

TRAINING PROGRAMME OF PHD4MD CONTRACTS

PRE-CALL FOR COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

BACKGROUND

It is a reality that health system and scientific tissue generally require medical researchers to ensure that new treatments and knowledge resulting from research actually arrive and to make sure they are correctly applied to the patients or population to which they are intended.

While, during their undergraduate and specialisation phase, doctors must receive training in research, we must recognise that it would be desirable to provide a more advanced and border level in this translational area. This is precisely the objective of the proposed training, called PhD4MDs programme.

This training programme of excellence for medical professionals having passed the FSE (Specialised Health Training) includes the development of a training plan in translational research shared by the CRG (Centre for Genomic Regulation), the IRB-Barcelona (Institute for Biomedical Research of Barcelona), the IDIBAPS (August Pi i Sunyer Institute for Biomedical Research) and the VHIR (Vall d'Hebron Research Institute) that would be covered by the collaboration agreement subscribed by these four institutions and would include the development of four research projects co-managed by the CRG and the VHIR, the CRG and the IDIBAPS, the IRB and the VHIR, and IRB and the IDIBAPS, ultimately resulting in the defence of a doctoral thesis in the field of Health Sciences and Technologies.

This action is intended to:

- a) Provide training of scientific excellence for health professionals having passed the FSE (Specialised Health Training) regulated for Physicians, to increase the critical mass of medical specialists and researchers, considered a key element in translational research, and to provide those physicians interested in research the required tools, not only so that they can carry out their doctoral thesis but also the capacity to professionally work in clinical practice and research, while contributing to the rapprochement between biomedical research and clinical practice.
- b) Encourage a patient-oriented and population-oriented research through transfer activities.
- c) Promote collaboration between the CRG, the IRB, the IDIBAPS and the VHIR, and consequently promote the development and progress in translational research.

The call consists of two phases (with a double selection process): a pre-convocation to select those collaborative projects that will constitute the object of study and research of this programme, and a subsequent convocation to select the candidates who will carry out the projects.

BASES

1. Purpose

The call is aimed at the selection of at least 4 collaborative research projects that will constitute the object of study and research of the PhD4MDs Programme.

2. Characteristics of research projects

2.1. The research projects will be conducted in co-management regime, one of the co-directors, a researcher from the CRG or the IRB, and the second co-director, a researcher of the VHIR or the IDIBAPS. The projects will have a clear translational character, as well as dimensional and defined objectives that can be carried out within a period of 3 years.

2.2. Projects must respect the fundamental principles set out in the Declaration of Helsinki and its subsequent revisions of the World Medical Association, the Agreement of the European Council on Human Rights and Biomedicine, the Universal Declaration of the UNESCO on human genome and human rights. Projects must also meet the requirements of the Spanish legislation in the fields of biomedical research, personal data protection and bioethics.

3. Requirements for research groups

Receiver research groups must be led by a researcher linked to one of the four organiser institutions.

4. Application and documentation to be submitted by co-directors

4.1. The application, in accordance with standard procedures, must be formalised by the two researchers who will co-manage the collaborative project.

Applications must be submitted by email to the phd@irbbarcelona.org within the period specified in Base n^o5 of this Call.

4.2. The four institutions guarantee the confidentiality of the submitted documents.

4.3. The filing of an application implies the consent to its disclosure to third parties of data collected therein, for the purpose of evaluation and selection, in accordance with the provisions of the Organic Law 15/1999, of December 13, on Personal Data Protection, unless the applicant expressly refused such consent.

5. Deadline for submission of applications

5.1. The submission deadline of projects will start the day after the publication of these bases and will end on April 6, 2015 at 17:00 pm.

6. Evaluation and selection

6.1. This call for projects will be subject to a process of technical scientific evaluation and to a selection process.

6.2. The projects evaluation and selection will be conducted by an internal Evaluation Committee formed by 8 reviewers, 2 from each of the institutions, and having prior experience in the calls evaluation for research projects in the field of biomedicine. The composition of the Committee will respect, whenever possible, gender parity.

6.3. Projects will be evaluated according to the following criteria and standards:

I. Regarding the Report of the project:

- a) Scientific and technical quality
- b) Basic-clinical collaborative character
- c) Translational character
- d) Relevance and interest
- e) Feasibility and opportunity. Adapted to the 3-years duration of the Training Programme.

II. Regarding the co-director research groups of the project:

- a) Publication record.
- b) Funded research projects.
- c) Adequacy of the research groups to the collaborative research proposal.

7. Resolution

7.1. The Evaluation Committee will issue the concession resolution that will be published on the website of the four centres on April 17, 2015.

7.3. Taking part in the call implies the acceptance of the rules contained in these bases.