



FONDAZIONE TELETHON ETS FALL SEED GRANT 2025

Guidelines for Reviewers

Evaluation Process

The evaluation process for the Fall Seed Grant Call entails three consecutive phases:

1. Fondazione Telethon ETS (FT) first verifies that all submitted Applications are eligible based on administrative criteria and scientific relevance to the Call. FT also selects an ad hoc panel of expert reviewers (Panel Reviewers).
2. The Panel Reviewers remotely evaluate the scientific merit of the eligible Applications and provide written comments and a score.
3. The evaluation process ends with a final discussion during an online plenary meeting.

Review Process

Panel Reviewers will be asked to evaluate and score each eligible Application assigned.

Written comments

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

Evaluation criteria:

A) Scientific Merit - Evaluate the overall scientific merit of the proposal by providing an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses based on the following parameters:

- **Significance** - Is the link to the rare genetic disease properly addressed? Does this study address an important problem? What will the effect of these studies be on the concepts or methods that drive this field?

- **Originality of science** - Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches, or methods? Are the aims original and innovative? Does the project challenge existing paradigms or develop new methodologies or technologies?
- **Appropriateness of design and methods** - Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well-integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project? Are preliminary results (if available) adequately supporting the hypothesis to be tested? **Please note that preliminary data are not mandatory.**
- **Feasibility and Safety** - Is the project feasible in the 12-month timeframe? Does the Applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative plans? Please evaluate the adequacy of the proposed protection for the humans, the animals, or the environment (if any), to the extent they may be adversely affected by the project proposed in the Application.
- **PI and Team Competence** - Is the applicant appropriately trained and well-suited to carry out this work? Is the proposed work proportionate to the applicant's experience?
- **Budget** - Is the budget appropriate for the proposed research? **Of Note:** A maximum of € 50,000 for 12-month projects is allowed.

B) Potential impact:

- **Added value** - If the project is successful, how will the results advance current scientific knowledge in the field?
- **Unmet need** - How will the project contribute to fulfilling current unmet need/s of rare patients?

Project quality and feasibility score

Panel Reviewers are asked to give a score, which should reflect the written comments, according to the following scale:

Score range	Value	Description
4.6 – 5.0	Outstanding	Exceptionally strong, with only minor weaknesses
4.0 – 4.5	Excellent	Very strong with no major weaknesses
3.6 – 3.9	Good	Strong but with moderate weaknesses
2.0 – 3.5	Average	Few strengths and one or more major weaknesses
1.0 – 1.9	Poor	Numerous major weaknesses

Definitions:

Minor: easily addressable weakness that does not substantially lessen the value of the project

Moderate: weakness that lessens the value of the project

Major: weakness that severely limits the value of the project

The Applications and Evaluation Forms are available in the *Fondazione Telethon Grant Management* system portal at this [link](#), accessible through personal login and password. For more details, please follow the Instructions below.

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 and use the same email address used for accessing TETRA.**

Please enter the portal at this [link](#), click on **Forgot Password?** (below the **Login** button) and follow the instructions for setting up a New Password. Please note that the System allows the creation of an account associated with **ONLY** one email. In case the email address is no longer valid, the Reviewer is kindly asked to contact our IT Admin (telethonscience@fondazionetelethon.it) to update it.

New Reviewer to Fondazione Telethon Calls

Please enter the portal at this [link](#), click on the **Register Here** button and complete the registration process following the online instructions.

Applications and Evaluation Forms

Panel Reviewers are requested to access *Fondazione Telethon Grant Management* system portal at this [link](#) through their personal login and password. By clicking on **Pending Panel Review**, the Panel Reviewers will find the list of all the assigned Applications and can access each proposal's evaluation form by clicking on the specific project. The Panel Reviewers will find 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** (please allow some time for the system to load the pdf file).

In the Evaluation Form, Panel Reviewers are asked to provide a summary **statement highlighting the key reasons for their recommendation** (max 3,000 characters) and a score according to the evaluation criteria specified in the **Review Process** section. Additional comments are optional.

Once the revision is completed, Panel Reviewers can submit it by clicking on the **Submit** button. All submitted reviews are available from the Homepage, under the **My Reviews** tab.

Final Discussion

Based on the Panel Reviewers' written evaluation and scores, projects will be discussed during an online plenary meeting, chaired by one of the Panel Reviewers.

Each project will be introduced by one of the Panel Reviewers who will shortly describe the project and illustrate strengths and weaknesses. The other reviewers will also contribute with their statements. Finally, a discussion will be opened before restating the individual scores.

Projects with a final score in the excellent range will be suggested for funding.

Rome - October 15th, 2025

FONDAZIONE TELETHON ETS