

Call for Pilot Projects – 2026/2



1. Type and aim of projects:

Pilot projects will support innovative interdisciplinary projects at the doctoral and postdoctoral level between CiM labs and therefore (1) promote careers of junior researchers, and (2) foster the interdisciplinary teamwork of junior researchers within the Cells in Motion Interfaculty Centre.

Pilot projects should aim at the identification and exploration of new interdisciplinary research fields, or the development of new methods and methodologies between interdisciplinary research topics in all fields of Cells in Motion. The topics should be new, creative and can be of high risk.

2. Selection criteria and evaluation:

The selection criteria for submitted proposals include:

- Novelty of the research concept; originality of the approach
- Interdisciplinarity (participation of at least two CiM labs from different disciplines)
- Scientific quality of the project
- Relevance to the research focus 'Cell Dynamics and Imaging'
- Quality of the project planning, structure and cost plan
- Value of the project to foster an independent career of the applicants
- **Only one project per CiM lab per application round will be funded**

3. General conditions:

Eligible applicants: Doctoral or postdoctoral researcher (max. 5 years after finishing their PhD) from CiM labs. Please submit only one project per person. Researchers with a running Pilot Project from the last calls are not eligible for this application round to exclude double funding.

Deadline for submission: **31 August 2026**

Presentations: **23 September 2026**

Project start: November 2026

Project duration: up to 12 month

Funding: max. EUR 5 000/project

Eligible costs: consumables, animal costs, small equipment, support by a student assistant (travel costs or microscopy fees are excluded from funding)

After the funding period, the results of the projects have to be presented to the Cells in Motion community and a written report (2-3 pages) has to be submitted.

4. Application procedure:

Please use the provided application template (available on www.cells-in-motion.com). Applications are to be sent to cim@uni-muenster.de and marked 'CiM Pilot Project Proposal'.

Contact: Dr. Ann-Christin Dietrich (phone: 35503)