

COVID-19 grant and projects in the Northern Netherlands

On April 10, 2020, the three northern provinces and [SNN](#) made one million euros available for innovative corona solutions. In total, 22 proposals were submitted by northern entrepreneurs, researchers and healthcare institutions. This shows that they have great innovative strength and commitment to address this health crisis (also in the longer term). That is positive and promising for the Northern Netherlands and beyond. After evaluation, five innovative projects ultimately received a grant. Syncom, Lode B.V. and Coöperatie AVEBE U.A., all located on Campus Groningen, are three of the five companies that have received subsidies for their projects. Previous to the COVID-19 grant deadline of SNN, a webinar about the conditions and content of this COVID-19 grant from SNN was held via the Youtube Live Channel of Campus Groningen. Over 65 interested entrepreneurs/companies joined that Live Webinar.

About COVID-19 grant

The "COVID-19 grant" is intended to accelerate the progress of research and innovative solutions that help to solve the current health crisis caused by the corona virus. There is an urgent need for support and solutions.

Awarded projects

Covid-19 total rehab - Lode B.V.

Rehabilitation as early as possible ensures a better and faster recovery and can prevent complications. Ultimately, this results in a higher quality of life. At Total Rehab, the patient starts rehabilitation in the ICU in bed. Thanks to the combination of a bedside ergometer and specially developed software on a tablet or PC, the progress of a patient can be tested more often and results are immediately visible. As a result, the rehabilitation process is better monitored and more active efforts are made to optimize recovery.

Citrus bioflavonoid hesperidin as anti-viral agent for SARS-CoV-2 - Color & Brain BV

Hesperidin blocks the connection between the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the ACE2 receptor of human cells. Hesperidin is a by-product of citrus fruits and has been used safely for years. Medication with citrus hesperidin can therefore become a promising treatment for corona without side effects. With hesperidin, dermatologist-tested products are being developed by project partner and cosmetics manufacturer ZoiY® that will become available during the project.

Potato enzyme inhibitors for inhibition of SARS-CoV-2 - Cooperative AVEBE U.A.

This project uses a product extracted from purified potato protein, which can suppress the routes of infection and inhibit lung damage. With this product new medicines can be developed, such as creams and nasal spray.

The development of AhR inhibitors for an oral antiviral therapy for COVID-19 patients - Syncom

The coronavirus activates the AhR receptor to bypass the immune system. By blocking this receptor with a medicine, the immune system can better deal with the virus and prevent the virus from multiplying. The same method is successful in combating Zika and Dengue, the efficacy in corona is being investigated.

Virtual Reality against Covid-19 - Reducept B.V.

This project develops a treatment method for corona patients in which knowledge is combined with Virtual Reality. A patient who stays in IC for a long time sometimes has to rehabilitate for up to 5 months. VR can make this process shorter and more effective. VR also has a positive influence on the mental well-being of the patient. The VR process can be used not only for corona patients, but also for people who experience mental complaints from quarantine.