



# DULBECCO TELETHON INSTITUTE

## CAREER AWARD PROGRAM

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS - 2015

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#### General

The mission of Fondazione Telethon is to advance excellent research in Italy towards the cure of human genetic diseases. To this aim, Telethon funds Career Awards to outstanding young scientists wishing to establish their independent laboratory in a public or private non-profit Italian research institution.

Three position levels are envisaged: **Assistant (entry level)**, Associate and Senior **Telethon Scientist**.

In the present Call, **two Assistant Telethon Scientist positions** are open. Awards are contingent upon the availability of funds.

The successful Candidates will join the **Dulbecco Telethon Institute (DTI)**, a virtual institute whose members are given the title of "Telethon Scientists". These talented scientists work on a broad range of topics and in different Italian Institutions but share the same principles of rigour and excellence in the pursuit of scientific research aimed at understanding, preventing and curing genetic diseases.

The list of the active Telethon Scientists is accessible on the Telethon website at <http://dti.telethon.it/dti-labs>.

#### THE CAREER PROGRAM

##### Eligibility criteria

##### *Applicant*

In order to be eligible for funding, a Candidate

- must not hold a permanent position in an Italian Institution or Organization
- should be competitive at the international level
- must be supported by the strong commitment of the selected hosting Institution.

Eligible Candidates are required to:

- have a Ph.D. in biomedical sciences, or equivalent degree
- have published at least three first-author original papers in peer-reviewed international scientific journals
- demonstrate evidence of full independence in the planning and execution of the research program.

Please note:

- there are no citizenship restrictions
- there are no age limitations, but Candidates above 40 years are discouraged from applying.

##### *Diseases*

This call is in support of research projects focusing on **diseases of proven genetic origin**, either monogenic or polygenic forms.

##### *Non-Eligible diseases:*

- Cancer
- Multiple sclerosis
- Acquired immunodeficiency
- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). (Note: funding opportunities for ALS are available through AriSLA (<http://www.arisla.org/>), a dedicated Foundation supported by Telethon).

- Multifactorial diseases; studies focused on the identification of genetic risk factors (e.g. SNPs or other predisposing variants) for multifactorial diseases are not eligible.

In case of doubt, please contact the Telethon Scientific Office ([soffice@telethon.it](mailto:soffice@telethon.it)).

### **Host Institution**

Only public or private Italian non-profit research Institutions are eligible for hosting Telethon Career Awardees.

Telethon discourages Candidates who plan to continue their research at the same Host Institution where they have received postdoctoral training.

The Candidate has to provide a statement justifying why he/she chooses that Host Institution. It should be clear from this statement how the chosen Institution provides added value to the Applicant's research career in terms of scientific environment, available facilities, collaborations and mentorship.

It is mandatory that the Application be approved by the selected Host Institution; therefore, the Host Institution has to provide the **Host Institution Agreement** signed by the authorized Representative.

The support of the Host Institution is fundamental for the success of the Application and Fondazione Telethon will assess this support during the evaluation process. Therefore, a specific **Host Institution Letter of Commitment** signed by the Scientific Director of the Institute is required, explaining the Host Institution's interest in recruiting the Candidate and its commitment in developing his/her career.

For both documents regarding the Host Institution's support, see the Guidelines for instructions.

### **Funding**

The overall funding for an Assistant Telethon Scientist position amounts to **610,000 Euro** over five years according to the following funding scheme:

- annual **salary** of 40,000 Euro for the first three years and 45,000 Euro for the remaining two years
- **research grant** of 70,000 Euro/year
- **overhead** to the Host Institution of 5,000 Euro/year
- **start-up grant** of 25,000 Euro.

### **Duration**

Each position will be awarded for five years.

**Each position must start within one calendar year from the date of approval.**

Telethon reserves the right to terminate the position at any time during the five-year period, if the conditions under which it was awarded are not fulfilled.

## **THE APPLICATION**

**Applications must be prepared according to the specific guidelines ([Guidelines Career 2015.pdf](#)), which are an integral part of this Call.**

### **Forms**

Application forms can be found on the Telethon website (<http://proposals.telethon.it>) from **April 28, 2015**. All forms must be written in English, with the exception of the Italian version of the Lay Summary.

- It is **MANDATORY** that the Application be approved by the Applicant's Host Institution. The Host Institution Agreement and a Letter of Commitment by the Host Institution must be uploaded in the proper forms online (for detailed instructions see the section "Required Documents" in the Guidelines).
- A minimum of three letters of references are **MANDATORY** and the referee's names must be indicated within the Application. While these letters are to be sent by email to Telethon directly by the referees, it is the Applicant's responsibility to make sure that they are sent to the Scientific Office within the Application submission deadline. Applicants will be notified if the letters are missing from the Application.

## Revised Application

When submitting a revised Application, the PI must complete the Cover Letter Form.

The Cover Letter must highlight the relevant modifications of the revised Application and must also include a detailed reply to the critiques.

## Research involving human subjects and/or vertebrate animals

All studies including biological material of human origin and/or human subjects must comply with the relevant Italian laws (for detailed instructions see the section "Required Documents" in the Guidelines).

All studies employing vertebrate animals must comply with the relevant Italian laws and adhere to Telethon's policy (reported in the Guidelines).

## Privacy of personal data

With the introduction of law 196/2003 regulating the protection of persons and other subjects with regard to the treatment of personal data, Fondazione Telethon, having its head office in Via Varese, 16/B, Rome, as "holder" of the information, is legally bound to obtain the consent of the Applicant regarding the use of the personal data included in the Application Form. See [Appendix 1](#) for further clarification.

## Submission deadline

The Application online and all applicable supplementary documents must be submitted **by July 16, 2015 (at 12:00 am, midday)**.

Please make sure that the **MANDATORY DOCUMENTS (Host Institution Agreement, Host Institution Letter of Commitment and three letters of reference)** are submitted. If not, the Application will be rejected.

## THE EVALUATION

**Applications that are incomplete or do not comply with the requirements stated in this Call for Applications and pertinent Guidelines will not be accepted.**

### Evaluation procedure

All Telethon staff and reviewers involved in the evaluation of Applications are bound by strict confidentiality rules defined by Telethon.

The Assistant Telethon Scientist positions will be awarded on a competitive basis.

All accepted Applications will be reviewed by the Telethon Scientific Committee, an international panel of experts, through three evaluation steps.

#### *First step*

Each proposal will be assigned to three Reviewers, who will be asked to **shortlist** the Candidates on the basis of the competitiveness of their proposal. Candidates will be notified of the outcome of the first step and of the definitive date of their interview (step 3), if applicable, by September 30, 2015.

Following definition of the short list, **Telethon will assess commitment and space availability** provided by the Host Institution to the shortlisted Candidates. **A positive outcome of this assessment will be essential for awarding the position to successful Candidates.**

#### *Second step*

The Reviewers will evaluate the shortlisted Applications on the basis of the following criteria:

##### **Candidate**

- Candidate's CV\*
- Evidence of intellectual ownership of the presented research
- Demonstration of the ability to carry out independent work
- Potential for further scientific growth and for mentoring junior staff

(\*)Fondazione Telethon does not apply assessment of Candidates' CVs based on journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factors. Fondazione signed and endorses the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA, <http://am.ascb.org/dora/>)

### Research project

- **Scientific merit** (is the proposed research excellent?) - the following parameters will be evaluated:
  - Significance
  - Originality of science
  - Appropriateness of design and methods
  - Preliminary results
  - Feasibility/safety
  - Link to the genetic disease
- **Impact on patients** (how close to therapeutic development or to any other potential impact on patients are the proposed studies?)

### Host Institution

- Appropriateness of the Host Institution to support the proposed research
- Adequate commitment of the Host Institution towards the successful Candidate.

The Reviewers of the Telethon Scientific Committee will be supported by External Reviewers chosen from among distinguished experts in the relevant fields.

Telethon's Guidelines for the Scientific Committee ([IRGuidelines\\_CareerAward2015.pdf](#)) and for External Reviewers ([ERGuidelines\\_CareerAward2015.pdf](#)) are available online.

### Third step

Shortlisted Candidates will be invited to an **interview** with the Telethon Scientific Committee within the plenary review session that will take place on a date from **November 16 to 18, 2015**.

The Candidates will be notified of the evaluation outcome immediately after the plenary review session and have online access to their Telethon Review Summary by December 23, 2015.

## TELETHON POLICIES AND RULES

Fondazione Telethon has defined a set of policies that regulate the Dulbecco Telethon Institute, as reported in the document "**DTI Policies**", available online at [https://www.telethon.it/sites/default/files/DTI\\_POLICIES.pdf](https://www.telethon.it/sites/default/files/DTI_POLICIES.pdf)

In addition, Fondazione Telethon, as a member of the International Research Disease Consortium (IRDiRC), endorses and applies **IRDiRC's Policies and Guidelines**: [http://www.irdirc.org/?page\\_id=12](http://www.irdirc.org/?page_id=12).

### Awarding of funds

Fondazione Telethon reserves the right to perform a **site visit** to the Awardees' Host Institution after the announcement of the award and/or additional site visits during the time of the award.

Fondazione Telethon reserves the right to ask for a copy of the **Host Institution's Statute** and of the latest available **Annual Statement** as well as the acknowledgement of the legal status for non-profit private organisations at any time before the activation of the Telethon Scientist's position or during the extent of the award. Fondazione Telethon reserves the right to evaluate case by case the compatibility of the statutory guidelines of the Host Institutions with the aim of ensuring social benefit and to dictate any conditions on the appointment of the position.

Awarding or continuation of funds will depend upon the successful outcome of the assessment activities outlined above.

Upon activation of the Telethon Scientist's position (**within one calendar year from the date of approval of the award**), the Awardee will become a member of the DTI at the selected Host Institution.

Activation of the DTI position will be regulated by a dedicated **Hosting Agreement** between Fondazione Telethon and the Host Institution.

Fondazione Telethon will be in charge of the administrative management of the grant.

### Other appointments

**Dual appointments of Telethon Scientists with other research Institutions in Italy or abroad are not allowed, with the exception of a temporary academic position at an Italian University.**

A concomitant Career Award for young investigators is allowed only if the research program is in line with Telethon's mission.

Fondazione Telethon encourages the Host Institution to promote the integration of the Telethon Scientist into its career development program. If the Telethon Scientist receives an appointment from the Host Institution or from an Italian University, Fondazione Telethon will apply its current policies to the management of the DTI salary (see the DTI Policies).

### Mentorship plan

A formal mentorship plan is in place to support Assistant Telethon Scientists throughout their five-year term (see the DTI Policies).

### Promotion to a higher DTI career level

Assistant Telethon Scientists may apply for promotion to a higher Telethon career level before the end of the five-year term. If successful, the DTI position may be extended for three more years (see the DTI Policies).

### Other financial support

Telethon Scientists should dedicate at least 85% of their time to research in the area outlined by their research program. They are encouraged to seek outside funding from non-profit organizations and agencies within the same research area.

All Telethon Scientists can apply for a Telethon Research grant with a budget. The only restriction is that a Telethon Scientist cannot be the Principal Investigator of a Telethon Research grant, but he/she can participate as a Partner in a multicenter grant application (see the DTI Policies).

Telethon Scientists are allowed to engage in teaching, consulting and similar activities (e.g., as committee members), as long as these activities do not involve more than 15% of their time.

Finally, any agreement for consultations with non-profit and/or profit organizations should be communicated to Fondazione Telethon.

### Publications, research data and Final Scientific Report

All Telethon grantees are required to:

- acknowledge Fondazione Telethon in all publications arising from the project by specifying the project number in the publication and send the relative PDF file by email to [papers@telethon.it](mailto:papers@telethon.it)
- adhere to the Telethon Open Access Policy (<http://www.telethon.it/en/scientists/open-access>)
- deposit data generated from research projects, including source data, in appropriate open or controlled access public databases
- submit a Final Scientific Report at the end of the project.

### Development of Telethon-funded research results

Fondazione Telethon has the goal to translate research results into therapies available to patients and recognizes that this can be achieved through the activation of industrial collaborations and partnerships that may accomplish the development, manufacture and distribution of therapies, drugs, diagnostics and devices.

**Intellectual property** rights arising from the research conducted by Telethon Scientists and their group in their capacities as members of the Dulbecco Telethon Institute vest in Fondazione Telethon.

Therefore, Fondazione Telethon requests that the Telethon Scientists undertake any and all activities to ensure adequate validation and development of such research results. Specifically, they are required to ensure that, where appropriate, the results of the Telethon-funded research projects are duly protected by a **patent**

**Application** by promptly informing the Telethon Business Development Office (BDO) of any results obtained during their research and through a direct collaboration with the BDO, as this may facilitate the full realization of the translational potential of such results.

Any request for further information regarding intellectual property issues and valorisation activities must be addressed to [to@telethon.it](mailto:to@telethon.it).

### **Safeguard of research integrity**

Fondazione Telethon is fully committed to maintaining public trust in its research enterprise. Therefore, Applicants, grantees and all research personnel (investigators, trainees, administrators and staff) related to any Telethon Application or Telethon project must strictly adhere to the highest standards of research integrity.

Research integrity includes:

- the use of honest and verifiable methods in proposing, performing, and reporting research results according to rules and regulations that are in force within the international scientific community;
- the commonly accepted professional codes or norms.

Identification of research misconduct by a Telethon Scientist will result in Fondazione Telethon taking appropriate measures.

Milan, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**FONDAZIONE TELETHON**

THE ATTACHED APPENDIX HAS BEEN LEFT IN ITS ORIGINAL ITALIAN VERSION AS ITS USE IN THIS CASE APPLIES ONLY TO ITALY

### Appendix 1

#### **INFORMATIVA AI SENSI DELL'ARTICOLO 13 DEL D.LGS. 196/2003 ("CODICE PRIVACY")**

Fondazione Telethon, con sede in Via Varese, 16/B, Roma, titolare del trattamento (di seguito il "Titolare"), La informa che tratterà i dati da Lei forniti al fine di ufficializzare la Sua partecipazione al bando di ricerca Telethon, oltre che di consentire la valutazione del progetto di ricerca ivi presentato e, qualora finanziato, per la gestione amministrativa dello stesso.

Il Titolare la informa altresì della possibilità che, nell'ambito della comunicazione scientifica di Fondazione Telethon avente ad oggetto il progetto di ricerca da Lei presentato, i Suoi dati, potranno essere diffusi attraverso: i) canali istituzionali: il sito internet [www.telethon.it](http://www.telethon.it), le *newsletter* on-line, la rivista Telethon notizie ed ogni altro evento di comunicazione; ii) divulgazione scientifica: libro degli *abstract* della *Convention* scientifica di Fondazione Telethon, esposizione poster ecc; iii) *direct marketing*; iv) mezzi di comunicazione di massa.

Il Titolare tratterà i dati da Lei forniti in ottemperanza degli obblighi normativi, garantendo il pieno rispetto delle norme di legge, contrattuali e dei regolamenti. I dati personali saranno inseriti in un database di proprietà di Fondazione Telethon e verranno trattati mediante strumenti manuali, informatici e telematici, con logiche e modalità volte a garantire la sicurezza e la riservatezza dei dati stessi. I dati trattati potranno essere comunicati a soggetti incaricati, interni o esterni a Fondazione Telethon e/o ad altri soggetti terzi che saranno nominati Responsabili del trattamento dei dati nei limiti e nel rispetto delle finalità sopra specificate nonché nel rispetto di idonee procedure di sicurezza oltre che diffusi in coerenza a quanto sopra specificato. Il conferimento dei dati è facoltativo ma il rifiuto può comportare l'impossibilità delle finalità predette. In ogni momento Lei potrà rivolgersi al Titolare del trattamento nella persona del Direttore dell'Ufficio Scientifico presso Fondazione Telethon, piazza Cavour 1 - 20121 Milano al fine di richiedere la cancellazione, la distruzione, l'aggiornamento, l'opposizione per motivi legittimi, la rettifica, l'accesso o per esercitare gli altri diritti di cui all'art. 7 del Codice Privacy, oppure per richiedere l'elenco aggiornato dei soggetti nominati Responsabili del trattamento.