

Launch of a first
International Call for Translational Research Projects
focused on
RNA as therapeutic target or as therapeutic product

AFM-Téléthon is pleased to announce the launching of its first international call for proposals for Translational Research Projects on **RNA as therapeutic target or as therapeutic product**. This call will open **the 17th May 2016** to any research project aimed at accelerating promising research towards innovative therapies for neuromuscular and rare disorders, using RNA-based therapeutic or RNA as therapeutic target. **Application deadline for proposals is 28 June 2016; announcement of awards is expected by end of December 2016 - mid January 2017.**

The past years have seen the translation into clinical development of several strategies using RNA either as therapeutic agent (antisens oligonucleotides, siRNA...) or as therapeutic target (exon skipping, nonsense stop codon readthrough...). The technologies and products developed showed some success but also paved the way for further optimizations and new strategies that could translate into therapeutic options in the future. AFM-Téléthon is launching this call to promote innovative translational research activity in the field of RNA technologies and help the dedicated international scientific and medical community in its search for new therapies. Proposals may address the development of new therapeutic approaches for neuromuscular disorders and rare diseases. Projects with the greatest potential to translate into therapeutic applications will be favored.

About the call

- The call is open to international researchers and clinicians
- Collaborative projects can be submitted
- Industrial applicants are also eligible
- Project grants of up to 3 years duration will be funded
- Call budget: €1,000,000 for the first year
- Funding will be available for salaries (including Post-Doc, excluding PhD and permanent position personnel) , consumables, subcontracting and possibly equipment
- Projects with co-funding will be accepted
- AFM-Téléthon can negotiate a reasonable return on investment; in the form of intellectual property rights sharing or a financial return upon commercial/industrial exploitation of the results obtained during the funded program. The terms and conditions of funding will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.
- Submitted projects will be evaluated through a rigorous peer review process with input from independent external reviewers and experts from AFM-Téléthon Scientific Council
- Upon conclusion of the review process, AFM-Téléthon Board will decide which of the fundable projects will be awarded
- Excluded topics: Biomarkers, gene editing.

How to apply

If you are interested in applying to this new Therapeutic RNA Call, please follow the proposal preparation instructions on the AFM-Téléthon website:

<http://www.afm-telethon.com/research/calls-for-proposals/current-calls-for-proposals.html>

If you have any queries regarding the call or the application process, please contact Jean-François Briand at ifbriand@afm-telethon.fr or +33 (0)1 69 13 22 29