

ARC Foundation Call for proposals 2018

Recruiting emerging leaders in oncology

Leaders de demain en oncologie

Application submission deadline: March 20th 2018

1. Background and Objectives

To heighten France's competitiveness and extend its international renown in the field of cancerology, it is essential that the skills already present in the country be strengthened and enriched through programmes that welcome top-tier researchers and help them establish in France. To develop and revitalise research potential in the field of cancer, all key players involved in the fight against the disease, from donor agencies to research laboratories and research funding bodies, should be committed unanimously.

ARC Foundation for Cancer Research is France's leading foundation dedicated entirely to cancer research. It supports work in all areas of cancerology research (prevention, screening, diagnosis, etiology, treatment, post-cancer, etc.), from basic to clinical research, as well as in epidemiology and economic and social human sciences. In particular, ARC Foundation is interested in research likely to speed up discoveries and discovery transfer processes, and bring about new treatments and new preventive and therapeutic approaches.

For several years now, in line with its Scientific Board and Scientific Strategy Committee, ARC Foundation has emphasised improving the attractiveness of France's research structures as an integral and high-priority part of its scientific strategy. Through recurring calls for proposals (referred to as CFPs), ARC Foundation is committed to attracting new scientific talents to France, so that they establish their research teams and develop the most innovative projects. This support has already allowed several internationally renowned researchers to base their teams within French research entities.

Translational research, which ensures continuity between fundamental and clinical research, currently holds an important position in the sphere of biomedical research. The ARC Foundation has thus chosen to put it at the heart of its strategy and wishes in particular to **encourage translational bench-to-bedside and/or bedside-to-bench research** so as to improve knowledge of the main pathological processes in play and turn basic scientific results into therapeutic actions for patients

The ARC Foundation is renewing its "Recruiting Emerging Leaders in Oncology" CFP in 2017, with the aim of creating a genuine network of leaders across France.

This year's CFP will allow **a high-level researcher from abroad to move to France**, in 2018, and develop an ambitious translational research programme within a French research structure. The proposed project must provide for the team's long-term presence and must strengthen the research potential of the host facility.

The ARC Foundation considers this program to be a collaborative effort between the ARC Foundation and the host institution, also in terms of financing of the newly created research groups. Ideally the host institution would match the ARC Foundation budget **-up to €1.5 million over a five-year period-**, which can be in terms of cost of laboratory space, access to core facilities and additional personnel. A substantial sum to be used at the discretion of the appointed group leader should be part of the package.

This will reflect the commitment of the host institution towards integration of the new group into its core research program.

2. Details of the call

2.1 Criteria for the research structure

The "Recruiting Emerging Leaders in Oncology" CFP is aimed at French research structures located within France, composed of internationally renowned teams offering the critical mass necessary to this programme's ambition and who wish to develop a translational research programme in the field of oncology in the best possible way.

It is expected that the host structures make substantial commitments to guarantee the team and research project the best hosting conditions, including:

- allotting at least 50 m² of immediately-operational work space in line with the project's specific needs and size of the team (specifically dedicated work space and offices);
- allotting sufficient human resources given the project's needs (Ph.D grants, post-doctoral fellowships, technical staff, etc.);
- allotting material resources (running costs and small equipment) as part of the project;
- facilitating access to the site's shared services and technological platforms (technical assistance, usage time, etc.);
- providing support for complementary funding requests ;
- providing a substantial sum to be used at the discretion of the appointed group leader.

The research structures may only present one candidate. This candidate must meet their needs in terms of skills development as well as the criteria set out in this CFP in paragraph 2.2.

In addition to a rigorous and selective recruitment strategy, the host structure must also propose solutions for the long-term integration of the selected candidate. The aim of this CFP is to ensure selected team leaders remain in France in the long term and as such, the research structure must commit to supporting the candidate as part of a long-term process. The aim is to recruit, when possible, the team leader to a position as Director of Research or University Professor before the end of the five-year period.

2.2 Candidates profile

The "Recruiting Emerging Leaders in Oncology" CFP is aimed at top-tier researchers recognised for their scientific career and world-class quality, able to form their own team and conduct their research project independently.

- Candidates must have defended their Doctoral thesis (PhD) between 2001 and 2011.
- The candidates chosen by the research structure must hold a position abroad as of the opening of the call (October 1st 2017).
- The candidates must be free to move to France if possible by the end of 2018.

- The candidates should have well-defined career objectives and are encouraged to participate in the open recruitment competitions for higher education and research bodies in France.
- The candidates are expected to make a significant investment in the success of the project: they must do their utmost and devote the vast majority of their research time to this project during the support period.

2.3 Criteria for the project

Requests must fall within the framework of an oncology research project.

The candidate and research structure will work in coordination to draft the project.

The application form must set out the following in particular:

- the research structure level of scientific excellence and expertise;
- the procedure implemented to select the future team leader
- the position of the new team within the research structure and its added value;
- the specific contribution to oncology and alignment with the ARC Foundation's scientific strategy to support translational research;
- the candidate's scientific quality (career path, publications);
- the scientific quality of the research project (ambition, innovativeness, relevance to current research on cancer, feasibility);
- the alignment between the project and the related funding plan (financial request should include details duly justified annually planned expenses for the team installation, potential recruitments and for the implementation of the project);
- the contribution of the research structure, stated in detail and set out in numbers (material, human, financial resources, etc.), as well as the other funding sources envisaged.

3 Project selection procedure

3.1 Eligibility requirements

Applications that do not meet the following eligibility requirements will not be considered for review.

- The applications must be completed and submitted on time, by email, and in the requested format;
- unless otherwise specified, project applications must be filed in English;
- the project must be submitted by an academic research structure governed by a public research institution (University, EPST - public body for scientific purposes, or EPIC public body for industrial or commercial purposes, etc.), a non-profit organisation (association, foundation, etc.) or a public health institution in France;
- the research structure must provide at least 50 m² of work space on its site specifically for the purposes of the new team;
- candidates must have defended their Doctoral thesis between 2001 and 2011;
- candidates must hold a position abroad as of the opening of the call (October 1st 2017).

3.2 Selection criteria

- The relevance to the CFP with particular emphasis on strengthening the translational research potential in the field of oncology within France;
- the research structure degree of excellence and scientific expertise as reflected by the quality of its scientific publications, technological environment and scientific activities at the site.
 - the candidate's scientific quality (career path, publications, international network, collaborations...);
 - the scientific quality of the research project:
ambition, innovativeness, relevance to current research on cancer; relevance of the scientific issues and expected outcomes
 - the project's feasibility:
project's alignment with the material, technical and human environment into which it might integrate);
quality of the project construction (work plan and management...)
alignment between the project and the related funding plan...
 - Quality of the Candidate / Research structure relationship:
appropriateness of skills brought together to carry out the project;
strengthening of the research structure, added value of the new team;
complementary fit with the teams in place, added value of the team's being based in the new structure, etc;
 - Level of financial commitment
alignment between the research structure contribution and the needs for the new team.
Physical environment and manpower provided by the host institute for the project

3.3 Project selection procedure

All the applications meeting the eligibility requirement will be evaluated respecting the ethics charter and the conflict of interest prevention and management procedure set out by the ARC Foundation.

The selection procedure several stages:

- The complete applications will be appraised by an ARC Foundation international ad hoc committee in a pre-selection phase.
- The project leaders for the pre-selected projects will be interviewed in Paris together with the heads of the research structures by the ARC Foundation international ad hoc committee (the heads of host bodies may be represented by a third party in the case of justified unavailability).
- ARC Foundation's Scientific Board, based on the ad hoc committee's opinion, will put the selected project up for vote by the Board of Directors.

4 General funding terms

Funding provided by the ARC Foundation (up to 1.5 million €/5years) will be dedicated solely to the candidate and be used to cover:

- All or part of the project leader's salary, according to the scale in effect for EPSTs (public body for scientific purposes) and, where applicable, additional net pay not to exceed 1,200 euros/month. Should a candidate be recruited on a permanent contract, the project funding may be

maintained and used to increase the impact and implementation of the project. This modification will be subject to validation by the ARC Foundation.

- Recruitment of post-doctoral scientists, engineers, technicians or master students on fixed-term contracts for by the host organisation, for the duration of the funding period. The recruited persons must have a contract of at least 12 months and the names and CVs of post-doctoral researchers must, be given to the ARC Foundation by the start of the work contract.
- Material resources: running costs and equipment (when the equipment unit costs exceed €200K, substantiation will be requested: estimate, possible joint-financing plan, scientific justification);
- Travel expenses (maximum 4% of the total request).

Note that the ARC Foundation will not cover indirect costs (overheads) of the fund management body. They may be part of the contribution of the host facility.

The 5-year funding shall start on July 1st 2018 at the earliest and December 31st 2018 at the latest.

ARC Foundation expects responsible conduct of research from its awardees. All the research activities carried out with the support of an ARC Foundation Fellowship shall be in compliance with fundamental ethical and research integrity principles.

5 Evaluating funded projects

The projects funded by the ARC Foundation are subject to scientific and financial monitoring for as long as they are active which includes:

- commitment by the scientific leader to present their research results upon the request of the ARC Foundation scientific board or board of directors;
- writing scientific reports to be sent to the ARC Foundation annually;
- intermediate evaluation based on a scientific report and an interview with the chosen candidate;
- participation of the project leader and/or members of their team in scientific events organised by the ARC Foundation.

6 Communication rules

As part of this CFP, in order to guarantee the visibility of the ARC Foundation and to consolidate the "emerging leaders" network, the newly created team shall clearly display the ARC Foundation in its title.

Team members funded by the ARC Foundation formally agree to communicate about the support provided by the ARC Foundation regardless of the other bodies who are supporting the research and/or teams of the laboratory as a whole. The support of the ARC Foundation must be displayed on the website of the research facility and of the team or researchers involved in the project.

It is mandatory that any written communication (theses, posters, etc.) or oral communication (seminars, conferences, etc.) regarding the work produced by the funded research project must mention the financial involvement of the ARC Foundation.

Publications that come out of projects funded by the ARC Foundation must cite the funding in the acknowledgements: "This work has been supported by the ARC Foundation for cancer research."

The French-language summary aimed at the general public included in the application file is essential for informing donors who help fund projects about the current advances in oncology research. It may be used by the ARC Foundation for communication with the general public.

7 Application

7.1 Timeline

Return of complete applications: **March 20th 2018**

Launch of CFP: **September 27th 2017**

Pre-selected candidates and structure heads auditions by an ARC Foundation ad hoc committee: **mid-May 2018**

Selection by the Scientific Board of the ARC Foundation: **June 2018**

Decision by the Board of Directors of the ARC Foundation: **June 2018**

The 5-year funding shall start on July 1st 2018 at the earliest and December 31st 2018 at the latest.

7.2 Submission procedure

The application form must be requested by email at
leaders@fondation-arc.org

Duly-completed application form must be submitted by email by **March 20th 2018**.
You will receive confirmation of receipt; please contact us if you do not receive confirmation.

The original page bearing signatures must be sent **by postal mail before April 23rd 2018** (date as per postmark).

Contact for submission and any questions related to the CFP:
leaders@fondation-arc.org

Address for submission of original page bearing signatures

Recruiting emerging leaders in oncology
Fondation ARC pour la recherche sur le cancer
Direction scientifique
9, rue Guy Môquet
BP 90003
94803 VILLEJUIF Cedex