

FONDAZIONE



CALL FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS - 2017

FULL EVALUATION GUIDELINES - EXTERNAL REVIEWERS

According to the Telethon mission, this call is in support of research projects focusing on **diseases of proven genetic origin**, either monogenic or polygenic forms.

For **multifactorial diseases** the following applies:

- Studies focused on **monogenic or polygenic forms** of multifactorial diseases are **ELIGIBLE**
- Studies focused on the **identification of genetic risk factors** (e.g. SNPs or other predisposing variants) for multifactorial diseases are **NOT ELIGIBLE**.

EXTERNAL REVIEWER'S ROLE

External reviews will be made available to the Telethon Scientific Committee members, to support them in the evaluation process.

Written comments are an essential part of your review and are critical in developing summary statements for the applicants.

Your individual criticisms will be directly and anonymously incorporated into a summary statement that will be fed back to the applicant. It is therefore important that your written material is accurate, clearly written, and does not include derogatory language.

FULL EVALUATION INSTRUCTIONS

You are requested to fill in the "Ext Rev Evaluation Form" available in the Telethon website, accessible through your personal login and password.

Critique

Description (max 2,000 characters)

Summarise the specific aims of the study and the hypothesis to be tested. Concisely describe the objectives and procedures of the proposed research. **Do not make evaluation statements in this section.**

Scientific Merit (max 10,000 characters)

This section should present a comprehensive evaluation of the application. **Please do not repeat the project description; only evaluation statements should be included.**

For revised applications only, also evaluate progress changes and responses to the critiques from the previous review and indicate whether the application has been improved, is the same as or is worse than the previous submission. You can find the Telethon Review Report of the previously submitted application, together with the Applicant's rebuttal, in the Cover Letter section.

Evaluate the overall scientific merit of the proposal by providing an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses on the basis of the following parameters:

- Link to genetic diseases: is the proposal addressing a genetic disease? Does the proposal bear the potential to advance knowledge on the disease(s) of interest?
- Significance: Does this study address an important problem? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge be advanced? What will the effect of these studies be on the concepts or methods that drive this field?
- Originality of science: Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches or methods? Are the aims original and innovative? Does the project challenge existing paradigms or develop new methodologies or technologies?
- Appropriateness of design and methods: Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well-integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project?
- Preliminary results: Are proof-of-principle experiments provided, adequately supporting new principles to be tested in the grant? Are novel tools or reagents well-characterized?
- Feasibility/safety: Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics? Please also evaluate the adequacy of the proposed protection for humans, animals or the environment, to the extent they may be adversely affected by the project proposed in the application (if any).
- Previous achievements (dedicated section for former grantees only): did the previous Telethon grant produce relevant results relative to the stated aims?

Impact on patients (max 2,000 characters)

What is the potential of the proposed project to make progress towards therapy or to provide any other impact on patients' clinical management and/or quality of life? How close in time is such a development envisaged?

Comments on Applicant (max 2,000 characters)

Is the investigator appropriately trained and well-suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed proportionate to the level of experience of the principal investigator and key personnel? Is the Applicant a significant player in the submitted research project?

Please note that Fondazione Telethon does not apply assessment of Candidate's CV based on journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factors. The Fondazione signed and endorses the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA, <http://www.ascb.org/dora/>).

Comments on Budget Allocation (max 2,000 characters)

A cap of 80,000 €/year is applied. Evaluate the appropriateness of the proposed budget in relation to the proposed research and whether all items are considered realistic and justified. Reasons for each recommended modification in amount or duration of support must be presented. Identify any apparent scientific or budgetary overlaps with active or pending support. For more information, please refer to the [Guidelines Grant Proposal 2017](#).

Overall evaluation (max 2,000 characters including spaces)

Provide the **key reasons** for your overall rating indicating the relative **strengths, weaknesses** and **final considerations** in the specific fields.

Overall recommendation

On the basis of the specific points raised in your critique, please choose your recommendation as follows:

- A** - Strongly recommended; no substantial points need discussion
- B** - Recommended; minor points need discussion
- C** - Revision recommended; a small number of specific major points need to be addressed
- D** - Major revision necessary; multiple or fundamental problems can be addressed in a major revision
- E** - Revision not recommended; multiple or fundamental problems that will be difficult to address in a revision.

FORMATTING EDITOR – EVALUATION SUBMISSION

A text-formatting editor is available only in the specific fields inside the online form where “click to edit” is shown.

The main editor’s functions are the following:

- Copying and pasting text from Microsoft Word while retaining text formatting as well as tables
- Easy formatting of entered text with standard intuitive buttons
- Typing special characters including all Greek letters

The formatting editor allows the user to copy and paste text from Microsoft Word while retaining text formatting, with the following restrictions:

- You must use Microsoft **Word** to retain text formatting when copying and pasting: the use of other document editing software is not supported and could lead to errors in our online system
- In order to fully retain the original formatting in Word, use the button  **[Paste from Word]**, to copy text into the online field
- Once text is pasted from Word, the default font will be automatically set to Arial with minimum size of 16 pt (corresponding to Arial 11 when printed). Please verify in the PDF output that all text is clearly readable.

Hovering the mouse over the editor buttons will display a tooltip indicating their functions.

Please note that the font Symbol (Greek characters) is not supported: you should use the “**Insert Special Character**” button  in the formatting editor.

To verify that the correct text formatting has been applied check the PDF of the Application by clicking on the “Download PDF” button.

Once the score and the evaluation are provided, update the section clicking on the “Update Section” button. At the end of the evaluation, click on the “Send Evaluation” button to forward your score and comments to the Telethon evaluation system.