

CALL FOR PROPOSALS AFM 2010

This **INTERNATIONAL** call for proposals aims to support research which will

- A. Lead to a better fundamental understanding of the neuromuscular system
- B. Encourage the development of therapies for neuromuscular diseases and rare genetic diseases
- C. Improve care and quality of life of patients with neuromuscular diseases

A. FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH AND PHYSIOPATHOLOGY OF DISEASES OF THE NEUROMUSCULAR SYSTEM

Fundamental research projects which target the comprehension of the molecular, physiologic and pathologic mechanisms, involving the structure and function of skeletal muscle, the motor neuron, the neuromuscular junction, cardiac muscle and smooth muscle, during development, aging, degeneration and regeneration.

B. ACCELERATING TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH ON RARE DISEASES

Research projects centered on a disease and with the goal of overcoming obstacles in the development of therapeutic approaches for rare disorders.

FOUR TYPES OF PROJECTS WILL BE CONSIDERED:

1/Gene and/or cell therapy for rare disorders

- Gene therapy by transfer of genes
- Genetically modified cells
- Development of delivery strategies
- Control of immunologic rejection (auto-immunity, anti-vector and anti-transgene responses, etc.)
- Development of large-scale methods for amplification and production
- Therapy of the gene: strategies for modification of gene expression. Interventions on genes and their messengers

2/Pharmacologic therapy specifically oriented toward neuromuscular diseases

- Chemical molecules or products from biotechnology

3/Creation of tools for therapeutic evaluation of neuromuscular diseases

- Creation of patient databases for clinical trials
- Methodological aspects of clinical trials
- Natural history of the diseases
- Development of functional biomarkers, biochemical (genomic, proteomic, metabolomic) biomarkers, and imaging biomarkers
- New cellular, tissue and pertinent animal models

4/Translational research sites

This funding is intended to create an integrated clinical and translational science site for neuromuscular diseases by attracting a diverse pool of basic, preclinical and clinical researchers along with clinicians and industry professionals for development of common translational research projects.

C. CLINICAL AND CARE MANAGEMENT

Clinical projects which have the objective of improving the management of patients, the knowledge of the disease and its progression, as well as the quality of life of persons affected by neuromuscular diseases, notably in the following domains: pneumology, cardiology, orthopedics, nutrition, urology, stomatology, pain, as well as in the Social and Psychological domains.

For application forms: see <http://www.afm-telethon.fr> and follow the link to Call for Proposals.

TYPES OF FINANCING:

This Call for Proposals is open to both French and foreign groups.

- **TRAMPOLINE GRANTS:** This one-year award is intended to support - new investigators entering the field of neuromuscular diseases, - investigators early in their science careers and - established neuromuscular researchers who will propose innovative projects which do not require preliminary data. This award is available for a maximum of **ONE YEAR** for a total amount of **50,000 EUROS** maximum.
- **RESEARCH PROJECTS** for one year, renewable for a second year.
- **PHD FELLOWSHIPS.**
- **POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS** for one 1 year, renewable for a second year.

DEADLINES FOR APPLICATIONS AND NOTIFICATION DATES:

October 2, 2009 (first session) - notification expected mid-February 2010

March 5, 2010 (second session) - notification expected mid-July 2010

LAURENCE TIENNOT-HERMENT
PRESIDENT OF AFM

JEAN-MARIE GILLIS AND PIERRE LEHN
VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL