

FPS Grant 2024

and

FPS Vassili Fotis Grant in Neuroscience 2024

Call for Applications

Fondazione Pisana per la Scienza

Fondazione Pisana per la Scienza (FPS) is a non-profit research institute focused on biomedical research with a rapid clinical translation. At the core of all our activities are issue-oriented and problem-driven research questions that are approached in an interdisciplinary manner with the ambitious goal of achieving tangible improvements for mankind.

Currently the FPS research program comprises three areas: oncology, neuroscience and cardiovascular diseases.

FPS Grant

The aim of this Call for Applications is to attract talented researchers to strengthen the FPS research team and promote innovation in biomedical research. Individual scientists are invited to submit cutting-edge research proposals in synergy with FPS research lines. With these FPS Grants researchers will have the opportunity to pursue their scientific vision, manage their own funding, and have full access to the state-of-the-art technology platforms available at FPS. FPS particularly welcomes applications from candidates interesting in pursuing their scientific career in the Foundation: based on their performance and on project success, FPS may invite these proponents to join its permanent research staff.

Within this call for applications, one additional grant in the area of Neuroscience will be funded thanks to the generous donation of Dr. Vassili Fotis: the **FPS Vassili Fotis Grant in Neuroscience 2024**. Dr Vassili Fotis is an innovator, a pioneer in dentistry and orthodontics with a long professional and academic career, whose professional and human figure can be found on the FPS web site. He generously endowed FPS with funding to be dedicated to neuroscience research.

FPS Grant proposals

The project must target a timely advance in one of FPS strategic areas. Applications in the following themes are particularly welcome:

Oncology: Projects will entail molecular and cellular studies of relevance for translational

applications in cancer, with particular (but not exclusive) focus on brain and pancreatic cancers. Identification of biomarkers, molecular correlates of disease development, definition of innovative therapeutic and diagnostic strategies, molecular studies on the efficacy of current therapies are all within the scope of the present call.

Neuroscience: Projects will address neurodegenerative disorders. Studies are welcome on the definition of the molecular and cellular characteristics of neurodegeneration, the development of cellular models from patient-derived iPS cells, the identification of novel therapeutic strategies based on innovative genetic or molecular tools, the identification of novel biomarkers for patient stratification, treatment follow-up, and prognostic assessment. One of the selected projects will be assigned to the Vassili Fotis grant by FPS.

FPS Grant Proponents

Ideal proponents within this Call for Applications are excellent researchers, trailblazers of original talent. We particularly welcome applications from young candidates that are in the first stages of their academic career and have already demonstrated exceptional talent in scientific research. In view of the purpose of the program it is essential that researchers have the ability to formulate and conduct a line of scientific research independently but in synergy with the scientific activities of FPS.

Within this call, applications from more experienced scientists with a permanent position in academia or other research bodies will also be considered. Applicants should verify that their employer is willing to allow them to carry out research and administer research funds in FPS with a collaboration agreement to be signed in case of approval of the research proposal. If this collaboration program is not formally approved by the employer and FPS the research program will not be activated.

Guidelines for applicants

Two selection rounds are scheduled. The first will take place in the first quarter of 2024, the second in the summer. As a consequence, applications can be submitted until April 30th 2024 20:00 CET. Note that all proposals submitted before January 31st 2024 20:00 CET will have the opportunity to be evaluated twice, both in the February and the May sessions. Proponents may be invited - or autonomously choose - to update their proposal as a consequence of the feedback from the January 31st 2024 evaluation session.

The following conditions apply:

- the project must be carried out at the FPS research laboratories in Pisa;
- the project activities utilize and benefit from the technology platforms currently available at FPS (see www.fpscience.it);
- applications are submitted by individual researchers (not by groups of researchers or by research teams) although the proponent may indicate groups or institutions he/she intends to collaborate with;
- Should the project involve animal experiments, performed via collaboration with an external group, formal ethical approval must be provided before the project begins. No animal experiments are possible within the FPS laboratories.
- candidates may only submit one application for the *FPS Grant 2024*;
- the maximum funding that may be requested for a single project is 300.000€ and project activities must not exceed 2 years (see application form for budget details);
- recipients of the *FPS Grant 2024* will be allowed to hire additional research/technical staff within their grant budget only following approval by FPS;

- the proposed budget will be assessed by FPS and will be one of the elements of the evaluation process. If it exceeds the maximum amount of the *FPS Grant*, the application must be accompanied by a letter from a third party guaranteeing to cover all excess costs.

Preparing an application

FPS Grant 2024 application forms are available on the FPS website <http://www.fpscience.it/FPS-G24>. To apply, complete the application form, save it as a pdf file and e-mail it to: FPSproposal@fpscience.it

Applications must be written in English and include:

- the candidate's Curriculum Vitae and list of publications;
- a description of the proposed research (Max. 8 pages, font Verdana, size 10, single spaced text; do not change sizes of page borders; reference list 1 page extra);
- budget estimate.

A maximum of three letters of recommendation can be enclosed.

Specific conditions

Start date

The FPS Grant 2024 project must commence within six months of the grant being awarded.

Co-funding

In the case of co-funding of the project, the grant application must include a letter from the co-funding entity stating that funding will be provided, the amount of co-funding, and all relevant conditions. In particular, for projects involving co-funding any external claim to intellectual property resulting from the project must be clearly stated and details provided. This annex should be sent with the *FPS Grant 2024* application, but as a separate PDF document. These annexes will not be sent to referees and committee members.

Data management

Responsible data management is part of good research. Any research data that emerges from the *FPS Grant 2024* will become freely and sustainably available, as much as possible, for reuse by other researchers. Accordingly, the applicant should have a plan by which to uphold the FAIR data principles, i.e. that the data remains Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Re-usable.

Ethical aspects

Any ethical issues must be considered in advance. Certain research projects may require a statement of approval from a recognized medical ethics review committee or an animal experiments committee. Applicants are responsible to determine whether their research proposals raise possible ethical issues. If so, they are also responsible to provide any necessary statement of approval from the appropriate ethics review committee and/or license before the project starts. FPS reserves the right to seek external advice on these matters. If at any point, after discussing the matter with the applicant, FPS feels that an ethics review is required, the applicant must take the necessary measures to obtain it. If the applicant fails to obtain the required statement of approval from an ethics review committee, the grant will be rescinded.

FPS personnel policy

FPS is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the

community. We encourage members of minority groups to apply.

Intellectual property

If external groups are involved in the research, specific agreements will be signed in order to define IP details before project activity starts.

Assessment

Eligibility

FPS will first screen applications to ensure they comply with the formal conditions of the *FPS Grant 2024* scheme. Only those that comply will proceed to further consideration.

Selection process

For the selection, a dedicated committee of experts will be created (*FPS Grant* committee). The *FPS Grant* committee, with the assistance of external reviewers' expert in the field of the application, will assess the applications, globally and comparatively, and rate them in terms of their chance of success also in relation to the proponent's CVs.

Interview

The *FPS Grant* committee may select a number of candidates for an interview.

Decision

The *FPS Grant* committee will formulate the funding recommendation to the FPS board that will take the final decision. The number of grants to be awarded will depend on the resources available in any particular round and on the quality of the proposals submitted. After completion of each round of evaluation, all applicants will be notified of the outcome. The committee may recommend modifications to the proposals in the February evaluation and proponents will have an opportunity to update their proposal in view of the May evaluation round.

Arrangements and reporting

Successful candidates can dedicate part of the awarded grant to fund their own salary. Final and progress reporting is expected and FPS may choose to appoint a project monitor.

Privacy policy

Fondazione Pisana per la Scienza (hereinafter "FPS"), pursuant to art. 13th and 14th of the European Regulation 2016/679 (hereinafter "GDPR"), as Data Controller, hereby informs you that the personal data you provide to participate in the present FPS grant call will be processed only for the purposes and with the methods indicated below.

Types of personal data processed

We may process the personal data that are necessary to evaluate your application, contained in the application you sent, in the form and in the curriculum vitae attached to it. In particular, the following personal data will be processed:

- a) personal and contact details (such as, name, surname, date of birth, C.F., address, telephone numbers);
- b) information related to work experience, education and training, special qualifications, publications, professional skills, and all the other information specifically required by the call;
- c) information relating to the existence of impediments;
- d) any special categories of personal data contained in the curriculum vitae, such as belonging to protected categories. The candidate must not indicate special categories of personal data (revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, or trade union membership, data concerning health or data concerning a natural person's sex life) unless strictly necessary for the establishment

of any employment relationship or in any case in establishing the contractual relationship with the Data Controller.

Purposes of the processing

The processing of the data provided by the interested parties has the purpose of managing the selection procedure and therefore of allowing the verification of the suitability of the participants in the selection procedure, the verification of the requirements and the data submitted with the application, the correct conduct of the procedure, and if necessary, the correct establishment of the contractual relationship with FPS and exercise the rights of FPS in any disputes.

Legal basis:

- processing is necessary for the performance of a contract to which the data subject is party or in order to take steps at the request of the data subject as necessary to define contract details;
- processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which the controller is subject (art. 6.1 lett. c) Reg. 679/2016);
- processing is necessary for the purposes of carrying out the obligations and exercising specific rights of the controller or of the data subject in the field of employment and social security and social protection law.

Provision and Data retention period

Failure to provide the requested information may determine the exclusion from the selection procedure. The personal data processed will be stored for the duration of the selection procedure or for any different term provided for by the applicable legislation.

Recipients of personal data

The personal data you provide will be processed by appointed personnel, properly trained and operating under the authority and responsibility of the Data Controller. Personal data may also be processed by third parties that provide instrumental services, including services of, communication, e-mail and letter services, technical services for the management of the website and IT service providers. Only the data strictly necessary for the performance of the related functions will be communicated to the subjects indicated above. The updated list of all recipients is available at the headquarters of the Data Controller and will be provided at the request of the Data subject by writing to the following e-mail address info@fpscience.it.

Your personal data or other information that will be generated during the procedure may also be transferred, subject to legal limitations, to the subjects participating in the selection procedure or to others entitled on the basis of the regulations on the right of access.

Rights of the Data Subject

We also inform you that, in relation to the data itself, you can exercise the rights established by the CHAPTER III of the Regulation at any time. In particular, you have the right to obtain the access to your personal data, to rectify or to erase them, to integrate the incomplete data, to restrict the processing; to receive the data in a commonly used and machine-readable format; to withdraw the given consent; to object all or in part the use of the data, as well as to exercise the other rights provided by the applicable discipline. These rights can be exercised by writing to the Data Controller's address or by e-mail to the following e-mail address: info@fpscience.it.

Pursuant to art. 77 of the Regulation, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Supervisory Authority if you consider that the data processing infringes the Regulation.

Data Controller is Fondazione Pisana per la Scienza Onlus with legal head office in Via Ferruccio Giovannini 13 - 56017 San Giuliano Terme (PI). You can contact the Data Protection Officer of Fondazione Pisana per la Scienza Onlus by writing to the following email address info@fpscience.it