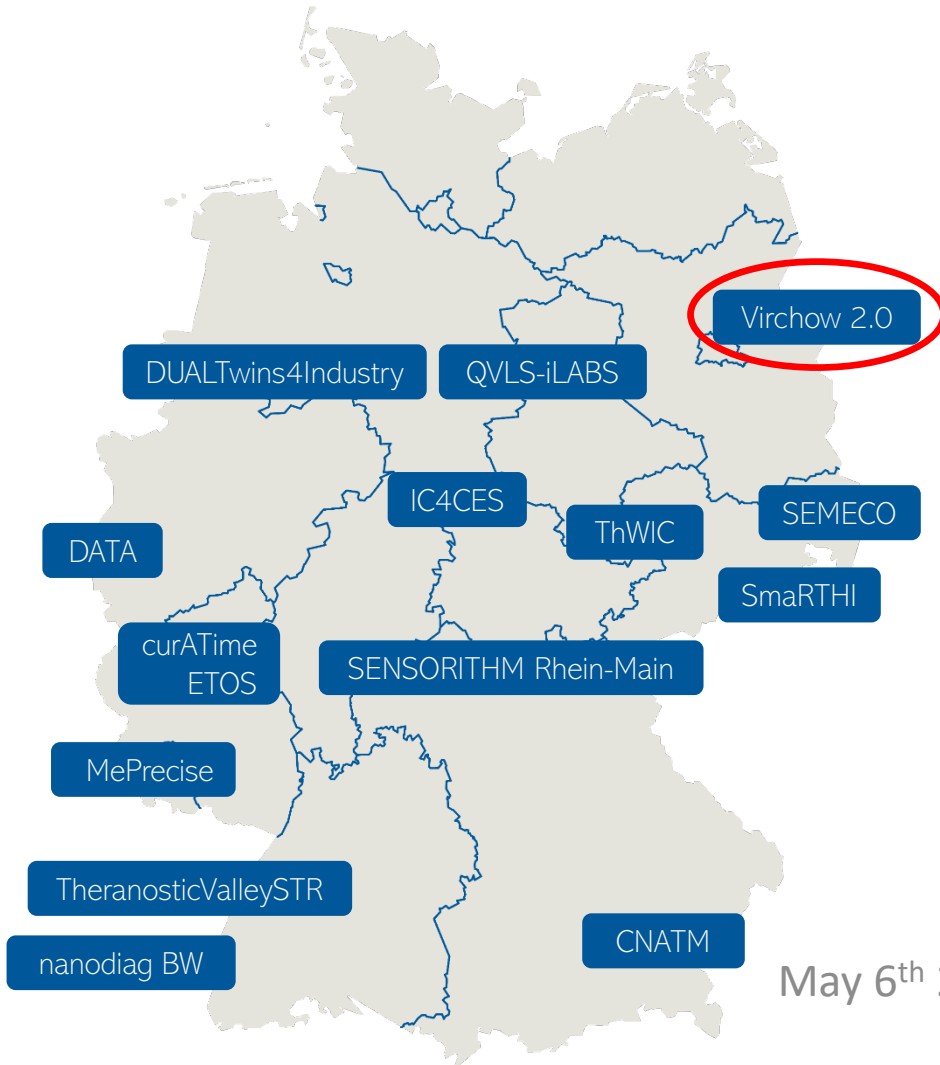


<https://www.clusters4future.de/zukunftscluster-initiative>

# 2<sup>nd</sup> ROUND NATIONWIDE OPEN COMPETITION

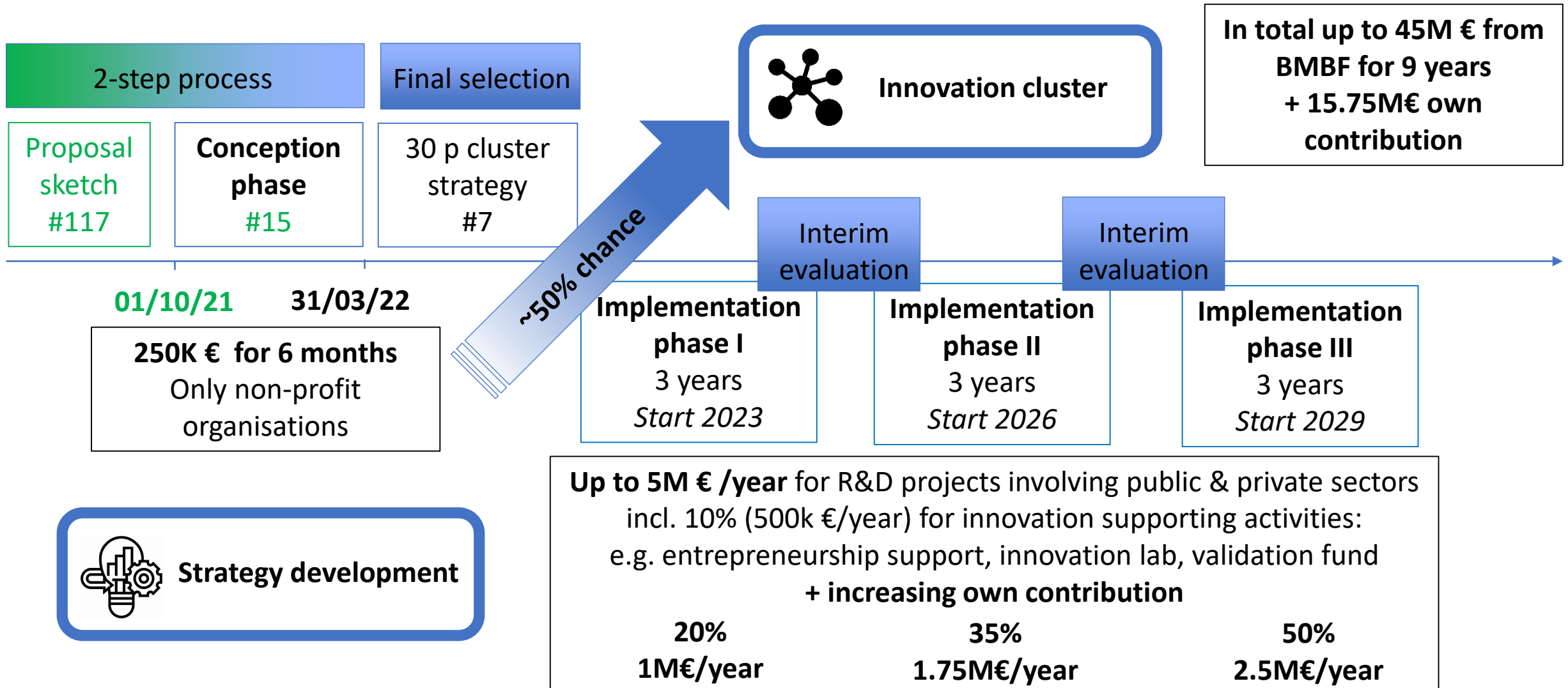


# VIRCHOW 2.0 IS THE ONLY FINALIST IN BERLIN!



May 6<sup>th</sup> 2021: BMBF announced the 15 new finalists (out of 117 submitted sketches)

# 2<sup>nd</sup> ROUND NATIONWIDE OPEN COMPETITION





Perspective


LifeTime and improving European healthcare through cell-based interceptive medicine

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-2715-9>

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Open access

 Check for updates

Nikolaus Rajewsky<sup>1,2,3,4,204</sup>, Geneviève Almouzni<sup>5,204</sup>, Stanisław A. Gorski<sup>1,204</sup>, Stein Aerts<sup>6,7</sup>, Ido Amit<sup>8</sup>, Michela G. Bertero<sup>9</sup>, Christoph Bock<sup>10,11,12</sup>, Annelien L. Bredenoord<sup>13</sup>, Giacomo Cavalli<sup>14</sup>, Susanna Chiocca<sup>15</sup>, Hans Clevers<sup>16,17,18,19</sup>, Bart De Strooper<sup>6,20,21</sup>, Angelika Eggert<sup>3,22</sup>, Jan Ellenberg<sup>23</sup>, Xosé M. Fernández<sup>24</sup>, Marek Figlerowicz<sup>25,26</sup>, Susan M. Gasser<sup>27,28</sup>, Norbert Hubner<sup>29,2,3,4</sup>, Jørgen Kjems<sup>30,31</sup>, Jürgen A. Knoblich<sup>32,33</sup>, Grietje Krabbe<sup>1</sup>, Peter Lichter<sup>34</sup>, Sten Linnarsson<sup>35,36</sup>, Jean-Christophe Marine<sup>37,38</sup>, John Marioni<sup>39,40,41</sup>, Marc A. Marti-Renom<sup>9,42,43,44</sup>, Mihai G. Netea<sup>45,46,47</sup>, Dörthe Nickel<sup>24</sup>, Marcelo Nollmann<sup>48</sup>, Halina R. Novak<sup>49</sup>, Helen Parkinson<sup>39</sup>, Stefano Piccolo<sup>50,51</sup>, Inês Pinheiro<sup>5</sup>, Ana Pombo<sup>1,52</sup>, Christian Popp<sup>1</sup>, Wolf Reik<sup>41,53,54</sup>, Sergio Roman-Roman<sup>55</sup>, Philip Rosenstiel<sup>56,57</sup>, Joachim L. Schultze<sup>47,58,59</sup>, Oliver Stegle<sup>60,61,39,41</sup>, Amos Tanay<sup>62</sup>, Giuseppe Testa<sup>15,63,64</sup>, Dimitris Thanos<sup>65</sup>, Fabian J. Theis<sup>66,67</sup>, Maria-Elena Torres-Padilla<sup>68,69</sup>, Alfonso Valencia<sup>70,44</sup>, Céline Vallot<sup>55,71</sup>, Alexander van Oudenaarden<sup>16,17,18</sup>, Marie Vidal<sup>1</sup>, Thierry Voet<sup>7,41</sup> & the LifeTime Community Working Groups\*

Rajewsky, Almouzni, Gorski *et. al.* Nature (2020)

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the paper.

\*These authors contributed equally

# GROWING NETWORK

## Project core team



**Nikolaus Rajewsky**  
Speaker

**Angelika Eggert**  
Co-speaker



**Thomas Gazlig**

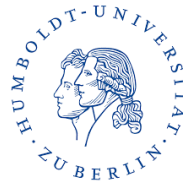
**Tim Conrad**



**Marie Vidal**



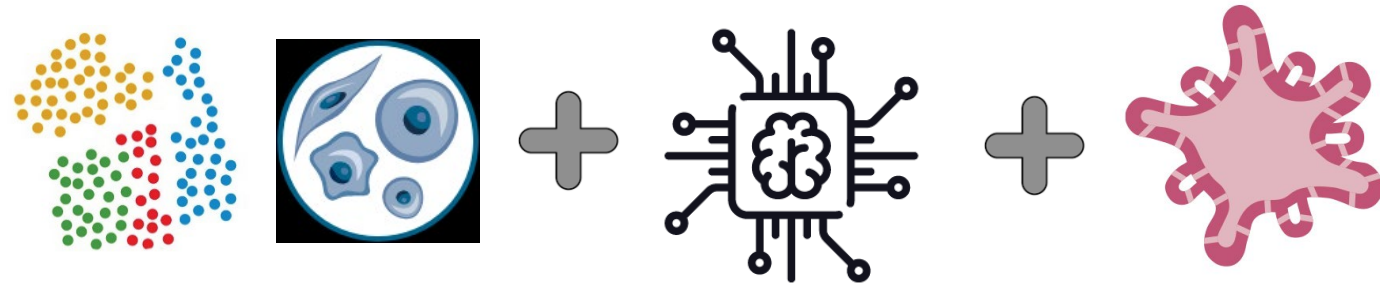
## Associated partners/supporters



...and further universities, research institutions, large companies, SMEs/Start-ups, investors, associations, patient organisations, policy makers

## Technology focus:

- Single-cell multi-omics & advanced imaging
- AI/ML
- Patient-derived disease models



## Application areas for implementing cell-based medicine:

- AI supported single cell technologies for the R&D market & clinical applications
- AI solutions for pathology and precision diagnostics
- Biomarker identification and new monitoring strategies for therapy response
- Novel discovery process for new drug targets
- New business models for clinical single cell data and analytics software



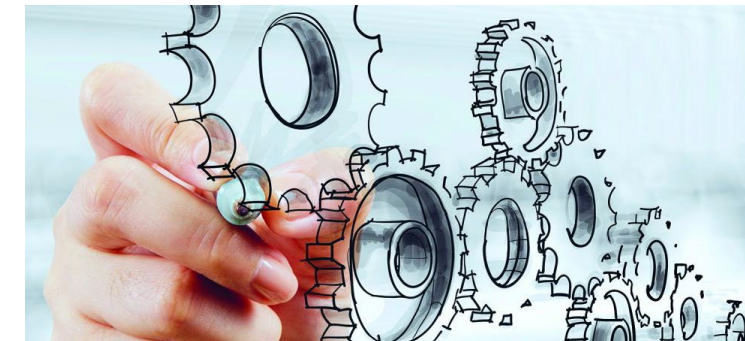
**Aim: Deliver a detailed cluster strategy including R&D projects**

**Duration: 6 months 01/10/2021 – 31/03/2022**

**Final proposal: 30 pages and in addition 2-3 pages max per project/project partner**

## **Main Tasks:**

- 1) Portfolio and SWOT analysis of regional technologies, models and competencies
- 2) Analysis of clinical needs for cell-based precision diagnostics and therapies
- 3) Definition of R&D projects for the implementation phase: match-making and **open-call**
- 4) Planning of a central “Innovation Hub” with technology adoption and development platform
- 5) Sustainable strategy for the long-term establishment of the cluster as public/private partnership
- 6) Strategy for marketing, patient engagement and public dialogue
- 7) Concept for education & training, mentoring, and capacity building
- 8) Management and organization structure



# OPEN CALL FOR CELL-BASED MEDICINE PROJECT IDEAS



**Focus:** Innovative\_R&D collaborative projects in 6 areas

- > Innovative single cell and AI technologies
- > Predictive personalized disease models
- > Precise molecular and cellular diagnostics
- > New drugs targets and cellular therapies
- > AI-supported clinical decision systems
- > Out of the box, emerging fields

**Duration and potential funding:** up-to 3 years with funding in the range of 200-500 k€/year

**Criteria:** (1) Excellence and fit with the cluster vision and mission, (2) novelty, innovation potential and impact, (3) implementation and (4) strength of the applicant team

**Review:** independent and external scoring by 2-3 experts

**Timeline:**

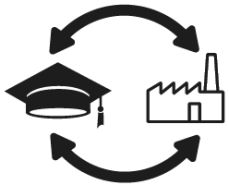
Brokerage events: 19 and 22 November

Submission deadline: 12 December

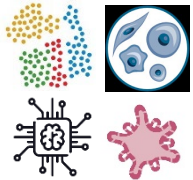
Selection of best projects: 31 January

Workshop with selected projects: 14 February

Selection of the best project ideas aligned with the cluster vision of implementing cell-based medicine in Berlin-Brandenburg for integration in the final cluster proposal, we look for



Collaborative R&D project ideas from project teams involving academia and industry partners



Projects ideas aiming at further developing, integrating and applying **single-cell technologies, artificial intelligence** as well as **patient derived disease models** for **R&D applications and/or clinical use**

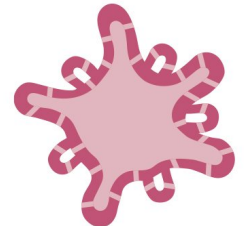
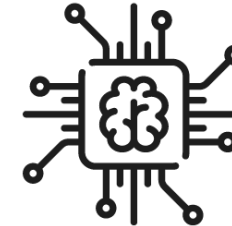
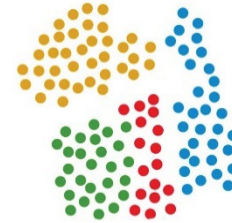


Collaborative R&D project ideas selected by the open call will become part of the **Virchow 2.0 cluster application**

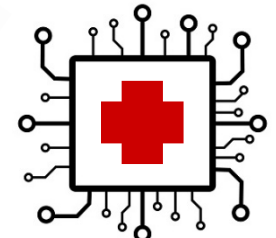
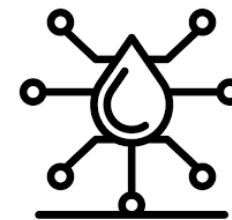
At this stage the open call aims to select the R&D collaborative projects proposed for the three years of the first implementation phase.

## 6 APPLICATION TOPICS: IMPLEMENTING CELL-BASED MEDICINE

- Innovative single-cell and AI technologies
- Predictive personalised disease models



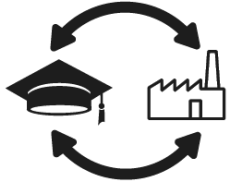
- Precise molecular and cellular diagnostics
- New drugs targets and cellular therapies
- AI-supported clinical decision systems



- Out of the box, emerging fields



# ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS (1/2)



**Scope:** Applications must propose **cell-based medicine collaborative R&D project ideas** involving partners from **academia and industry**.



**Project team:** a **minimum of two partners** from **two different organizations**

- Please see the section match-making opportunities, if you are looking for a project partner.



**Co-funding:** Overall the cluster budget has to secure 20% of own contribution from its partners and industry partners are expected to commit to co-funding of their project costs.

- Please see [Clusters4Future guidelines from the BMBF](#) (section 5; section 2 of the annex) and Virchow 2.0 [Budget plan guidelines](#)



**Regionality:** All partners are expected to be **regional to Berlin-Brandenburg**. **Exceptions may be granted**, if well justified (e.g. no local partner exists).

- Only partners from Germany are eligible for BMBF funding and only contributions of German organizations count towards the overall own contribution of the cluster.
- International partners are welcome as associated partners (need to cover their own cost, no BMBF support, contribution doesn't count towards the overall own contribution of the cluster)



# ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS (2/2)



**Availability for strategic planning of Virchow 2.0:** Applicants must be willing and available to participate in an **in-person Virchow 2.0 strategy workshop on February 14, 2022** with partners of all selected project teams. Selected applicants must be willing and available to **support** the Virchow 2.0 conception phase team in **preparing the final Virchow 2.0 cluster proposal**, especially regarding all matters related to their project idea.



**Application signature:** Signatories must have the appropriate decision power within their organisation to submit the proposal (e.g. a post-doc from an academic group can participate if their supervisor is signing the application).



**Application number:** The number of applications per partner and per consortium is not limited.



## Process

- Submissions exclusively to the email address [opencall@virchow2-0.de](mailto:opencall@virchow2-0.de)
- As a single pdf including the completed application form and the signed signature pages
- The application must be signed by each involved applicant
- For questions concerning the open call, contact the open call managers at [opencall@virchow2-0.de](mailto:opencall@virchow2-0.de)



## Key dates

- The Open Call for projects ideas launched on **2 November 2021**
- The submission deadline is **12 December 2021**
- Applications will be reviewed and the decision announced by **31 January 2022**
- A workshop with partners of all selected project ideas is planned on **14 February 2022**
- The final Virchow 2.0 cluster strategy including description of the selected projects has to be submitted by **31 March 2022**
- The BMBF will announce the supported clusters in the **middle of 2022**
- The first 3-year implementation phase is expected to start in **early 2023**

# DURATION AND POTENTIAL FUNDING



Project ideas with a duration of **maximum three years** can be submitted.  
There is no limit to the budget that can be requested per application or applicant.  
Consider the indicative range of **200 to 500K€ per year for a project budget**.



**Please note that this is not a call for project funding yet.**

The selected projects will be included in the final cluster proposal and will receive funding only if Virchow 2.0 is chosen by the BMBF to realize its first implementation phase.

Up to 4.5 million € would be available per year for all R&D collaborative projects in the cluster.



**Excellence of the hypothesis/aims for the cluster strategy:** Preference will be given to project ideas that are (1) scientifically sound and comprehensive and (2) relevant for the Virchow 2.0 strategy. Alignment with the cluster vision of implementing cell-based medicine in Berlin-Brandenburg is a key criterion

**Innovation potential and impact:** Preference will be given to proposals that (1) demonstrate a clear understanding of the problem(s) they are trying to solve; (2) clearly outline the novelty of their approach to solving the problem(s); (3) define the expected societal and/or economic impact and present a promising path to patient and/or marketability/probability of commercialization

**Implementation:** Preference will be given to proposals that have (1) clearly defined objectives, relevant to the hypothesis; (2) a work plan achievable within the scope of the project with appropriate milestones and budget; (3) identify potential challenges and pitfalls

**Strength of the applicant team:** Preference will be given to proposals with applicants who have the necessary competencies, expertise and network to implement the project idea



Do you have an innovative idea and are you looking for a specific complementary expertise? Do you need additional partner(s) to develop your project proposal?

⇒ Join our growing network on the [Virchow 2.0 match-making platform](#)

- create/update your profile to present your expertise and interests
- search for partners and book meetings with other Virchow 2.0 match-making participants
- register to join our virtual brokerage events scheduled on



**Friday 19 November, 4:30-6:00 pm CET**

**Monday 22 November, 4:00-5:30 pm CET**

**and submit your project idea pitch by [12 November 2021](#)**

For consulting on demand with Open Call managers, write to [opencall@virchow2-0.de](mailto:opencall@virchow2-0.de)



# APPLICATION FORM

## Applicant information

### Project summary

- Topic
- Indication/disease area (if applicable)
- Summary
- Alignment with cluster vision

### Project description

- Description of the problem
- Description of your new solution (technology/product/service/application)
- Uniqueness of new solution
- Excellence of the project partners

### Work plan

- Work package and risk assessment
- Timeline
- Budget plan
- Future development plan, exploitation strategy, long term vision

### Technology transfer activities

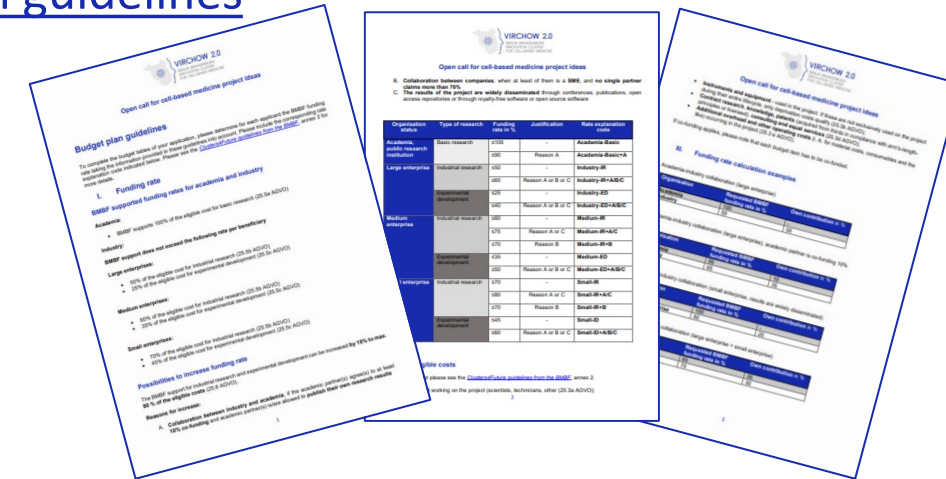
- Invention disclosure and/or patent(s) related to the proposed project
- Support by technology transfer programs of Virchow 2.0 core partner institutions



# BUDGET PLAN

One budget table to fill in per partner using the [Virchow 2.0 budget plan guidelines](#)

Applicant	XXX		
Rate of BMBF funding	XXX %	Rate explanation code XXX	
Cost category	Total planned budget in €	Own contribution in €	Budget requested from BMBF in €
Personnel	XX €	XX €	XX €
Consumables, equipment and instrument depreciation	XX €	XX €	XX €
Other direct costs (e.g. travel, meeting and events)	XX €	XX €	XX €
Indirect costs	XX €	XX €	XX €
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>XX €</b>	<b>XX €</b>	<b>XX €</b>




## BMBF funding rate of eligible cost

- Academia:** 100% for basic research
- Large enterprises:** 50% for industrial research  
25% for experimental development
- Medium enterprises:** 60% for industrial research  
35% for experimental development
- Small enterprises:** 70% for industrial research  
45% for experimental development

[https://www.bmbf.de/bmbf/shareddocs/bekanntmachungen/de/2020/11/3229\\_bekanntmachung](https://www.bmbf.de/bmbf/shareddocs/bekanntmachungen/de/2020/11/3229_bekanntmachung)

# SIGNATURE

- Information of application shared with Virchow 2.0 conception phase consortium involved in the selection process as well as with external reviewers who have signed a confidentiality agreement
- Confirmation of project team and organisation
- Willingness to co-fund
- Participation in an in-person Virchow 2.0 strategy workshop on **14 February 2022** with partners of all selected project teams
- Support in preparing the final Virchow 2.0 cluster proposal, in particular regarding the project idea
- No other funding for the project idea applied for exists
- Notification when another application for the same idea is filed and/or funded elsewhere
- Awareness of and compliance with [Virchow 2.0 Open Call Information](#)



**VIRCHOW 2.0**  
BERLIN BRANDENBURG  
INNOVATION CLUSTER  
FOR CELL-BASED MEDICINE

Open call for cell-based medicine project ideas

**Signature page**

**Project title (non-confidential):**

Please insert your non-confidential project title (same as used in the application)

In submitting this application, I agree that the information of my application may be communicated to members of the Virchow 2.0 conception phase consortium at the four initial academic partners: the Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine (MDC), the Berlin Institute of Health (BIH), the Charité and Zuse Institute Berlin (ZIB) involved in the selection process as well as to external reviewers who have signed a confidentiality agreement. As described in the [Information to Data Subjects](#), the purpose of this data processing is to select the project teams that will be included in the Virchow 2.0 cluster strategy, and if positively evaluated at the final step of the BMBF competition, realize their project idea in the implementation phase.

I hereby confirm that:

- I have read and understood the information presented in the [Information to Data Subjects](#) in accordance with Art. 13 EU GDPR. This declaration of consent is voluntary and can be revoked at any time with effect for the future. The legality of the data processing carried out on the basis of the consent until the revocation is not affected by this.
- I am an employee of the institution(s) named below in the signature section.
- I am part of the project team filing an application under the title mentioned above.
- My organisation is willing to co-fund the collaborative project as described in the application budget plan according to the [Clusters4Future BMBF guidelines](#) if the project idea is selected in the conception phase and if Virchow 2.0 qualifies for the implementation phase (industry partners are expected to commit to co-funding of their own project costs, academic partners can but are not obligated to provide co-funding).
- With my co-applicants I am willing and available to participate in an in-person Virchow 2.0 strategy workshop on February 14, 2022 with partners of all selected project teams. I am also willing to support the Virchow 2.0 conception phase team in preparing the final Virchow 2.0 cluster proposal especially regarding all matters related to my project idea.
- Currently no alternative funding for the project idea applied for exists.
- I will give immediate notification if I apply for funding for this project anywhere else during the application process and (in case of selection of this project) during the period before the start of the Virchow 2.0 first implementation phase and the entire funding period.
- all information about me and my organisation made in this application is correct.
- I will give immediate notification in case of any changes of this information during the application process and (in case of selection of this project) during the period before the start of the Virchow 2.0 first implementation phase and the entire funding period.
- I have read and understood the [Virchow 2.0 Open Call Information](#). I am aware of and will comply with the terms and conditions mentioned therein, associated with applying for the Virchow 2.0 Open call for cell-based medicine project ideas.

**Signature**  
Applicant (Please fill out a separate form for each co-applicant)

Name	Institutions	Date	Signature

1

# THANK YOU!!

## Open call for cell-based medicine project ideas 2021



Submission deadline: 12 December

 [virchow2-0.de](https://virchow2-0.de)

 [@Virchow2\\_0](https://twitter.com/Virchow2_0)



Unique opportunity to get involved in the cluster

We invite project teams from academia and industry to propose their collaborative R&D project ideas to be included in the final cluster strategy to implement cell-based medicine.

We look forward to  
answering your questions!



Sonja Hansen



Marie Vidal

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