

FONDAZIONE



Multi-round Telethon Call for Research projects 2021 – 2024

FULL REVIEW EVALUATION GUIDELINES 2022 – PEER REVIEWERS

The present call aims at funding basic and pre-clinical research projects focused on rare genetic diseases and conducted by researchers working in Italian public or private non-profit research institutions.

Research projects can be submitted into one of the following tracks:

- **Track BASIC RESEARCH**
Focused on the identification of disease mechanism/s and/or disease target/s.
- **Track PRECLINICAL PROOF OF CONCEPT**
Focused on the identification and validation of therapeutic candidate/s.

EXTERNAL REVIEWER'S ROLE

External reviewers will support the Telethon Scientific Committee members in the evaluation process by providing written comments and an overall recommendation.

FULL REVIEW INSTRUCTIONS

External Reviewers are requested to fill in the “External Reviewers Evaluation Form” available in *TETRA - Telethon Projects Managements system portal* at <https://projects.telethon.it> accessible through personal login and password.

Written Comments

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

The individual written comments will be anonymously incorporated into a complete review report that will be returned to the Applicant. It is therefore important that the written material is accurate, clearly written, and does not include derogatory language.

External Reviewers are asked to provide written comments based on the following criteria:

Project quality and feasibility

- **Scientific rationale and unmet need** (max 3,500 characters including spaces) – Does the proposal offer a clearly-stated rationale for the study? Will the results of this research fill a gap in knowledge or meet an unmet need?
- **Background and preliminary data** (max 3,500 characters including spaces) - Is the link to rare genetic diseases properly addressed? Is the proposed research original and/or innovative? Are the preliminary results provided supporting the principles to be tested?
- **Design and methods** (max 3,500 characters including spaces) - Are the experimental approaches/methods appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Can the research be completed within the proposed time frame?
- **Project feasibility** (max 3,500 characters including spaces) – Is the project feasible? Does the Applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative plans? **For the preclinical project:** does the reviewer see a practical pathway to translation?
- **PI and team competence** (max 3,500 characters including spaces) - Is the Team appropriately trained and well suited to carry out the work proposed? Is the work proposed proportionate to the level of experience of the principal investigator and key personnel (Partners/collaborators)? Does the Team play a significant role in the field of the submitted research project?
- **Budget adequateness** (max 3,500 characters including spaces) - Is the budget appropriate to the proposed research?

Project Impact

- **Impact** (max 3,500 characters including spaces) - If the project is successful will it change the pathway to the development of a treatment?

Overall Recommendation

Based on the specific points raised in the written critique, the External Reviewers are asked to choose their recommendation as follows:

- A** - Outstanding; no concerns.
- B** - Excellent; no substantial issues need discussion.
- C** - Good; Only one or a few addressable concerns.
- D** - Average; Several concerns in one or more Aims.
- E** - Poor; Major concerns in one or more Aims.