

CALL FOR PROPOSALS AFM 2011

This **INTERNATIONAL** call for proposals aims to support research which will

- A. Lead to a better fundamental understanding of the neuromuscular system
- B. Encourage the development of therapies for neuromuscular diseases and rare genetic diseases
- C. Improve care and quality of life of patients with neuromuscular diseases

A. FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH AND PHYSIOPATHOLOGY OF DISEASES OF THE NEUROMUSCULAR SYSTEM

Fundamental research projects which target the comprehension of the molecular, physiologic and pathologic mechanisms, involving the structure and function of skeletal muscle, the motor neuron, the neuromuscular junction, cardiac muscle and smooth muscle, during development, aging, degeneration and regeneration.

B. ACCELERATING TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH ON RARE DISEASES

Research projects centered on a disease and with the goal of overcoming obstacles in the development of therapeutic approaches for rare disorders.

FOUR TYPES OF PROJECTS WILL BE CONSIDERED:

1/Gene and/or cell therapy for rare disorders

- Gene therapy by transfer of genes
- Genetically modified cells
- Development of delivery strategies
- Control of immunologic rejection (auto-immunity, anti-vector and anti-transgene responses, etc.)
- Development of large-scale methods for amplification and production
- Strategies for modification of gene expression: Interventions on genes and their messengers

For application forms: see <http://www.afm-telethon.fr> and follow the link to Call for Proposals.

TYPES OF FINANCING:

This Call for Proposals is open to both French and foreign groups.

- **TRAMPOLINE GRANTS:** This one-year award is intended to support - new investigators entering the field of neuromuscular diseases, - investigators early in their science careers and - established neuromuscular researchers who will propose innovative projects which do not require preliminary data. This award is available for a maximum of **ONE YEAR** for a total amount of **50,000 EUROS** maximum
- **RESEARCH PROJECTS** for one year, renewable for a second year
- **PhD FELLOWSHIPS**
- **POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS** for one 1 year, renewable for a second year

DEADLINES FOR APPLICATIONS AND NOTIFICATION DATES:

October 8, 2010 (first session) - notification expected mid-February 2011

March 4, 2011 (second session) - notification expected mid-July 2011

LAURENCE TIENNOT-HERMENT
PRESIDENT OF AFM

NAOMI TAYLOR
PRESIDENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL