



Call 2017
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Medical-Scientist: training
and job-market induction



fondazione
cariplo

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DEADLINE: MAY 11TH, 2017

MEDICAL-SCIENTIST: TRAINING AND JOB-MARKET INDUCTION

BACKGROUND

Undoubtedly research drives knowledge advancement. This is true even beyond science realms. The process starts with the exploration of new ideas, the development and testing of new hypotheses through experiments, followed by the critical assessment of findings and challenging established practices, thus allowing science breakthrough. This ultimately turn into progress in society. On the contrary if research findings remain confined within the labs, if they are not used to orient research towards the most relevant areas via the virtuous interplay of lab activities and day-to-day experience in its fields of application, it is likely that very little, or no real benefit, reach society.

“Translational Medicine” represents the traditional place where new knowledge is transferred from basic research to clinical practice. Medical-Scientists hold a degree that devotes significant time and effort to scientific research. On the contrary they spend less time in clinical practice. They are frequently employed by academic or research institutions and may focus their clinical practice on very specialised patients milieu, as might be those with rare genetic diseases or cancers. Although they are a minority, medical-scientists play a crucial role in society. Indeed, we have several physicians amongst the doctors awarded of a Nobel Prize. Furthermore, 70% of directors of National Institutes of Health (NIH) and of the chief scientific officers of some major global pharmaceutical companies hold an MD-PhD degree¹.

Slightly late compared to other countries, Italy has recently become aware of the relevance that training activities play in physicians careers. This emerges when we think for example to recent development of dedicated higher education programs. However, these programs are still in their early stage and need further support.

AIMS

This call falls within the Partnership Agreement made with Fondazione Regionale per la Ricerca Biomedica on July 24, 2015 and aims to select projects intended to foster education and training of physicians facilitating their job introduction.

To that end, Fondazione Cariplo intends to support projects dedicated to students who are attending medical school or have completed their residency training and that are developing MD-PhD or Master programmes.

This calls is aimed for projects that:

- propose innovative methods for successful education, training and career development of medical-scientists, encompassing the full spectrum of disciplines encompassed by Translational Medicine;
- promote sharing and rigorous assessment of these methods ;
- feature sound opportunities of *mentorship* motivating and providing effective support to mentees during their training path;
- facilitate transition into employment and offer real chances for academic, clinical or private sector career;
- define a communication plan that encourages medical students to pursue research careers.

Partnerships between universities and leading medical organizations, as well as the inclusion into international networks creating an active scientific environment that facilitates sharing knowledge activities, clearly are an asset.

Applicants are required to come up with original initiatives, comparable to the best international standards that are intended to become future best practices. These initiatives should combine Fondazione Cariplo priorities, strategies and needs.

Finally, Fondazione Cariplo encourages applicants to develop training initiatives that engage all stakeholders in the relevant areas according to Responsible Research and Innovation principles².

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligible applicants

Beyond general requirements set out in the “Guidelines for presentation”, it should be noted that this call is intended to all institutions with their operational headquarter located in the geographical area of interest of Fondazione Cariplo (Lombardia and Novara and Verbania districts).

1 “Physician-Scientist Workforce (PSW) Report 2014”. NIH Report. National Institutes of Health. Retrieved 12 October 2015.

2 The European debate on Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) is ongoing and constantly evolving as reflected in the recent “Rome declaration on RRI” (http://www.sis-rri-conference.eu/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/RomeDeclaration_Final.pdf). Based on literature review, RRI can be described as a dynamic, interactive process aligning research and innovation to the values, needs and expectations of society. RRI entails engagement of all shareholders who are called upon to be mutually responsive and take shared responsibility for the processes and outcomes of research and innovation.

This requirement does not refer to Partners. Each organisation can submit up to two proposals. Within these two only in one case as leading organisation and in the other as partner.

Eligible projects

To be eligible, proposals must:

- fall in at least one of the key priority research areas of this call;
- not exceed the maximum number of applications allowed.

Proposals shall be ineligible for assessment if they seek funding for:

- activities already covered under other government funding schemes;
- the acquisition or renovation/refurbishment of properties;
- publications or conferences unrelated to the specific training project;
- research projects.

The total cost of the project can only include costs related to the realization of the proposed initiatives, respecting the eligibility criteria and the thresholds below:

- **A03 - "Equipment and software"**

This entry cannot exceed 20% of the additional costs. It covers fully the costs for newly acquired equipment and software that must be clearly motivated in accordance to the specificity of the project. In this category can also be included renting costs as well as building expenses for the installation of the new equipment.

- **A06 - "Temporary staff"**

This entry can only include research personnel costs. The cost of administrative staff is not allowed.

- **A07 - "Sub-contractors and consultants"**

This entry should also include audit costs, where applicable³.

- **A08 - "Materials and supplies"**

This entry cannot include costs related to stationery and photocopies.

- **A09 - "Overheads"**

This entry cannot exceed 15% of the additional costs³ and each entry must be rigorously explained.

- **A10 - "Other operating expenses"**

This category can only include travel expenses/internship and conference participation fees for the research personnel involved in the project, scientific publications.

The grant will cover 100% of project costs. Requested funding should range from 150,000 to 400,000 euros.

When filling in the forms, note that total costs of the project must coincide with the requested funding.

Evaluation criteria

Evaluation of the projects follow peer review approach. In other words Fondazione Cariplo rely on external, independent and internationally renowned reviewers, in order to guarantee transparency and objectivity. At the end of the evaluation process, applicants will receive feedback with reviewers' comments.

Besides the overall scientific quality of the proposal, the evaluation takes into account the following elements:

- the knowledge of the state of the art on national and international education process and comparison between them
- contextualization of the proposed educational project into national field and its consistency in fulfilling the organization gaps;
- clarity of aims and strategies;
- the originality and innovativeness of the project;
- the expected results of the proposed methods in medical-scientists' education;
- monitoring methods;
- value added to existing study courses;
- set up of activity aimed to support the insertion in the job market;
- the prestige of the principal organization and of the partners involved;
- quality of the communication plan also in relation to Responsible Research and Innovation principles. Thus involving the various kind of stakeholders implied in the fields of a medical-scientists professional field
- the level of consolidation of the collaborations with national or international research centres and/or the ability to build new partnerships;
- budget adequacy and sustainability of the project's duration;
- future economic sustainability, once the funding from Fondazione Cariplo expires.

³ With the sole aim of ascertaining whether the obligation to perform a financial audit applies or not, the amount which has to be considered is obtained multiplying the eligible costs detailed in the Budget (sum of entries A06, A07, A08, A09 and A10) by the coefficient 1.25 (which represents an estimate of the co-funding generally guaranteed by the hosting institution, mainly in the form of permanent staff). It is also recommended to refer to chapter 10 of the Grant management and reporting guide and to the Guidelines for audit; both documents are available on the Grant management and reporting page of Cariplo Foundation's website.

Proposal submission procedure

Applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on April 6th 2017. Leading organizations must submit applications for all partners accessing the online platform available on Fondazione Cariplo's website. First-time applicants need to register and require their username and password.

Fondazione Cariplo will consider ineligible applications submitted on paper or using forms different from the specific ones available online.

In order to apply for this grant, applicants are required to fill in integrally all the online forms organized as below:

- Leading organization details (fill in the form with in details; or check and update your organization's details if already registered);
- Project section⁴;
- Additional information;
- Budget section.

In addition the Leading organization must upload all compulsory documents as it is indicated in the *Guidelines for Presentation*:

- Project Form⁵;
- Budget Form⁶;
- Letter of commitment from the hosting institution;
- Partnership agreement;
- Documentation of the applicant organizations⁷.

Please note that the "Project Form" and the "Budget Form" are the only documents subjected to meritocratic analysis.

Before submitting a proposal, applicants are kindly invited to carefully read the documents listed below and available on Cariplo Foundation's website at www.fondazione-cariplo.it:

- *Guidelines for Presentation*;
- *Grant management and reporting guide*;

- *Acknowledgement guidelines for academic papers*;
- *Intellectual property rights policy*;
- *Open access policy*.

By submitting a proposal, applicants acknowledge, agree and accept that the award of the grant requires the irrevocable acceptance of all policies mentioned above and respect of aforementioned Guide and Guidelines.

Evaluation process

All proposals submitted before the deadline and according to the formal requirements described above will follow a two-step evaluation process:

I. Formal Preliminary Control

This step is meant to check that all required documents are correctly submitted and they are consistent with the call's guideline. At this stage officers will also check all Organisations' eligibility. This is equally valid for leading organizations as well as partners. Only applications considered eligible enter the peer review stage. All applicants ineligible will be notified. Organizations will receive a formal letter explaining in detail the reasons for the exclusion. This information will also be available on line on Fondazione Cariplo's web platform.

II. Peer Review

Eligible applications will be evaluated by independent experts in a peer review process ensuring scientific expertise and impartiality. The review panel will be composed by international experts on medical-scientists' training programs. Each proposal will be assessed by 3 reviewers. Reviewer-project matching will be made according to the indications provided by applicants in the keywords section. This logic is meant to ensure the identification of the most suitable reviewers for the project.

⁴ In the Project Section applicants are required to enter information about the project and the organizations making up the partnership. Fondazione Cariplo may use this information for internal and external communications, and for analysis about performance of the call. Applicants are required to enter information in Italian using a language that is understandable to a lay person.

⁵ The detailed project shall be prepared in accordance with the template relating to the call that can be downloaded from the section Additional Information under Online Forms.

⁶ The detailed budget form shall be prepared in accordance with the template relating to the call that can be downloaded from the section Additional Information under Online Forms.

⁷ Applicants are advised to read the document Guidelines for presentation available on line.

The final score given to the project reflects scores and weight:

1. DESCRIPTION (weight 10%)
2. APPROACH (weight 20%)
3. INNOVATION (weight 15%)
4. OUTCOMES (weight 20%)
5. ORGANIZATION (weight 15%)
7. DISSEMINATION (peso 10%)
8. BUDGET AND DURATION (10%)

The final ranking ultimately represents the list of the best projects worth of funding.

At the end of the review process, all applicants will receive official communication together with reviewers' feedback. All these documents will also be available in the dedicated area on Fondazione Cariplo's website.

AVAILABLE BUDGET

The budget available for this call for proposals is 1.5 million euros.

Please note that all documents cited in this call are available online at www.fondazionecariplo.it.