



IRCCS
Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori

Sistema Socio Sanitario



Regione
Lombardia



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Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale Tumori - Milano

SP: DSC

Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori

The National Cancer Institute of Milan (INT)

Scientific Directorate

Call for Research Value 2017

INCOMING MOBILITY/REINTEGRATION GRANTS FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS

(AGE ≤35)



1. Foreword

The Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori (INT), government-designated centre for treatment and research (IRCCS), has been treating cancer patients and carrying out clinical and basic research in cancer since its foundation in 1928. It is recognised as a leading cancer centre in Italy.

The INT has recently been designated as a Comprehensive Cancer Centre by the Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECI) in recognition of its excellence both in patient care and the development of new treatments. Other INT activities are: provision of accurate and up-to-date information on the prevention and treatment of all forms of cancer to the public; provision of continuous professional training and updating to staff, and innovation in the organisation and management of healthcare.

Cancer treatment is complex and constantly changing. At the INT, patients are diagnosed and treated by multidisciplinary teams of highly-qualified physicians and other health professionals, all of whom are skilled in the administration of both established and experimental treatments. Another major area of INT commitment is the care of terminally-ill cancer patients. The INT's palliative teams ensure that physical symptoms are controlled and patients are made as comfortable as possible, thereby preserving their quality of life. INT's researchers have made major contributions to our increasing understanding of the roles that genes play in the development of cancer. This new knowledge has led to the development of targeted cancer treatments and the growth of predictive medicine including genetic tests on healthy persons to quantify their risk of developing cancer. High risk individuals can be offered intensive follow-up or prophylactic treatments if the risk is particularly high. New genetic knowledge is also allowing the personalisation of treatments for people with cancer.

The INT is also a leading Italian and European centre for the diagnosis and treatment of childhood cancers, and is the only Italian oncological hospital authorized to carry out liver transplants.

Finally, the Institute is the European referral centre for neuroendocrine tumours. In 2010, the INT was officially recognised by the European Neuroendocrine Tumour Society (ENETS) as one of the 10 best hospitals in Europe for the treatment of these diseases.

In 2016 the Scientific Directorate of the Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori (INT)



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Sistema Socio Sanitario



Regione
Lombardia

established the Institutional Research Fund, in line with the Research Strategic Plan 2016-2019, approved by Resolution of the Board of Directors on 10.28.2016.

Through such Fund, it is possible for the Foundation to annually plan improvement measures in the area of Institutional Research, and for the Scientific Directorate to strengthen activities in programming and governance on INT's research (basic, translational, clinical and healthcare research). The Fund also allows to invest quantity and quality improvement of independent preclinical and clinical research aimed to verify the effectiveness and transferability in the health context of simple and complex interventions also in terms of clinical utility and organizational and economic sustainability.

These objectives are consistent with the Foundation's mission, with the National Research Health Programme, currently pending approval.

In 2017 part of the Fund economic resources, i.e., € 500,000.00, will be allocated to offer professional growth in Italy for young researchers from abroad or Italian ones presently engaged abroad.

2. Aims and general description

The present Call is intended to finance three-year projects submitted by young experimental and clinical researchers of any nationality who are up to 35 years of age and presently working in different research institutions at the time of submission, and declaring intention to carry out research at INT (*Incoming Mobility Grant*) or young Italian researchers whose curriculum includes a period of research abroad, thus encouraging their return to Italy offering them the opportunity of a three years period of research in INT (*Reintegration Grant*).

Original proposals matching the following characteristics are thus eligible:

- the proposal arises from a relevant clinical question or from need of new knowledge;
- the proposal presents a detailed planning covering a three-year duration;
- the proposal favors the professional training of the eligible researcher, bringing real added value to the Foundation in terms of new preclinical and clinical research projects and technological innovation applicable to cancer diagnosis and treatment.

The present call aims to support basic, translational and / or clinical research developed within the following areas:



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Regione
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- sarcomas
- gastric malignancies and / or biliary-pancreatic
- imaging and medical physics
- bioinformatics and biostatistics (systematic reviews and meta-analyses)

3. Budget

The resources made available in INT Call for Research Value 2017 for Incoming and Reintegration grant amount to € 500,000.00.

4. Eligibility criteria

Incoming Mobility Grants are open to candidates of any nationality, up to 35 years of age (last eligible date of birth being 07.21.1981); candidates must have carried out their main activity (study, work, research, etc.) in Institutions other than INT, in the 3 years prior to the deadline for submission of the application, i.e. 07.21.2017.

Reintegration Grants are open to candidates up to 35 years (last eligible date of birth being 07.21.1981); candidates must be Italian citizens whose curriculum includes a working experience at INT in the past, and a minimum of one year long research experience outside of Italy in the 3 years prior to the deadline for submission of the application, i.e. 07.21.2017.

Researchers applying to the Incoming Mobility Grant must have a Master's Degree, PhD or Postgraduate Medical Specialization awarded in countries other than Italy. For Reintegration Grant they must have a Master's Degree, a PhD, or Postgraduate Diploma, or be able to provide documentary evidence in support of a research experience of at least 4 years. Only one application may be accepted from a single researcher acting as Principal Investigator (P.I.). For both types of grants, leave permits are contemplated including maternity leave (up to a maximum of 12 months for each child), sick leave, or other serious family reasons.

5. Inclusion requirements

- a) Applications must relate to new and original projects (in accordance with the research priorities outlined in the call).
- b) Proposals should have a financial value ranging between € 200,000.00 and € 300,000.00.



- c) Duration should cover 36 months.
- d) Proposals should fall within the scopes of the Call, and must be submitted through the Research Proposal Form (preview available in Attachment 1).
- e) At the time of submission, the authorization signed by the hosting Unit and Department Heads must be provided as an attachment.
- f) The required budget must be justified according to activities described in the project.
- g) Project proposals must be submitted in English.

6. Submission procedure

STEP 1: By **05.26.2017**, and no later than **5 pm**, applicants must communicate their intention to participate to the call to the address direzione.scientifica@istitutotumori.mi.it, providing the following: project title, research area, keywords (see Attachment 2), name of proposed hosting INT Unit. Following an internal check relative to the proposal feasibility and hosting INT unit availability, applicants will be given the Scientific Directorate's authorization for submission. The Research Proposal Form for the Online Submission will be made available to all researchers passing step 1 (form preview available in Attachment 1).

STEP 2: Full proposals in English should be submitted by **07.21.2017** no later than **5 pm**, using the Research Proposal Form made available in a online format.

7. Rejection criteria

Proposals will be rejected when the following cases apply :

- submission takes place after **07.21.2017, 5 pm**;
- proposal does not meet the Call's inclusion criteria;
- forms are not duly filled in;
- the criteria foreseen in the Research Proposal Form are not met;
- the research topic does not clearly match the stated research priorities.

8. Evaluation Procedure

The Call process consists of two phases, as follows:



IRCCS
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Sistema Socio Sanitario



Regione
Lombardia

- verification, by the competent Scientific Directorate offices, of participation requirements and documentation completeness;
- evaluation of specific merits.

The Scientific Director will appoint the Evaluation Committee (EC), including INT experts and external experts selected among national and international auditors. At least 3 experts will evaluate each project.

Evaluation criteria and selection of proposals

The evaluation and resulting ranking of the projects will be carried out according to the following criteria and the respective indicators:

	CRITERION	POINTS
1	Validity, scientific originality, proposal feasibility	0-6
2	Expected results and transferability of research	0-4
3	Impact on INT host unit research activity	0-2
4	Consistency and integration with INT research priorities	0-2
5	P.I. scientific appraisal (CV and specific expertise)	0-4
6	Budget consistency and accuracy	0-2
	TOTAL	20

The approval for funding is subject to the achievement of a minimum overall score of 12 points.

The evaluation process will take place as follows:

each project will be evaluated by at least 3 experts, via an anonymous evaluation form transmitted to the Scientific Director; a final Study Session will follow, involving the Evaluation Committee (EC); the Study Session will establish all rankings.

The anonymous evaluation forms and Review Panel's overall assessment will be sent to the P.I.s. Economic adjustments to the project budget may be requested by the Scientific Directorate as part of the process, to optimize the use of available resources. As a conclusive step, the selection results will be presented to the Scientific Directorate Council, and all approved projects will be submitted to the Foundation Administrative Boards for funds allocation.



9. The role of the “Principal Investigator”

The applying researcher has the role of Principal Investigator of the project. As such, the P.I. **may**:

- establish the distribution of the allocated funds, according to the approved budget provision;
- define and coordinate the research team;
- publish results and have responsibility for autonomous and primary decision in the choice of co-authors, i.e., including only people who have actively and substantially contributed to the work.

The P.I. **must** also:

- use the allocated funds, according to the approved budget;
- submit an annual scientific report and an annual financial report;
- fill in the final report of the results achieved including all relative products (publications, patents, etc.) and final financial report;
- protect the intellectual property potentially arisen from the research project according to the INT rules;
- acknowledge all funding bodies in publications arising from the project.

10. Fund supply

Projects will be financed once the administrative process is completed, within the limits of the available economic resources for the call.

The distribution of funds will take place as follows:

- 40% at the beginning of activity communicated by the P.I.;
- 20% following the approval by the Scientific Directorate of the first year's scientific and financial report;
- 40% following approval by the Scientific Directorate of the second year's scientific and financial report.

The continuation of the project, and the consequent disbursement of funds at the end of the first and second year of activity, are connected with the interim reports of results and adherence to the original experimental plan; the Scientific Directorate has the authority to terminate the project, in case expected results are not achieved. At the end of the project, the provision of a detailed scientific report of activities and an economic report are compulsory, in compliance with the



guidelines provided by the Scientific Directorate.

11. Budget

The following expenditure items are envisaged:

- A. Personnel costs - PI wage
- B. Material supply
- C. Travel and subsistences
- D. Publications
- E. Subcontracts for services (preferably lower than 10%)

General expenses are not covered.

Item "A" resources may be used to support the P.I. wage costs, who will benefit of a three-year term contract. Pay levels and contractual agreements must be compatible with existing legislation and consistent with INT rules, up to a maximum gross of € 45.000,00 per year for medical doctors and € 40.000,00 per year for biologists, pharmacists, chemists, physicists, biotechnologists and veterinarians.

12. Waiver and forfeiture

Beneficiaries intending to give up the implementation of the financed project must immediately report this to the Scientific Directorate. In case of failure of activity implementation and following the evaluation of the scientific and financial reports by the Scientific Directorate, the funding may be revoked or suspended.



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Dr. Giovanni Apolone
Scientific Director