Dekkerbeurs

TEAM SCIENCE 2026

Hartstichting

Call summary

Call type:	Personal grant
Objective:	To stimulate collaboration between two talented early-career researchers from different disciplines. The research contributes to the mission of the Dutch Heart Foundation, generates reusable data for follow-up research, and promotes the translation and application of scientific knowledge in practice.
What can be requested:	Max. € 650.000,- per request There are max. 3 scholarships available.
Project duration:	2-3 years
Who can submit:	A team of researchers combines two profiles: a researcher who has recently completed a PhD and a junior researcher with clinical duties.
Assessment by:	External referees and Dekker assessment committee (referred to hereafter as 'committee')

Timetable

18 March 2026	Opening of the call
May 2026	Webinar
30 June 2026, 14.00 hr (CET)	Deadline for submitting applications
30 June – 17 July 2026	Applicants are available to answer questions
17 July 2026	Confirmation of eligibility of the application
17 July – 4 September	Review by referees
31 August – 4 September	Rebuttal
5 October 2026	Preselection
19 October 2026	Submission of draft Intra Consortium Agreement
28 October 2026	Interviews
Early December 2026	Funding decision
Mid-December 2026	Contract phase
January 2027	Introduction meeting
Late February 2027	Earliest possible start
Early June 2027	Latest start date

Content

1. Mission of the Dutch Heart Foundation

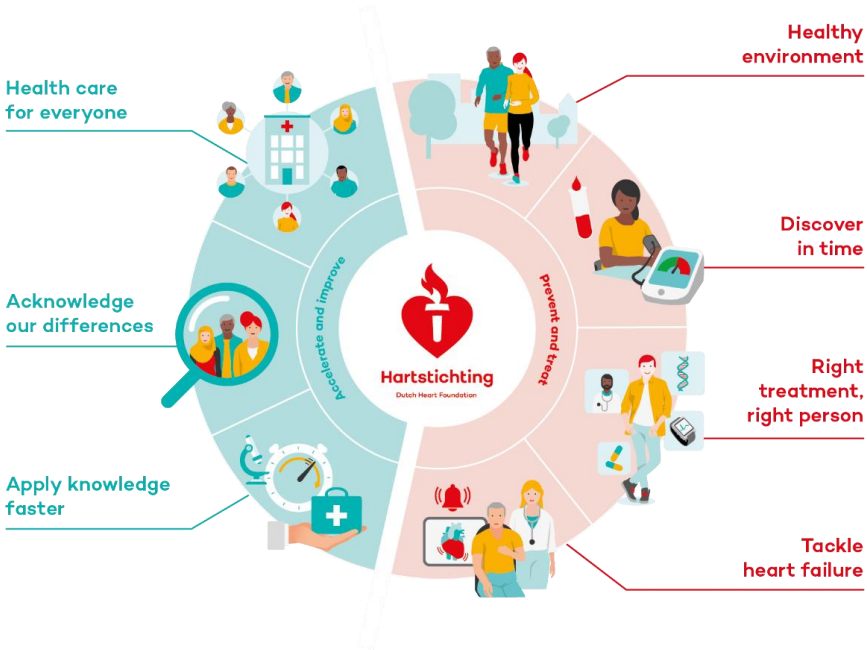
A healthy heart for everyone, today and tomorrow. That's the goal of the Dutch Heart Foundation (DHF). Because everything starts with the heart. Today, 1.8 million people in the Netherlands live with cardiovascular disease. Without decisive action, this number will continue to rise rapidly, putting increasing pressure on the healthcare system.

The DHF works to prevent cardiovascular disease, improve rapid response in emergencies, and advance vital research. We also work to improve care and quality of life for people living with cardiovascular disease, so they can live longer and in better health.

To achieve this ambition, we fund research that delivers tangible progress in prevention, early detection and treatment. Collaboration is central to this approach: across disciplines and along the full spectrum from fundamental research to clinical practice and public health. This enables top talent to develop innovative ideas and connects different areas of expertise, helping research lead to real improvements faster.

We invest in researchers who look beyond publications alone, researchers who are committed to translating science into practice, policy and real benefits for patients. Through targeted funding and strong collaboration, we strengthen the connection between research, healthcare and government, and work together on solutions that make a lasting difference to the heart health of the Netherlands.

The national cardiovascular agenda
With the rising number of people affected by heart or circulatory diseases, the challenge facing the DHF, healthcare professionals, and cardiovascular researchers is immense. In response, the DHF, together with patients and their loved ones, scientists, healthcare providers,



policymakers, donors, and volunteers, has developed a national cardiovascular agenda: the National cardiovascular agenda In this agenda, we have identified the seven main challenges for the next ten years.

The cardiovascular agenda is broader than just funding research. For example, it includes topics such as future-proofing healthcare, promoting prevention, increasing social awareness and timely recognition of serious cardiovascular diseases. The Heart Foundation wants to use about half of its resources on topics from the agenda. The fact that we have chosen these biggest challenges does not mean that there is no longer any attention for specific fundamental research or syndromes that are not currently on the agenda.

Apply knowledge faster

Cutting-edge scientific research is crucial to improving cardiovascular health. It has significantly advanced our knowledge, prevention and treatment of cardiovascular diseases. Yet it can take years before patients benefit from new insights, techniques and treatments. If we improve the translation of research into practice, we can save more lives and improve the quality of life for more people. However, translating knowledge into practice is not easy. Depending on the type of knowledge, factors such as laws and regulations, reimbursement decisions and clinical evidence play a major role in the implementation. Each type of knowledge can follow a different, often complex, trajectory.
That is why the Heart Foundation supports researchers at every step of the process. Our roadmaps guide you from an initial idea to application in practice. They help you to recognize possible challenges and prepare you well for the steps ahead. Currently, the Heart Foundation has developed two roadmaps: Drug Development and Non-implantable Medical Devices. In your application, you will be asked to explain which steps are needed to achieve societal impact with your research. The roadmaps can support you in this.

Collaboration in the DCVA

To achieve these goals, the DHF collaborates with many partners within the Dutch CardioVascular Alliance (DCVA; https://www.dcvalliance.nl). Our collective goal is to reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease by 25% by 2030. Our main priority is to accelerate research outcomes for the benefit of patients. The participants of the DCVA are working towards this goal by investing in excellent science, valorisation and implementation, talent development and data infrastructure. The DCVA supports cardiovascular researchers in knowledge sharing, expanding networks, and offering guidance, training and support for data infrastructure, valorisation and implementation.

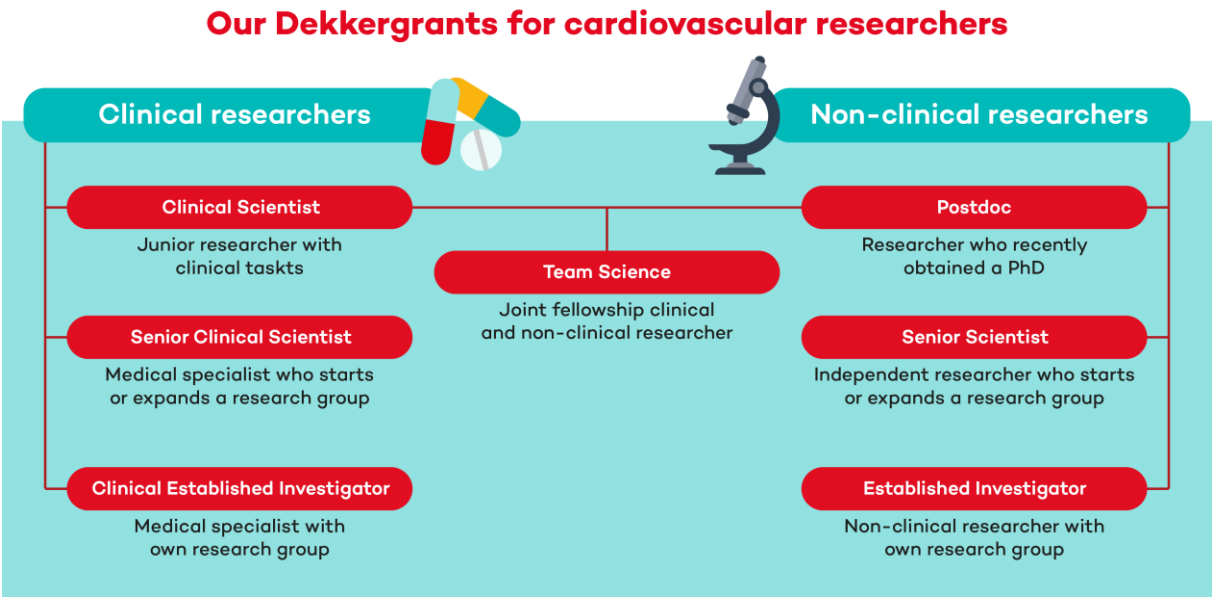
2. Dekker programme

The Dekker programme is the personal grant programme of the DHF. With this programme we stimulate important research in cardiovascular diseases. The aim of this programme is to attract talented researchers, engage them with the cardiovascular field and connect them to the DHF. The Dekker programme enables researchers to pursue an academic career and start their independent line of research.

The Dekker programme is open to researchers from various disciplines. Both clinical and preclinical researcher contribute to new knowledge and thereby improve the general heart

health. Also technical innovations, behavioural studies, epidemiological studies, new therapeutics and improved diagnostics all play a vital role. Therefore we invite everyone to apply. It is not a requirement that applications fit within the themes of the DHF's research agenda. If you are unsure whether your proposal is a good fit, please contact us.

Within the Dekker programme, a distinction is made between grants for researchers with and without clinical duties. There is one selection round per year for each Dekker fellowship. Exceptions to this are the Clinical Established Investigator and Established Investigator fellowships, for which there is a selection round every other year. The Dekker student grant is provided for applicants who are nominated by their university. The Dekker programme does not provide specific grants for doctoral training. For an overview of all Dekker grants, please go to our website: Alles over Dekkerbeurzen voor onderzoekers | Hartstichting voor Professionals.



Team Science Dekker grant

The aim of of the Team Science Dekker grant is to stimulate interdisciplinary collaboration between two researchers from different institutions to develop innovative solutions for a major challenge in (clinical) practice.

The collaboration is aimed at delivering innovative solutions to complex questions in cardiovascular research that cannot be developed within a single discipline and for which input from at least two disciplines is essential.

In a Team Science Dekker project, the expertise of both researchers is integrated in terms of content. This means that concepts, methods, data and interpretations are developed, applied and interpreted jointly, so that the research leads to new insights that arise from the interdisciplinary approach rather than from parallel disciplinary contributions.
In addition to the societal and scientific impact generated by the collaboration, the Team Science Dekker grant supports the development of the cardiovascular researchers of the

future. They are able to work across disciplines and develop new solutions that demonstrably improve people's cardiovascular health.

Theme of the Team Science Dekker grant
Within this round, all topics that contribute to the mission of the DHF are permitted. Particular attention is paid to Open Science, especially making research data accessible by sharing it as openly as possible. In this way, the DHF strengthens the transparency, reusability and societal impact of cardiovascular research. Data from funded projects must therefore be made available for reuse according to the principle 'as open as possible, as closed as necessary' and in accordance with the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable).

3. Conditions for submission

Target group and objective
Within this grant, two researchers from different disciplines work together on one joint research project. Examples include combinations across medical, health, social, humanities, economic and technical sciences. Examples of collaborations include a technical researcher and a cardiology trainee, or an epidemiologist and a GP trainee.

During the term of the research, the researchers are employed by two different institutions. A university medical centre and a university in the same city are regarded as separate institutions. Research institutions also include, among others, the Hubrecht Institute, Sanquin, universities of applied sciences and hospitals.

The team combines the following two profiles:

Researcher
A researcher who has recently completed a PhD, does not combine research with clinical duties and wishes to develop within the cardiovascular field. The cardiovascular field is broad and includes many disciplines that are important for preventing, detecting, treating and curing cardiovascular diseases and thereby helping to reduce disease burden.

Researcher with clinical duties
This can be a researcher with a degree from a university of applied sciences or a university who wishes to specialise in a clinical discipline with clear relevance to cardiovascular diseases. During the research, the researcher has clinical duties and/or is training for a clinical specialty.

Please contact the DHF if you are undertaking a fellowship or further specialisation, or if you do not have clinical duties but do have a clear connection with practice, for example by combining research with health policy at a local authority.

The application is submitted by a duo of applicants who collaborate on an equal basis, one of whom acts as coordinating applicant and therefore as the Lead Applicant.

A webinar will be organised in May 2026 to discuss the aims of the Team Science grant in an interactive way.

Are you unsure whether your idea fits the Team Science Dekker grant? If so, please contact us in time, via research@hartstichting.nl.

Finances
In 2026, three Team Science Dekker grants are available.

This grant provides financial support for personnel costs and other expenses for a period of at least 2 and up to 3 years.

Grant amount
The maximum total amount that can be requested is € 650.000,- which will be adjusted proportionally for projects shorter than 3 years.

In your application, you can allocate the budget at your discretion between personnel costs and other expenses, according to the applicable salary categories and conditions. The budget allocation between participating institutions is also free. However, the budget distribution must be explained. This aspect will be considered in assessing the equivalence and added value of the collaboration.

Personnel costs
In your application, you can request the following types of salary costs:

- A PhD candidate (category A or F)
- A postdoctoral researcher (category B)
- Support staff (category C or D)
- Your own salary for the time you will spend on the research (category B or F)
- Data steward - Non-scientific personnel, academic (category E)
- Your own salary for the time you will spend on the research (category B or F)

Other expenses
In addition to personnel costs, you can apply for other expenses. Specify in the budget sheet how you intend to use this funding.

Only specified consumables and/or laboratory animals directly necessary for the execution of the research can be requested as other expenses.

The following costs are definitely not eligible for reimbursement:

- Equipment (computers, measuring equipment, analysis equipment, etc.).
- General (laboratory) facilities (bench fee, overhead) and the resulting costs.
- These include, among others, training costs and staff travel expenses.
- Software, etc. which is not exclusively necessary for the project.
- Publication costs.

If METC/CTIS permission is required at the start of the project, this must be in place before the project can start. These costs will not be reimbursed. If METC/CTIS permission is required during the duration of the project, reimbursement of the costs is negotiable.

Refer to 'appendix 1. Instructions for completing the budget form' for detailed information on filling out the budget sheet and eligible funding categories. The appendix also provides an overview of the personnel categories used by the DHF.

Note that the amounts entered in the budget sheet follow logically from the descriptions in the application.

Contribution to travel expenses

Conferences

Costs related to attendance of a conference can be reimbursed separately through the dr. W. Stiggelbout-programme and do not have to be incorporated in the application. More information about working visits and conferences can be found at: beurzen-voor-aanvullende-kosten.

Contribution institute applicant

With the Dekker Grants, the DHF contributes to the support and further development of talented researchers in the cardiovascular field. The DHF considers it essential that talent is also supported by the knowledge institutions where they work. This is not only important for your scientific and/or clinical career but also contributes to a strong cardiovascular research environment in the future. The DHF cannot achieve this alone. Therefore, we ask you to specify how the knowledge institution(s) where you will conduct this research will contribute to this project. This could be, for example, by providing personnel, dedicating your supervisor's time, relieving you of clinical obligations, or contributing to material costs. It may also involve offering specific training that supports your further professional development.

Conditions for financial support

The DHF provides funds for projects that are not supported by other funders or parties. The DHF depends on gifts from the general public, therefore our policy is also to engage other stakeholders to invest in our mission. Prior to writing the application, please consider whether the DHF is the most appropriate funder for your research project. If you are unsure as to whether your application is eligible for DHF funding, please contact us. If your application does not fit within the funding criteria, the DHF has the right to reject your application. In case of co-financing or collaboration with private partners, ensure that it complies with the DHF's code of conduct for collaboration with companies: richtlijnen-voor-samenwerking-met-bedrijven .
By carefully assessing whether the DHF is the right funder for your research and considering which financial resources can be utilized if your research is approved, the DHF can efficiently allocate its limited resources. The suitability of funding by the DHF will therefore be considered in the evaluation of your application, enabling us to support more research.

If you are unsure whether your research qualifies for funding by the DHF, please contact the designated DHF representative before starting your application. Together, we will determine whether your proposal aligns with the DHF's mission or if other parties should also contribute financially to your research. The DHF reserves the right not to consider applications if it deems that the funding does not align with the DHF and/or the Dekker Programme. By engaging in early discussions with us, you can avoid the scenario where we may later decide not to consider your application.

4. Criteria and conditions

To create a fair and transparent process, in accordance with the scientific advisory board, the DHF has developed list of criteria and conditions which all Dekker grant applicants must comply with. These have been carefully formulated and are based on the most common clinical research career paths. If an applicant does not fit within these criteria for example due to an alternative career path, but is a good fit with the mission of the DHF and the Dekker programme, please contact the DHF in advance of the application deadline (but no later than 6 weeks before the submission deadline) to discuss further. The application will be discussed with the chairman of the committee and the applicant may be offered the opportunity to apply. The fellowship is a personal grant, and therefore is not transmissible.

Criteria and conditions for submission:

- An application is submitted by two applicants from two different institutions and from two different disciplines.
- One of the two applicants is a researcher; the other is a researcher with clinical duties.
- Both applicants must meet the conditions for one of the two profiles: researcher or researcher with clinical duties.
- The applicants decide between themselves who will be the Lead Applicant. The institution where the Lead Applicant is employed receives the funding and is responsible for distributing the financial resources.
- The application is 'digitally' signed by both applicants and, for each applicant, also by the person who has final responsibility for the implementation and infrastructure of the project and has signing authority on behalf of the relevant institution. Please send this request to these individuals in time and read Appendix 2, 'Instructions for completing the application form', for how to arrange this signature.
- The application is completed in full and includes all relevant information required for proper assessment. If essential parts are missing from your application, the DHF reserves the right not to consider your application.
- You may submit an application for this grant a maximum of twice.
- At the start of an awarded Team Science Dekker grant, the applicants may not be project leader of another ongoing Dekker grant.
- The duration of the research project is at least two and at most three years.

Criteria and conditions for the profile 'Researcher'

- You have completed your PhD no more than three years ago. For this round, this means you must have obtained your PhD after January 1, 2023.
- The DHF may extend this period if there is prolonged leave due to pregnancy, parental leave, caregiving leave, or illness after the completion of the PhD. Discuss this at least 6 weeks before submitting the application with the DHF.
- As of January 1, 2020, the following extension rules apply. The stacking of extension rules is not permitted.
    - Biological mothers
        - Up to 18 months per child, maximum of 36 months
        - Applicable to children born from 6 months before the date of the PhD defense, the start of a clinical specialization, or appointment as professor.

    - Other parents
        - Up to 6 months per child, maximum of 12 months
        - Applicable to children born from 6 months before the date of the PhD defense, the start of a clinical specialization, or appointment as professor.
    - Prolonged caregiving leave
        - Up to 36 months
    - Prolonged illness
        - Up to 36 months
- If you have not yet completed your PhD, your thesis must have been approved by the thesis committee, and the date of the PhD defence must be set. Provide written proof of this with the application. You must have completed your PhD before the research project begins.
- You work a minimum of 0.2 FTE on the project during the project period.
- You are not undergoing training to become a medical specialist and are not working as one. In addition, you do not meet the criteria and conditions of the profile "Researcher with clinical duties" (see below).
- The DHF reserves the right, in consultation with the chair of the committee, to not process your application if they believe you are overqualified and thus not fall within the target group of this grant.
- You are or will be employed at a Dutch knowledge institution.
- You have demonstrable interest and experience in scientific research in cardiovascular disease. If you have no previous experience in cardiovascular disease research, please explain your long-term ambition for the proposed collaboration.
- When submitting your application, you include an institutional letter of support from your supervisor confirming which guarantees apply if the grant is awarded to you. This letter must bear the logo of the institution where you are employed and describe only the following points:
    - A guarantee that you have an appointment until the end of the project.
    - A guarantee that you will receive support to carry out the research.

Criteria and conditions for "Researcher with clinical duties"

- At the time of submission, you have completed a degree at a university of applied sciences or a university.
- Throughout the duration of your proposed research, you have clinical duties
- Your clinical subject for which you are in training is BIG registered and has a clear relevance to cardiovascular disease.
- At the time of submission, you are training for your clinical specialty, or intending to start such training. The research fits well within your training programme.
- You are not yet registered as a specialist. If you are already registered as a specialist, you only meet the criteria if you are doing a fellowship or further specialisation. In this case, please contact the DHF.
- You will work at least 0.2 fte on the research for the duration of the project in addition to your regular clinical work.
- The extent of your clinical work meets the (re)registration requirements of your clinical profession. The time for research therefore fits within the usual length of the working week for your profession. The extent of the time available for research will be taken into account in the assessment.
- You are or will be appointed at a Dutch knowledge institution.

- Both clinical researchers with and without a PhD are eligible for the Team Science grant. The grant may overlap with a PhD track.
- You have demonstrable interest and experience in scientific research in the field of cardiovascular diseases, as evidenced by your CV. If you have no previous experience in cardiovascular disease research, please explain your long-term ambition for the proposed collaboration.
- In your application, you describe how you will combine the research with your clinical duties and/or training. If you are unsure whether your clinical profession falls within the criteria, please contact us. Examples of training for professions eligible for the Team Science Dekker scholarship are: cardiologists, internists, neurologists, general practitioners, (technical) physicians, physiotherapists, psychologists, nursing specialists.
- When submitting your application, you include an institutional letter of support from your supervisor and (future) trainer, confirming which guarantees apply if the grant is awarded to you. This letter must bear the logo of the institution where you are employed and describe only the following points:
    - A guarantee that you are partially exempt from clinical duties.
    - A guarantee that you receive protected research time for the hours stated in the application.
    - A guarantee that you will receive support to carry out the research.
    - A guarantee that you will successfully complete your training alongside the research or that there is a prospect of a training place and, where known, a start date.

  If your trainer and supervisor are the same person, these points may be combined in one letter.

Criteria and conditions for the research project:

- The project focuses on the prevention, detection, treatment, or cure of cardiovascular diseases and contributes to reducing the burden of cardiovascular diseases.
- The research question cannot be solved within a single discipline.
- The expertise of both researchers is integrated in terms of content.
- The research is one coherent and joint project, with clear shared responsibilities for content, implementation and output.
- Effective supervision and integration of the project into a research structure are important for the quality and success of the project. The supervision and integration of your project are clearly described and also evident from the project team involved. Your supervisor and/or medical educator can be contacted for additional questions about you, the integration, and/or the supervision of the project.
- The project must start within six months of the written confirmation of the grant award. You must start the project by mid-June 2027 at the latest; otherwise, the funding will expire.
- If METC approval is needed for the research project, the project can only start when the approval has been obtained, which also applies to CCD approval for research projects with laboratory animals. Please take this into account when setting up the research plan. For instance, it is not possible to spend time on obtaining the approval during the fellowship if this is the main part of your project. If it is not possible to obtain the approval on time, the DHF has the right to retract the funding.

Criteria and conditions for data management

- Data/software arising from the project is made reusable in line with the FAIR principles.
- For data/software that cannot yet be made public, for example because of privacy, ethics or valorisation, an explanation is provided.
- A data steward is involved in the project throughout the entire research cycle, from application to reuse of the data.

The DHF expects that you take into account several important topics when writing your application, such as diversity, open science, and the use of humans and laboratory animals in scientific research. In appendix 2. 'Instructions for completing the application form' you will find more information on how the DHF expects you to address these topics in your application and research.

Criteria and conditions for submission

- You can submit an application for this grant a maximum of two times.
- The application is fully completed with all relevant information necessary for a proper assessment.

In the event of a very large number of applications for the grant, the quality of the evaluation process may be compromised. To ensure quality, the DHF reserves the right, in consultation with the committee, to drop the application based on a marginal assessment without external evaluation by referees. If you are unsure about the suitability of your research proposal for the Dekker Grant, please contact us.

5. Submission of the research proposal

Deadline and submission

The deadline for submission is Tuesday June 30th at 14:00 hr.

Submission system Cavaris

The application must be submitted via the electronic system Cavaris, accessible through the website www.cavaris.nl . Registering and logging in to Cavaris is easy via the welcome portal.

The application must be signed by both applicants and for both applicants the following co-signer:

- The *Director of Institute*: The scientific director of your research institute endorses and supports the application.

Through *'Link Invitations'*, you can invite the *Director of Institute* to sign your application. The requested person will then receive an email invitation. If this person is not yet known in our application system, they must first register via the welcome portal. Signing is done in two steps. The first step is to accept the invitation, the second step is to sign the application. More information can be found in Appendix 2 chapter 2.2. For questions about signing the application, please refer to the Cavaris Manual: External Manuals (cavaris.nl). Feel free to share it with the signatory of your application.

Please refer to appendix 2. 'Instructions for completing the application form' for more information about the required fields and working with Cavaris.

6. Procedure

Eligibility check
Within one week after submission the DHF will check the eligibility criteria. If the application does not meet our criteria, and this requires a minor adjustment/action, we request the applicant to adjust this within 3 working days. Changes to the content of the research proposal are not eligible for this.

Please make sure you are available for up to two weeks after the deadline to adjust the application and any questions and make sure we have your mobile number in your Cavaris profile. If you are not available, please let us know in advance.

In consultation with the chair of the committee, the DHF will determine whether your application will be eligible. The DHF will only process applications that meet the conditions as described in 4.*Criteria and conditions* and Appendix 2 *'Instructions for completing the application form'*, including the correct template budgetform. If your application is not eligible, you will be notified by us. This decision will always be substantiated.
Once your application is eligible, you will receive a confirmation and your application will enter the assessment process.

Selection procedure
The selection procedure consists of the following steps:

1. External review
   Your application will be forwarded to independent national and international referees for assessment. The referees assess the application on the following points:
   - Applicants (background, position in the scientific field, persuasiveness, the CV and the collaboration between the applicants)
   - Relevance & Impact (contribution to the mission of the DHF, extent of the health problem and the contribution that this research makes to it, data management, valorisation strategy, stakeholder involvement and collaborations)
   - Scientific quality of the research plan (innovativeness, scientific relevance, clear research questioning, correct research design, diversity) and the interdisciplinarity of the research (integration of expertise and coherence).

The assessments we receive from the referees will be sent to you via Cavaris, after which you will have the opportunity to respond in writing (rebuttal).

2. Pre-selection meeting

Your application, including reviewers comments and rebuttal, are presented to the committee members. Based on this information, the committee will discuss who they wish to invite for an interview. The committee forms its own opinion on the basis of all available information and, unlike the referees, can compare different applications. The committee then selects applicants who will be invited for the interview. They pay attention to:

- The CVs of the applicants, the significance of the scholarship to the applicants' career and the proposed collaboration between the two applicants.
- Relevance and impact of the proposed research, including contribution to the mission of the DHF, the scale of the health problem and the contribution this research makes

to addressing it, data management, attention to stakeholder involvement and collaborations with relevant parties.
- Scientific quality
- Interdisciplinarity of the applicants and the research.
- Quality of the referee reports
- The applicant's rebuttal

Also the conditions and points of attention set up by the DHF, embedding of the research project in the institute and contribution of the institute or third parties are taken into account.

3. Interview

After the pre-selection meeting, the selected applicants will be invited to present and defend their research proposal to the committee. Following the presentation, the committee will advise on which applications qualify for funding..

4. Decision

The proposed projects will be thoroughly checked for completeness of the work plan and budget. Subsequently, the selected proposals will be submitted to the management of the Hartstichting, which is responsible for the final allocation of the grants. After approval by the management, the applicants for the grant will be appointed.

Composition of Dekker committees

The DHF has formed three committees consisting of scientists in the Netherlands to evaluate applications for a total of seven different Dekker grants. A member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the DHF chairs each committee. When assembling the committee, consideration is given to a good distribution of expertise and Dutch (knowledge) institutions. If the required expertise for evaluating an application is not present in the committee, the DHF will make efforts to add it. These committees of scientists advise on the quality and prioritization of applications and applicants. The composition of the Dekker committees for the period 2025 to 2027 can be found on the Dekker Grant information page: Dekkerbeurs information.

Granting

The final allocation of funding is based on an agreement. Read the agreement carefully before submitting, you will find the agreement in Cavaris in the Documentation tab under 'General Information'. When you sign, you not only agree to it yourself, the agreement also applies to the institution where you work, The research project must commence no later than six months after the grant is awarded, otherwise the allocated funding will be forfeited.

In addition, an Intra Consortium Agreement (ICA) will be drawn up, including arrangements on intellectual property, organisation and publications. The ICA forms part of the consortium agreement. A draft ICA must be submitted no later than two weeks before the interviews. An editable template is available in Cavaris.

The agreement and the ICA must be signed and returned to the DHF within six months of receipt of the provisional award.

Awarding grants, relation with the DHF

The DHF is proud of the Dekker laureates and the significant contribution they make to the heart health of the Netherlands. In early 2027, we will invite all Dekker laureates of 2026 to a festive official award ceremony during the 'Dekker Afternoon'. Family and other interested parties are also warmly invited to attend. Additionally, there may be occasions when we call upon you for publicity activities or involve you in DHF meetings or events. Finally, as the DHF, we hope to be able to rely on your expertise and count on your commitment as a referee for funding applications from other researchers.

Workshop societal impact in research

The DHF aims for maximal societal impact. Therefore, we believe it is important to consider societal impact right from the beginning of your research project. The DHF invites every laureate to participate in the workshop 'Societal impact in research'. This workshop is led by the Committee Societal Quality (CSQ) and takes half a day. This workshop is mandatory for all Dekker laureates. More information about the CMK can be found on the professionals website of the DHF at CSI.

Open Access

The DHF adheres to an Open Science policy aimed at making research findings more accessible to scientists, patients, the public, and entrepreneurs. All articles resulting from research funded by the DHF must be made publicly accessible either immediately or within six months of publication. The following routes can be chosen for this:

- Publication in a fully open access journal or platform that is registered in the DOAJ
- Publication in a subscription-based journal with deposition of at least the author's version of the article in an Open Access repository registered in OpenDOAR;
- Publication in a journal that has a transformative Open Access agreement between the UNL (University of the Netherlands) and a publisher. See also openaccess.nl.

Check the Open Access Journal Browser to see the agreements made with journals regarding article processing charges. Other routes for covering these costs are also available, such as through institutional Open Access budgets.

Timeline

The schedule for this selection procedure is as follows (subject to change):

Call opening & Submission	
17 March 2026	Opening of the call
April 2026	Webinar
30 June 2026, 14.00 hr (CET)	Submission deadline
Check & Assessment	
30 June – 17 July 2026	Applicants are available for questions from the DHF
17 July 2026	Confirmation eligibility of the application
17 July – 4 September 2026	Review by referees
31 August 2026	Applicants receive referee reports
4 September 2026, 14.00 hr (CET)	Deadline for submitting rebuttal

Selection	
5 October 2026	Preselection
19 October	Submission of draft Intra Consortium Agreement
28 October 2026	Committee interviews
Early December 2026	Grant awards
Contract & Start	
Mid-December 2026	Contract phase
January 2027	Introduction meeting
Late February 2027	Earliest possible start
Early June 2027	Latest start date

7. Contact information

Contact details
In case of any questions about this fellowship or the use of Cavaris, please contact Team Research: research@hartstichting.nl.
Responsible research manager: Annelein Stax a.stax@hartstichting.nl, 070 - 3155538.

Code of conduct
The DHF assumes that you adhere to the following codes of conduct:
Dutch Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, revised (version 2018)
Code of Conduct for Health Research (version January 2022)

Rules and regulations for clinical research
For clinical research, it is mandatory to follow the Basic Course on Regulations and Organization for Clinical Investigators (BROK), For more information, see the NFU website: BROK. We would also like to refer you to the CCMO website. Here you will find everything about rules and regulations regarding clinical research. For legal requirements related to research involving human subjects and the use of laboratory animals, please refer to: Wettelijke eisen voor onderzoek | Hartstichting voor professionals.

Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest
The DHF addresses the importance of an objective decision-making and transparent assessment procedure. Applicants should be able to rely that their proposals will be confidentially treated. To guarantee this, the DHF applies the code of conduct Confidentiality and Conflicts of Interest, which can be found on our website (gedragscode).

Complaints procedure
It is not possible to object to a rejection. If you believe that the procedure regarding your application was not correct, it is possible to submit a complaint. You can submit a complaint up to four weeks after the date of the rejection letter via the complaints form on the DHF website. The complaints procedure can be found on our website (complaints procedure) or requested via research@hartstichting.nl.

Appendix 1. Instructions for completing the budget form

Budget

Download the Excel template from Cavaris. Fill in the budget form and then upload it. Clearly indicate what you are requesting from the DHF, what the co-funding is from various partners and/or from another source of funding. This will create a comprehensive financial budget for your project. It is important that you use the correct salary categories when filling out the budget form. These are specified in the budget form. The DHF will calculate the final amount to be awarded to you after the project has been approved.

A few comments:

- The amounts entered in this section should logically follow from the descriptions in the application. These descriptions should justify in words what is being allocated in monetary terms in this section.
- The DHF uses fixed Salary Categories for personnel to be appointed following the CAO of the Universities of the Netherlands. The calculations for these salary categories are based on the 'Akkoord bekostiging wetenschappelijk onderzoek 2008.'. This agreement was made to keep the amounts for personnel consistent between different funders. For the full text of this agreement, you can visit the NWO website: Agreement on funding for scientific research 2008.
- Private parties can provide an in-kind or in-cash contribution, but they themselves cannot request costs.
- The co-funding or collaboration with private partners must adhere to the Hartstichting's code of conduct for collaboration with companies: richtlijnen-voor-samenwerking-met-bedrijven.
- Costs for attending conferences are separately allocated through the Dr. W. Stiggelbout programme. Therefore, you do not need to include these costs in your budget. More information on conference attendance can be found at: beurzen-voor-aanvullende-kosten.
- The Hartstichting reserves the right to exclude the following costs from subsidy:
    - cost types insufficiently related to research activities
    - costs that are not clearly described, and/or
    - costs that cannot be found in the descriptions.

Filling in General Information

Before you enter the items, we ask you to fill in a few fields:

- Date, project title, Cavaris project number and the name of the applicant;
- Under *Organisation name*, the institution where the applicant works in the first row (this is the grant recipient, Organisation *role* is the Applicant);
- and — *if applicable* — organisations of **other** partners that are funded or co-financed, other knowledge institutions have the *Organisation role* Knowledge institute 1 etc, other private parties have the *Organisation role* Private partner 1 etc.

When filling in the various cost categories, you will then see these organization names in the dropdown menu.

Filling in the Cost Categories

You are required to provide a comprehensive budget. Make a distinction between:

a) DHF Requested (Hartstichting): This is what you are requesting from the Hartstichting.

b) Contribution knowledge institute (in kind) (own contribution by knowledge institutions within the project): This is the amount that the knowledge institutions spend **on this project**. It should be a substantial but realistic amount. This can include permanent appointments, supplementation of salary costs for appointed personnel, facilities of the institution, etc. Upon approval of the application, it will be stipulated that the knowledge institutions will actually spend these amounts throughout the entire duration of the programme.
c) Contribution private party (in kind or in cash) (own contribution by private parties within the project): This is the amount that private parties spend on this project. Upon approval of the application, it will be stipulated that the private parties will actually spend these amounts throughout the entire duration of the programme.
N.B. The way in which companies can claim costs is through the role of subcontractor of a knowledge institution. The difference between a partner and a subcontractor is that a partner shares responsibility for the execution. A subcontractor performs one or more tasks on behalf of a knowledge institution and is not otherwise involved in the research

Requested costs

1. Personnel

Refer to note 2 regarding how we calculate salary costs. Only the salary categories used by the DHF can be included. Other costs such as material costs should be included under miscellaneous costs.
For your own salary, specify the percentage that you will actually work on the project. This percentage should correspond to the percentage specified in the '*General information' tab*.
You can specify the type of personnel you wish to request using the dropdown menu.
Determine the personnel input based on the employment percentage (FTE) and the number of person-months: 1 year = 12 person-months. The budget will be automatically filled in. A financial contribution from the DHF can be requested for researchers without a permanent position (categories A, B and F) and for support staff (categories C, D and E), regardless of whether they have a permanent position. Staff who are already employed by the institution may be appointed to the project. For researchers with a tenured appointment (categories A, B and F), their efforts can only be taken up as an in-kind contribution, unless the brochure for the relevant call explicitly states that the applicant's own salary may be applied for.

We have salary categories for the following positions:

Category	**Function**
Category A:	PhD student
Category B:	Postdoc, PhD/qualified medical researcher: conducting scientific work
Category C:	Non-scientific support staff MBO (e.g., project assistant, secretarial staff)
Category D:	Non-scientific support staff HBO (e.g., research analyst, research nurse, data steward, biotechnician, dietitian, social worker, policy officer, quality officer, etc.)
Category E	Non-scientific support staff Academic (e.g., data steward, psychologist, policy advisor, quality advisor, statistician)
Category F:	Clinical PhD student/medical researcher

2. Other costs

Do not use general expense categories here; instead, estimate the actual costs (dropdown menu). Items such as miscellaneous or unforeseen expenses are not accepted. Estimate the costs for using existing facilities (= in-kind contribution).

a) Other expenses: all other costs not covered in the items below. These costs must be related to (research) activities and should therefore be specified. The DHF reserves the right to exclude cost categories that are not sufficiently related to the research activities from funding.

b) Laboratory animals: all costs associated with the purchase, housing, and any interventions involving laboratory animals. Clearly indicate the number of animals you anticipate using.

c) If an applicant hires third parties to carry out part of the project activities, this is considered outsourcing. The DHF does not view this as a form of collaboration. The applicant must formalize this with the involved parties in a (market-conform) written agreement, ensuring that results are transferred to the applicant in advance. The applicant must comply with applicable procurement rules when outsourcing.

   This typically involves companies or organizations providing specific services for the research. In the budget, you should specify a single price for hiring a particular service (e.g., hiring personnel and/or materials, data storage, etc., including VAT). This should also be described in words in the project description.

   - If subcontractors have already been selected**:** Names can be provided, along with the agreed tasks.
   - If subcontractors have not yet been selected**:** It is sufficient to outline the tasks.

The following costs are not eligible for reimbursement:

- Equipment (computers, measuring instruments, analytical equipment, etc.).
- General (laboratory) facilities (benchfee, overhead) and associated costs. This includes, among others, training costs and staff travel expenses.
- Software, etc. not exclusively needed for the project.
- Publication costs.

Appendix 2. Instructions for completing the application form

2.1 Practical conditions for submitting your application

The DHF sets several practical conditions for the submission of the application, which are described below.

- The application must be submitted no later than Tuesday, June 30th , 2:00 PM, via the electronic system Cavaris, accessible through the website www.cavaris.nl. Registering and logging in to Cavaris is easy via the welcome portal. If you have any questions, please contact research@hartstichting.nl. Manuals for using the system can be found via this link: Handleidingen .
- The application must be written in English, except for the item 'summary in Dutch'.
- The summaries can be used for communication and fundraising purposes towards the general public. Therefore, avoid using IP sensitive information.
- You need to fill in all the fields on all tabs to submit your application. If a field is not filled in, it is not possible to submit your application.
- Instructions for correctly filling in the Excel file for the budget can be found on the first tab of this Excel file. Once you have filled in and uploaded the Excel file for the budget in Cavaris, the amounts in the system will be automatically populated.

2.2 Signing and submitting the application

The application is signed by the following roles:

- The Lead Applicant: this is the person who creates the application in Cavaris. The institution of this applicant receives the funding and bears responsibility. The Lead Applicant signs via the checkbox on the General Information tab under Acceptance Conditions.

In addition, the following must be invited to sign the application:

- The second co-applicant: together with the first applicant, this person is responsible for the application. The second applicant can complete fields and can also submit the application instead of the first applicant.
- Director of Institute: for this grant, a Director of Institute is invited for both applicants. These people have final responsibility for the implementation and infrastructure of the project and have signing authority on behalf of the applicants' institutions. By signing the application, the responsible person endorses and supports the application. They only have read access to the application.

Through *'Link Invitations'*, you can invite the *Director of Institute* to sign your application. The requested person will then receive an email invitation. If this person is not yet known in our application system, they must first register via the welcome portal. Signing is done in two steps. The first step is to accept the invitation, the second step is to sign the application.
For questions about signing the application, you can consult the manual for Cavaris (accessible via: [manual signing]) or contact us at research@hartstichting.nl .

The invited co-signers can sign at any time during the writing of the application and does not need to wait until the application is fully ready to submit. We advise you to timely start with the signing process. You will receive an email notification once all required signatories have signed the application.

Once you have filled in all fields and added the necessary attachments, you also declare your agreement to submit the application.

Confirmation of submission
You will automatically receive a confirmation email when your application has been successfully submitted to the DHF. If this does not happen, your application has not been received by us. In that case, please contact us as soon as possible. Applications cannot be submitted after the deadline. Please contact us before the deadline has passed, if you encounter any problems with submitting your application. We can be reached at research@hartstichting.nl.

2.3 Overview of application components
Below you will find an overview with a brief description of the components of your application. Check well in advance that your application is complete and ready to be submitted. To do so, use the 'submission checklist' available in Cavaris.

General Information
In this section, we request general information such as the title, duration, and any partners involved in the project. It is important to also include the project team members who will be involved in the research. Think of your supervisor, those involved in your own or other departments, supporting researchers. Declare a real percentage of FTEs.
For your own efforts, enter the percentage that you will **actually** work on the project in the *Applicant* table. This percentage must correspond to the percentage specified in the budget form. You must also attach your curriculum vitae in PDF format, using the CV template provided under the *Documentation* section. Additionally, as the applicant, you will need to sign the application on this tab under *Acceptance Conditions*, indicating that you agree to the terms and conditions.

Summary
The Dutch summary should be written in understandable language for non-medical professionals. This summary may be used for communication and fundraising purposes towards the general public. Do not use jargon and IP-sensitive information. The English summary, among other purposes, is intended for reviewers and must contain all necessary elements for a referee to decide whether to assess your application. Upon approval of an application, we publish the English summary via the search engine for research funded by the DHF. This search engine is available on our professionals' website: https://professionals.hartstichting.nl.

Budget
Refer to appendix 1. 'Instructions for completing the budget form'.

Impact
The 'Impact' tab consists of multiple sections.

- *Impact on cardiovascular burden of disease*

In this section, describe the relevance of the research to the identified health care problem, including long-term solutions and ambitions. Discuss the impact of these solutions on disease burden and short-term objectives. Also for basic and preclinical research, it is important to describe the potential impact of the results.

- *Diversity*

Under the *Impact* section in the application form, describe how the research accounts for differences between people. It is desirable to address as many differences as possible, such as age, sex and gender, socioeconomic status, migration background, and health literacy. Also, describe the activities necessary to engage specific groups and any potential barriers that may arise during the research. For inspiration: The website Gendered Innovations offers guidelines on how to consider sex and gender differences at every step of the research process. For more information on conducting inclusive research, see the APH Quality Handbook: Inclusive Recruitment in (Qualitative) Research.

- *Impact on career*

The DHF values understanding how the goals of the grant align with the applicant's career. In this section, describe the importance of this grant for your career and your current and future role in cardiovascular research. Also, explain why you should receive the grant and highlight your most impactful output, explaining why it is significant. This will be taken into account when assessing the application by the committee.

Description of work

Clearly describe your own contribution and that of the personnel to be appointed to the research. A research proposal is of high scientific quality and contributes to the mission of the DHF.

Describe:

- The hypothesis and objectives of the project.
- A detailed research and work plan (materials and methods). In the section on the work plan, indicate the timeline for your project and who will carry out which activities.
- The interdisciplinary collaboration, addressing the interdisciplinary need, the integration of expertise, and the interdisciplinary added value and innovation.
- How the department and/or research group of both applicants supports the project and how the supervision and embedding of the project will be organised.
- Where applicable, how the research and clinical duties will be combined.
- Then describe which statistical tests will be carried out and substantiate the sample size with a power calculation.

In the SWOT analysis section, assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats for your project. Indicate how you will leverage strengths and opportunities and mitigate weaknesses and threats. Under *'Additional uploads'*, figures (a maximum of 3 figures and up to 2 A4 pages).and references (max 1 A4) can be added as separate PDFs

Data management

Describe the following components:

- How you will collect, analyze and store data,
- How you will share future data/software in line with the FAIR principles.
- Indicate who the data steward is who supports you in this during the entire research cycle, from application to reuse of the data.
- Where not all data can be made public, for example for reasons of privacy, ethics or valorisation, provide an explanation.

If existing data set(s) are used, also describe

- Which existing data set(s) you use.
- Where the data set(s) come from, for example from which register, database, repository or archive.
- How you will make the data FAIR.
- Whether you have permission to use the existing data.
  Under “Additional Uploads”, you can add a Letter of Support from the data provider.
- How the data will be reused and what added value it brings to the project.

Take the requirements and possibilities for FAIR data and data management into account in your timeline and budget.

If the grant is awarded, we will request a data management plan (DMP). This will be drawn up in collaboration with a data steward. The FAIR principles will be applied in the DMP. The DMP is a dynamic document that is also used to monitor data management.

Do you expect your research to generate patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs)? If so, consider having these outcomes included as part of quality-of-care registries, for example in consultation with the Netherlands Heart Institute (NLHI) or the Dutch Institute for Clinical Auditing (DICA).

(Pre-)Clinical studies

If you plan to use patients or healthy volunteers, describe the number of participants, the type of intervention, and whether METC/CTIS approval is required and whether it has been obtained. If you use animals for your study, indicate the number of animals, their sex, and species. Additionally, explain why the animal model was chosen and why it is necessary to answer the research question. The DHF emphasizes the responsible use of animals in research and uses a ‘no, unless’ policy. Therefore, describe the alternatives considered (such as an in vitro model or human study) and why they cannot be used. In the last section, indicate the measures taken to reduce the number of animals needed and minimize distress for the animals.

- *Research registries*

For clinical research, the study must be registered before the project starts in a register. For example, this can be done in ClinicalTrials.gov. Additionally, all research involving animals must be registered prior to commencement in the international register PreclinicalTrials.eu. If this is not possible, a clear justification must be provided (section Datamanagement).

For more information about our policy on research outcomes and data, please visit: Data en infrastructuur | Hartstichting voor professionals.

Route to societal impact

The primary mission of the DHF is to improve cardiovascular health in the Netherlands. Describe the steps you will take to further disseminate the research results, the long-term implications for healthcare practice, and how knowledge will be incorporated from professionals and patients. If you involve target groups (including patients, healthcare professionals, and other stakeholders) in your research, indicate this as well. Describe how their advice will be incorporated throughout the entire project from start to finish. If the grant is awarded, we will support you in enhancing societal impact through our "Societal Impact" workshop.

- *Dissemination*

Indicate how you will communicate the results to professionals and the general public (strategy, activities and target audience).

- *End user involvement*

Your research results are most useful to other researchers, healthcare providers, companies, and/or patients if you consider their wishes, knowledge, and experience early in your research. Describe here which people you involve in your research and in what way. The DHF has contributed to the development of the Kickstarter, which shows how to involve users of research results in every phase and type of research. For more information on participation and the Kickstarter, visit: Gebruikersparticipatie | Hartstichting voor professionals .

Collaborations

- *Internal Collaboration*

Describe the governance of the consortium and clearly explain the synergy of the collaboration.

- *External Collaboration*

The Dekker programme is a personal grant. The DHF also values collaboration among researchers for these grants, as it makes additional knowledge and expertise available within the project, thereby increasing the chances of success. This will be taken into account when the committee evaluates the application. Therefore, describe how collaboration will occur with existing research programs (both national and international) and what this collaboration entails. Also, consider potential collaborations with the DCVA consortia.

Reviewer suggestions

We kindly request you to nominate at least three national and three international referees. Additionally, we ask you to specify whether you wish to exclude any referees and, if so, provide the reason for exclusion.
When contacting referees, a check will be conducted to identify any potential conflicts of interest. For instance, someone from the same institution cannot evaluate the application as a referee. Please consider this when nominating referees. For more information on conflicts of interest, please refer to the Code of Conduct | Heart Foundation for professionals.
It is also not possible to nominate committee members as referees. For the current composition of the Dekker committee and other committees such as the International Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC), please visit our website.

Additional uploads

There are mandatory and optional uploads, add them as PDF:

- Mandatory: Institutional letter of support signed by the supervisor of the researcher.
- Mandatory: Institutional letter of support signed by the supervisor and trainer of the researcher with clinical duties.
- Mandatory: Publication list*
- Mandatory: Letter of Support from the data provider (if applicable)
- Optional: Maximum of three figures and/or tables (including figure legend) on a maximum of two A4 pages
- Optional: References (maximum one A4)

Note 1: General support letters are not permitted and will be removed.

Note 2: Do not add your CV under “Additional uploads”; it should be added under the General Information tab. Use the mandatory DHF CV format.

* Include the following in the publication list:

- Publications in (inter)national peer-reviewed journals (including accepted/in press/submitted).
- Letters to the editor, editorials, etc.
- Contributions to books.
- Presentations (oral or poster) at (inter)national conferences.
- Policy documents.
- Patents or other documents related to intellectual property.
- Contributions to clinical guidelines.
- Articles in newspapers, non-scientific magazines, publications on websites, etc., for patients or the general public.
- Presentations or other engagements with patients or the general public.