

Fondazione  
**CARIPLO**



## FONDAZIONE CARIPLO – FONDAZIONE TELETHON JOINT CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2025

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### REVIEW EVALUATION GUIDELINES – EXTERNAL REVIEWERS

The present Call aims at supporting basic research projects focusing on the study of genes/gene families, mRNAs and proteins whose function is unknown in rare diseases of genetic (both monogenic and polygenic) and non-genetic origin and conducted by researchers working in Italian public or private non-profit research institutions.

For this Call, research projects can be submitted as:

- **PILOT APPLICATION:** one-year research projects with the potential to generate data and/or tools to elucidate a role for Tdark(s) associated with rare diseases. Preliminary data are not mandatory, however, if any, they are encouraged to support rationale and feasibility of the research project. Only single-center proposals are admitted.
- **FULL APPLICATION:** up to two-years research projects with a solid background. Preliminary data are mandatory. Both single- and bi-center proposals are admitted.

#### External Reviewer's Role

External reviewers will support the Fondazione Cariplo – Fondazione Telethon Scientific Committee members in the evaluation process of **Full Applications**, by providing written comments and an overall recommendation for each eligible Application.

#### General Instructions

The Applications and the Evaluation Form are available on the *Fondazione Telethon ETS Grant Management* system portal at this [link](#), accessible through personal login and password.

#### External Reviewer Account

*Registered Users in TETRA (the former Grant Management system)*

Reviewers already registered in TETRA – the former *Fondazione Telethon Grant Management* system – are **kindly asked NOT to create a new account**.

Please click on **Forgot Password?** and follow the given instructions for setting a New Password, then enter the portal.

#### *New Reviewer to Fondazione Telethon Calls*

To register and review the Applications, Reviewers should click on the **Register Here** button and enter their email address: to complete the registration process follow the online instructions.

## Peer Review Process

### *Full Review*

One External Reviewer will review the assigned Application and is asked to provide an overall recommendation and 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.

### *Full Review Instructions*

External Reviewers are requested to log into the *Fondazione Telethon Grant Management* system portal through this [link](#), through personal login and password. By clicking on **Pending Peer Review**, the Reviewer will view the list of all the Applications assigned to be reviewed and can access each proposal's evaluation form by clicking on the specific project. The Reviewer will see in the **Review** tab general information about the project and the whole proposal will be visible either by clicking on **Actions** and then on **View Application in Split Screen** or by clicking on the **View/Print** button next to **Application Preview**.

For each Application, the Reviewer will have to fill in the **Description** section.

External Reviewers are asked to provide written comments and give an overall recommendation for each proposal based on the following criteria:

#### **1. Project quality and feasibility**

- **Science significance and originality** (max 3,500 characters including spaces) – Is the Tdark(s) link to rare diseases properly addressed? Is the proposed research original and/or innovative? Does the proposal offer a clearly stated rationale? Please highlight overall strengths and weaknesses.
- **Appropriateness of Design and Methods** (max 3,500 characters including spaces) – Do the preliminary results support the principles to be tested? Are the experimental approaches/methods appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Is the project feasible and can it be completed within the proposed timeframe? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and provide alternative plans?
- **PI and team competence** (max 3,500 characters including spaces) - Is the PI and Team appropriately trained and well suited to carry out the proposed work? 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? Is the plan to engage/train young researchers appropriate?
- **Total requested Budget** (max 3,500 characters including spaces) - Is the budget appropriate for the proposed research? For multicentre research proposals, is the shared budget appropriately justified?

## 2. **Project impact**

Potential of the proposed research (max 3,000 characters including spaces) - What will be the potential impact of the proposed research if successful (does it address an important gap, what difference will it make to the scientific community)? What will be the potential impact on patients in the long term?

When all parts of the evaluation form have been completed, the Reviewer will click on **Submit** and the Application will then be listed in the **Submitted Reviews** tab on the Home Page.

### **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 a few addressable concerns.
- D – Average:** Several concerns in one or more Aims.
- E – Poor:** Major concerns in one or more Aims.

Milan, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025