**OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL**

Within the Department of Technology and Scientific Programs (DTPS), the Incentive Scientific Programs Division (SPIS) launches and supports a series of strategic research programs, using Institut Pasteur’s own funds for the initial phases.

Among these research programs, the PTR grant program provides funding to support collaborative, interdisciplinary and ambitious research projects related to Institut Pasteur strategic research areas, to foster breakthrough technological approaches and aiming at catalyzing discoveries addressing human health.

Funding provided by PTR is intended to:
- bring out new research projects within the 4 areas described below
- promote the access of young researchers to leadership positions
- facilitate interdisciplinary and transversal research projects combining two or more complementary areas of expertise (e.g. biology, medicine, mathematics, statistics, computer science, physics, social sciences …)
- encourage innovative and exploratory research projects
- translate fundamental knowledge into specific strategies aiming at improving human health

This PTR grant program addresses challenges associated to the 4 strategic priority areas:

1. **area 1: Emerging Infectious Diseases**
   This program shall advance integrated research on pathogens, from the field to the laboratory, on the following topics:
   - Exploring microbial diversity/complexity and detecting emergences
   - Exploring host diversity/complexity upon confrontation with microbes
   - Exploring host-microbe interactions, defining the species barrier to transmission of infectious agents, finding novel targets for vaccinology and therapeutics
   - Exploring the biology of vectors playing a role in emergence

2. **area 2: Antimicrobials and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**
   This program aims at tackling the global increase of antimicrobial resistance through the following topics:
   - Understanding resistance emergence as well as ecology and evolution of microorganisms (e.g. biofilms, process of quiescence, bacterial dormancy, viral latency, etc.)
   - Understanding host pathogen interaction as a target for treatment
   - Developing new approaches to tackle resistance emergence (Drug screening, natural product, alternative strategies; Vaccines and immunotherapies; Precision medicine to cure infectious diseases, etc.)
area 3: Brain Connectivity Diseases and Neurodegeneration

This program supports research related to the following diseases/disorders:

- Neurodevelopmental and psychiatric disorders
- Sensory system diseases
- Neurodegenerative and age-related cognitive disorders
- Brain connectivity disorders caused by infectious and commensurate microbes

area 4: Technological and methodological Development

The objective of this program is to identify, promote and develop innovative methods, and/or technologies addressing global human health concerns.

ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICATIONS

- **Consortium composition:**
  
  - PTR proposals are collaborative projects involving **at least 3 entities** (unit, laboratory, 5-year-groups, 4-year-groups, C2RT, C2RA, CRT and C3BI entities).
  
  - At least one team of the consortium must be from Institut Pasteur Paris.
  
  - The projects involving one or more teams from the Institut Pasteur International Network IPIN (outside Institut Pasteur Paris) will be favoured.

- **Coordination rules:**
  
  - The PTR projects must be coordinated by a permanent scientist who is not head of entity (Institut Pasteur Paris and IPIN) except if the head of entity does not have a permanent researcher in his/her entity.
  
  - The PTR proposals coordinated by a young scientist (no more than 8 years of experience after completion of PhD) will be favoured. If a young woman scientist would like to coordinate a PTR proposal, her maternity leave will provide her with one year of derogation per child.
  
  - The coordinator should be responsible for the chairing, the follow-up and the execution of the project at scientific and administrative levels.

- Budgetary criteria must be respected.

- The team leaders of the consortium must sign the annex 4 of the scientific proposal as well as the heads of IP entities (unit, laboratory, 5-year groups, 4-year groups, C2RT, C2RA, CRT and C3BI entities) in which the work will be performed.

Where appropriate, the project coordinator may collaborate with teams from other research organizations but these external academic partners shall not be funded in the frame of this call. These external academic partners shall provide their own funding to the project.

FUNDING OF PROPOSALS

A budget limited to **€250,000** per research project will be granted for a maximum period of **24 months**. On the completion of the period of 24 months the extension of the period shall be granted only for the limited purpose to complete the project. However, no additional funds shall be payable for any reason whatsoever.

No overhead expenses are permitted within the scope of the budget.
The budget includes:

- **running costs:**
  Travels / Missions and subsistence expenses, consumables and reagents, *subcontracting (< €25,000 per project), small equipment (up to €3,000 per project)* and publication fees.

- **non permanent personnel salary:**
  A postdoctoral fellow, a research engineer or a technician can be assigned to the project; the contract duration must be comprised between 18 to 24 months.
  At Institut Pasteur Paris, the personnel salaries cannot exceed €65,000 per year for maximum two years.
  Note: €65,000 correspond to the average of the annual salary (gross value) of a postdoctoral fellow with no more than two years of experience after the completion of the PhD at Institut Pasteur Paris.

**In case, the project does not require the recruitment of personnel, the requested budget cannot exceed €75,000/year.**

The choice and the recruitment of the person will be under the responsibility of the principal investigator.

For more information, please refer to the document FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

**PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA**

Each project will be evaluated by at least two international experts in the field. Then each project will be analyzed by a selection committee composed of members of the Direction and Scientific Board, directors of the Institut Pasteur Scientific Department (or their representatives) and directors of IPIN, members of International Direction, members of the Technology Transfer & Industrial Partnerships Department, and other experts from the Institut Pasteur Paris campus.

The reviewers will carry out the assessment according to the following evaluation criteria:

- relevance to the aims of the call
- importance and originality of the subject
- strategy and relevance of the proposed methodology
- preliminary results and suitability of the proposed strategy
- scientific impact of the proposed research
- scope and evidence of interdisciplinary collaborative research
- potential of the expected results to improve human health

Adequacy of the budget and the ethical issues will be evaluated together with the scientific quality of the project.

**For ex-aequo projects, priority attention will be given to:**

- projects led by young scientists (see above Coordination rules)
- projects involving the Institut Pasteur International Network
ETHICAL AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Research activities in PTR should respect fundamental ethical principles and comply with regulatory requirements.

If the proposed work involves any of the following cumulative biomedical activities:

(i) Collections or analysis of samples or biological derivatives of human origin,
(ii) Collection or analysis personal data related to patients or healthy individuals (note: personal data are information of any kind which can be linked directly or through a code to someone)
(iii) Performance of any biomedical investigation involving directly humans (patients or healthy individuals),

the coordinator with the help of the concerned PTR partners must ensure that the project complies with any applicable ethical principles and local regulatory requirements and that appropriate clearances have been obtained from relevant competent committee(s) or authority(ies) before performance of these activities. No project can start without ethical and regulatory clearance.

Please note that:

- The grant application file of any project foreseeing any of the above biomedical activities should include the Biomedical Research Form (see Annex 6 below)
- Advice about applicable ethical principles and regulatory requirements could be sought from the CRT-opendesk, or from the Ethics unit or from the CRT Clinical Core, but also from your PTR foreign partners if applicable.
- For any PTR-funded project with biomedical activities that has been submitted without any prior contact with the open-desk, the scientists will have to present their proposal at the CRT open desk. The date of the dedicated CRT open desk session for this presentation will be communicated along with the results of the call.
- Any project including biomedical activities concerning individuals from any middle and low income country and sponsored by the Institut Pasteur (Paris, France) must be ethically reviewed by the Institut Pasteur Institutional Review Board (irb@pasteur.fr) before any local ethical or regulatory submission.

Tips: The sooner you anticipate timelines and budget related to achieve this compliance, the easier the project compliance and performance will be.

EXPERIMENTS ON ANIMALS:
The partners to the collaborative project must comply with all applicable laws & regulations related to animal experiments:

For Institut Pasteur Paris: go to the following link
http://webcampus.pasteur.fr/jcms/c_217539/autorisation-des-projets-evaluation-ethique
http://webcampus.pasteur.fr/jcms/c_97369/legislation

For the other Institutes that use laboratory animals for research, please contact your Institutional Animal Care.

POTENTIAL INNOVATION

All the funded PTRs will be monitored with the help of Direction des Applications de la Recherche et des Relations Industrielles/Technology Transfer & Industrial Partnerships Department (DARRI) at Institut Pasteur Paris. The project coordinator/partners shall promptly inform SPIS of any potential innovation, before any kind of disclosure in any form is made. SPIS in collaboration with DARRI shall advise the project coordinator/partners to ensure the protection of the potential innovation. DARRI shall manage the protection of the potential innovation.
REPORTING

Two scientific reports will be requested, the first one will be required at 12 months. An oral presentation will be requested during the second year of the project in order to assess the progress made and identify the eventual problems met during the project. The second and final report will be delivered two months after the end of the project and must include details of publications and oral presentations arising from the project. A financial report will be also requested at the end of the project.

Publications and oral presentations must acknowledge the support from Institut Pasteur Paris. The publications and presentations must include the following phrase: This work was supported by a PTR grant N° from the Institut Pasteur Paris.

Any team leader who in response to the present call for proposals is granted a PTR and fails to submit the reports in the required deadlines will not be eligible for a period of two years for submission of applications under the PTR calls for proposals.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

There will be a one-stage procedure for applications, i.e. submission of full proposals at once. This application is only submitted on-line. All information contained in the proposal shall be considered confidential.

Application includes mandatory attached files:
- Research Proposal Form (including Annexes 1 to 5)
- Financial Request Form
- Annex 6 - Biomedical Research Form (mandatory only for proposals with biomedical research component)

SUBMISSION DATE AND TIME

Timetable:
- Publication of call: December 7th, 2018
- Deadline for submission of proposals: February 15th, 2019 at 6pm (Paris time)
- Evaluation of proposals: May or June, 2019
- Starting date: October 1st, 2019

For any question about this call, you could refer to the FAQ or contact the PTR team at the following address: spis@pasteur.fr

PTR Team:
- Mallory Perrin-Wolff : Head of Incentive Scientific Programs Division
- Sylvie Gratepanche : Coordinator of PTR program
- Geneviève Janvier : Coordinator of ACIP program
- Françoise Collonnier : Administrative contact