

IRP RESEARCH GRANTS 2021-2023

Overview

The Città della Speranza – Onlus (CDS) Foundation offers funds to support novel and cutting-edge paediatric research within the Paediatric Research Institute Città della Speranza (IRP). Following the success of previous years, this third call will offer a total of 3.3 million euros to sustain the best clinical and translational research projects that aim to prevent paediatric pathologies and accelerate diagnosis and therapeutic innovation for childhood diseases.

What we fund

IRP will manage the research funding and intend to provide support for research projects aimed to advance the treatment of paediatric diseases.

IRP will consider research proposals for the 2021-2023 research grant program in the following four categories:

1. IRP Starting Grant (IRP-StG-2021);
2. IRP Consolidator Grant (IRP-CoG-2021);
3. IRP Advanced Grant (IRP-AdG-2021);
4. IRP Moving Grant (IRP-MoG-2021).

Principal Investigators must demonstrate the cutting-edge and ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of their scientific research proposal.

Detailed policies for all grant categories

1. IRP Starting Grant (IRP-StG-2021)

The IRP Starting Grant supports talented early-career scientists who are starting their own independent research team or program. Principal Investigators must have already produced excellent supervised work, been ready to work independently and showed potential to be a future emerging research leader.

Who can apply?

A competitive Starting Grant Investigator is an IRP researcher of any nationality with 2 - 7 years of experience since completion of his/her PhD (prior to January 1st, 2021). In addition, interested applicants must have shown potential research independence and evidence of maturity, for example by having achieved at least one important publication as main author in major international peer-reviewed multidisciplinary scientific journals, or in the leading international peer-reviewed journals of their respective field.

Only IRP researchers are eligible to apply.

Past My first IRP Grant recipients are not eligible to apply.

Applicants should also be able to demonstrate a promising track-record of early achievements appropriate to their research field and career stage.

Funding and Duration

For this call, max EUR 220.000 per project for a period of three years will be funded.

2. IRP Consolidator Grant (IRP-CoG-2021)

The IRP Consolidator Grant supports excellent Principal Investigators who want to consolidate their own independent research team or programme and continue to develop a successful career.

Who can apply?

A competitive Consolidator Grant Investigator is an IRP researcher of any nationality with 7 - 12 years of experience since completion of his/her PhD (prior to January 1st, 2021). In addition, interested applicants must have already shown research independence and evidence of maturity, for example by having produced several important publications as main author and at least one publication as last author in major international peer-reviewed multidisciplinary scientific journals, or in the leading international peer-reviewed journals of their respective field.

IRP Grant 2019-2020 recipients who still have a residual funding of 20% are not eligible to apply (prior to September 1st, 2020).

Cariparo Grant 2020-2023 recipients are not eligible to apply.

Only IRP researchers are eligible to apply.

Applicants should also be able to demonstrate a consolidated track-record of achievements appropriate to their research field and career stage. They may also demonstrate a record of invited presentations in well-established international conferences, granted patents, awards, prizes, etc.

Funding and Duration

For this call, max EUR 330.000 per project for a period of three years will be funded.

3. IRP Advanced Grant (IRP-AdG-2021)

The IRP Advanced Grant supports exceptional Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they are already established research leaders with a recognised track-record of research achievements.

Who can apply?

A competitive Advanced Grant Investigator is an IRP researcher of any nationality with a track-record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years. In addition, interested applicants must have already shown exceptional leadership in terms of originality and significance of their research contributions for example by having produced at least ten important publications as main author and several publications as last author in major international peer-reviewed multidisciplinary scientific journals, or in the leading international peer-reviewed journals of their respective field. No specific eligibility criteria with respect to the academic requirements are foreseen.

IRP Grant 2019-2020 recipients who still have a residual funding of 20% are not eligible to apply (prior to September 1st, 2020).

Cariparo Grant 2020-2023 recipients are not eligible to apply.

Only IRP researchers are eligible to apply.

Applicants should also be able to demonstrate an advanced track-record of achievements appropriate to their research field and career stage. They may also demonstrate a record of invited presentations in well-established international conferences, granted patents, awards, prizes, etc.

Funding and Duration

For this call, max EUR 440.000 per project for a period of three years will be funded.

4. IRP Moving Grant (IRP-MoG-2021)

The IRP Moving Grant supports talented early-career scientists who have completed their PhD degree and want to work in a research institute in Italy or abroad to obtain excellent technical and professional skills not available in their hosting institution. Applicants should provide an acceptance letter from the foreign or Italian Host Institution.

Who can apply?

A competitive Moving Grant Investigator is an IRP researcher of any nationality with 0 - 5 years of experience since completion of his/her PhD (graduation date prior to January 1st, 2021). In addition, interested applicants must have produced excellent supervised work, for example by having achieved at least one important publication in major international peer-reviewed multidisciplinary scientific journals, or in the leading international peer-reviewed journals of their respective field.

Past My first IRP Grant recipients are not eligible to apply.

Only IRP researchers are eligible to apply.

Applicants should also be able to demonstrate a promising track-record of early achievements appropriate to their research field and career stage.

Funding and Duration

For this call, max EUR 100.000 per project for a period of two years will be funded. The “moving” period is mandatory for at least eighteen months.

IRP will only support researchers’ salary and two return trips per year. The salary amount will be estimated accordingly to the country where the hosting institution is based.

General policies for all grant categories

Project timeline

The IRP Research Grants 2021-2023 calls open on September 1st, 2020.

The IRP Grant Office must receive all applications by September 30th, 2020, 6 pm Rome time, via email at grantoffice@irpcds.org. Applicants are encouraged to submit applications before the due date to ensure they have time to make any required corrections necessary for a successful submission. Indicatively, applicants will be informed via email by the end of November/beginning of December 2020 and the research projects must commence by January 1st, 2021.

Titles and lay abstracts of the funded projects will also be posted online on the IRP website (<http://www.irpcds.org/grants>).

Application procedure

A research proposal will only be considered eligible if it meets all of the following sections and conditions:

- it is submitted via email at grantoffice@irpcds.org using the provided application form available on the IRP website at the following URL: <http://www.irpcds.org/grants> before the deadline, 30th September 2020, 6 pm Rome time;
- it is written in English and must not exceed 15 pages (Times New Roman 12, single line-spaced; abstract, tables, figures and references included). References and figure legends should be in Times New Roman 10;
- it is submitted by an eligible participant (see eligibility information in section “Who can apply?” of each grant category);
- the content of the proposal relates to the call topic (see section “What we fund”);
- requested contribution is within the funding limits specified in each call category (see section “Funding and Duration”);
- it is complete of all elements forming the application:

- the research proposal (template provided);
 - the applicant's CV (template provided);
 - an acceptance letter from the Principal Investigator of the IRP host laboratory;
 - an acceptance letter from the foreign or Italian Host Institution (IRP Moving Grant only).
- A single PDF file of the research plan and supporting documentation is required to submit a complete application.

Applicants will receive a confirmation email from the Grant Office within 48 hours from the application deadline.

Applications that are incomplete, do not adhere to the required formatting, are not presented according to the application procedures and do not respect eligibility requirements and deadline, will not be reviewed.

Evaluation and selection

The following evaluation procedure will apply:

1. Eligibility step: the IRP Scientific Direction will perform an eligibility check of the full proposal according to the above-mentioned conditions;
2. Pre-selection step: a pre-selection step will be included only in case of an extremely high number of applications. The pre-selection panel will be composed of the IRP Scientific Direction and all IRP research areas coordinators;
3. Selection step: evaluation of eligible full proposals will be carried out with the assistance of an external review committee that will consist of internationally recognised experts in the relevant science fields.

Each independent expert will record his/her scientific opinion on each assigned proposal and will score the following evaluation criteria:

- scientific excellence of the approach, novelty and potential impact of the research project;
- feasibility, specific objectives, methodology, anticipated achievements and outputs of the proposed research project;
- adequate timescales, resources, requested budget and PI commitment for the proposed research project;
- identification of potential risks and risk mitigation plan;
- applicant's CV, expertise, track-record and publications;
- working arrangements, associated collaborations, partnerships or co-funding;
- host laboratory's track-record.

The evaluation is unchallengeable; however, the applicant may request a feedback of his/her project.

Funding duration

The period of funding and the award budget depend on the grant type (see each grant category).

What can the funds be used for?

Research funding is exclusively provided to meet the costs incurred by the proposed research project and not for other projects or activities. IRP Scientific Direction may decide to withdraw research

funding in case of any peculiar activity. All costs associated with the project must be itemised and fully justified. Note that budgets may be reduced if considered excessive.

Funds may be used for direct costs that cover:

- key personnel costs, i.e costs for PI, post-docs, PhDs, research assistants and technicians);
- consumables;
- equipment and facilities costs;
- travel and subsistence, i.e dissemination, registration and travel to conferences, meetings and workshops;
- other expenses, i.e publication fees, patents, ethical approval and external services;
- Overhead (10%), except for IRP Moving Grant.

It is mandatory to specify whether external co-funding, in terms of value, personnel, equipment and external services, are available at the time of application. Co-funding does not comprise of in-kind contributions provided by third parties free of charge and costs of linked third parties.

Funding process and project reporting

All IRP research grants recipients, except IRP Moving, will receive their support made in three payments during the grant years.

The first 35% payment will be made at the beginning of the project, while the next 35% payment will be made at the end of the first year upon receipt and approval of the required annual scientific report, and the final 30% will be made at the end of the second year upon receipt and approval of the required annual scientific report.

IRP Moving research grants recipients will receive their support made in two payments during the grant years. The first 50% payment will be made at the beginning of the project while the final 50% payment will be made at the end of the first year upon receipt and approval of the required annual scientific report.

Applicants are also required to submit a final report at the end of the grant period. The annual reports will be evaluated by the IRP Scientific Direction and/or, if necessary, by external scientific reviewers for criticisms, revising the progress of the work plan, use of resources and identifying any challenges.

Intellectual property rights

It is mandatory to use IRP as Host Institution and cite it in the “acknowledgment” of scientific publications.

The ownership of intellectual property rights on patentable inventions in scientific research are shared between the parties in the following percentage: 10% researcher/inventor, 10% researcher’s group (budget to be spent for the research), 10% UNIPD, 20% IRP, 50% for Città della Speranza – Onlus (CDS) Foundation.

Contact information

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Normal Business Hours: 9:00am - 6:00pm