

**AFM-TELETHON INTERNATIONAL THEMATIC CALL  
FOR PROJECTS 2023 FOCUSED ON:**

**INNOVATIVE MITOCHONDRIAL MEDICINE  
« A SINGLE THERAPEUTIC PRODUCT FOR SEVERAL  
MITOCHONDRIAL DISORDERS »**

## **SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

**Call opening: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

**Submission deadline: 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023**

**Decisions: December 2023**

### **AIM OF THE CALL**

AFM-Telethon is pleased to announce the launch of its first international call for proposals for Translational Research Projects on « **A single therapeutic product for several mitochondrial disorders** ». The MitoNice Congress, organized in September 2022 by the AFM-Telethon along with the 7th International Myology Congress, highlighted that mitochondrial medicine has moved from the identification of the genes involved in mitochondrial diseases to the development of therapeutic options. To accelerate the progress towards therapeutic solutions for patients who urgently need it, this call is open to any research project on primary mitochondrial diseases that will develop a therapeutic approach targeting several mitochondrial diseases.

### **SCIENTIFIC FOCUS**

- The research project must be on primary mitochondrial diseases.
- The aim of the research project must be focused on the proof of concept of a single therapeutic product for several mitochondrial disorders.
- Preliminary data on the benefit of the therapeutic approach on at least one primary mitochondrial disease is required.
- Excluded topics: drug screening and basic research programs with no therapeutic approach.

## AWARDS

- Research projects will be funded for a maximum of two years. For 2-year projects, the renewal for the second year will be considered based on prior evaluation of an annual activity report.
- Projects can be awarded for a maximum amount of €200,000 per year.
- Funding will be available for salaries (including post-doctoral fellowships, but excluding PhD fellowships and permanent positions), consumables, subcontracting and possibly equipment in accordance with the AFM-Telethon guidelines of eligible expenses. The guidelines of eligible expenses are available in the applicant portal.
- Grant applications should be made in the currency in which the applicant's institution would like to receive the grant, together with an equivalent amount in Euros. Separate payments to subsidiary institutions involved in the research will be made by AFM-Telethon.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- The call is open to international researchers and clinicians with a permanent position in an academic, governmental, or private institution.
- A biotech/pharma can be included as one of the partners but cannot be the applicant.
- Collaborative projects are encouraged. In that case the electronic form must be filled by the coordinator who is in charge of the application. The description of the research project should include a section explaining the interactions and complementarity between the groups.
- Research projects submitted to the 2023 AFM-Telethon scientific call are eligible but if they are eligible for both calls, only one of the submitted projects will be funded at the applicant choice.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND EVALUATION PROCESS

- Eligible projects will undergo a rigorous peer review process with input from independent external reviewers and experts from the AFM-Telethon Scientific Council.
- The submission of project will start **1<sup>st</sup> March 2023** on the AFM-Telethon website via [the applicant portal](#).
- Application deadline for proposals is **3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023**.
- Upon conclusion of the review process, the AFM-Telethon Board will select the projects to be funded.
- Award announcement: **December 2023**.
- All applicants will have access through their applicant portal to the comments of both external experts and scientific commission review.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

- **Project quality/ scientific soundness:** Are the rationale and experimental design adapted to the study objectives? Are the aims clearly laid out? Are the conceptual framework, design, methods,

techniques and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, and appropriate for the aims of the project?

- **Relevance and significance for AFM-Telethon:** Does this research lead to the development of a single therapeutic approach to target several primary mitochondrial diseases? What is the potential impact of the proposed project on health care and quality of life of patients with mitochondrial diseases?
- **Feasibility:** Are the time frame and the total Full Time Equivalent (FTE) in line with the size and ambition of the project? Do the partners have the required qualifications to carry out this project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative strategies? Is there evidence of institutional support? Have appropriate agreements with collaborators been established?
- **Innovation:** Are the aims of the study original? Does the proposed study design represent advancement in the field? How is the project positioned regarding international competition in the field?
- **Consistency of the budget:** Is the budget consistent with in relation to the objectives of the study?
- **Quality of the CV and quality of the laboratory:** Ability of the applicant to conduct the research based on the quality of the CV and on the quality of the laboratory.

## FUNDING TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The selected projects will be subjected to a collaboration agreement that will define among others the project results co-ownership terms and conditions with AFM-Telethon as well as their management and exploitation conditions.

## HOW TO LOG INTO YOUR PERSONAL ACCOUNT

A new version of the AFM Scientific Information System is in use since December 2021.

If you already have an account in the previous portal, to log in, enter your usual e-mail/username and update your password by clicking on "First connection to this new portal or Password forgotten" and follow the instructions.

For new users: once on the portal home page, click on "Create an Account" and follow the instructions.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Do not create more than one account in the system. Please contact [spcsafm@afm-telethon.fr](mailto:spcsafm@afm-telethon.fr) if you need to change your email address in an existing account or if you encounter problems with your user account.

## HOW TO CREATE / DELETE AN APPLICATION FORM

- To create your application, click on the blue button on the upper navigation bar "Apply for a new grant", select the available funding opportunity you wish to apply for and click on "Complete a request".
- Once you have created an application form, you can save data in the different sections and sign out of the system. You will retrieve your ongoing application in the section Application space -> "Grants".

- If you have created an additional or a wrong type of application by mistake, you can delete it. Select the application number, click on the 3 vertical dots and delete the application.

## HOW TO COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION FORM

### • Laboratory Director

Applications can be transmitted once the consent of the Laboratory Director is submitted. The button "Send approval request" triggers a solicitation by email. To complete and submit the consent online, the Laboratory Director must log into his/her own user account and select the application to give his/her consent. **He/she must also attach an updated version of his/her CV** in the CV section. The laboratory Director's CV is automatically attached to the application when it is submitted.

### • Research Teams

For a network, add each team involved, using the "Add a team" button. Once the team/team leader has been added, complete the team by adding each team member involved. Then, click on the name of each team member to complete the requested information (Last name, First name, Position, Role in the project and Full Time Equivalent in this project are mandatory). **Each team leader must also attach an updated version of his/her CV** in the CV section.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Please keep in mind that each applicant must receive an online consent from the Laboratory Director before the application can be submitted. You are strongly advised not to wait until the submission deadline to obtain this consent. The same applies for multi-team projects: the coordinator must obtain the consent of each Team Leader, in addition to the Laboratory Director's consent, before the submission deadline.

### • Description of the Project

All information regarding the description of the project (plan, number of pages...) can be found in this section. A 15-page pdf document is allowed.

- **Attachments: the size of each attached pdf file is limited to 8 Mo.**

## USE OF YOUR PERSONAL DATA

The information entered into this form is recorded by computer processing in order to manage fund allocated to a scientific project by AFM-Telethon. The recipients of the data will be the departments concerned of AFM-Telethon and the data shall be stored during fifty years.

According to the Data Protection Act of January 6th, 1978 and the General Data Protection Regulation of April 27th, 2016, you have at any time, a right of access to, to rectification, to object, to restriction of processing, of portability of all of your personal data. If you wish to exercise your rights and gain access to your personal data, please write to Data Protection Officer at [dpo@afm-telethon.fr](mailto:dpo@afm-telethon.fr).

## CONTACTS

If you have any queries regarding the call or the application process, please contact both Christine Rougeau and Stéphanie Lorain ([crougeau@afm-telethon.fr](mailto:crougeau@afm-telethon.fr) and [slorain@afm-telethon.fr](mailto:slorain@afm-telethon.fr)).