



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2021

OVERVIEW

Ring14 International has launched an **international Call** to solicit research projects on the Ring14 syndrome or Chromosome-14 related syndromes. The call aims to support the fellowship of ONE talented scientist wishing to open a path towards new ways of research on Chromosome-14 related syndromes. As such, preliminary data to apply to this present Call are not strictly required.

The fellow will be awarded for one year salary (renewable for an additional one) with a total budget allocation of 50,000 Euro/year.

Scientists involved in basic research as well as in the pre-clinical field are allowed to submit an application: the applications will be subjected to a peer-review process.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Please note that Ring14 International promotes resources whose purpose is to collect and make available to the scientific community biological samples and related clinical data from people affected by Ring14 syndrome and their relatives:

- our [Clinical Database](#) is available through an online interface accessible upon request to info@ring14.org
- Ring14 International collaborates with the Telethon Network of Genetic Biobanks (TNGB): refer to the TNGB [online catalogue](#) to identify potentially useful samples.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE APPLICANT

In order to be eligible for funding, the Applicant:

- must be employed by a non-profit research institution (either public or private are eligible): to hold a permanent position is not mandatory
- has to be supported by a commitment of a scientific Mentor (**only if he/she does not own his/her independent lab**) and his/her Hosting Institution
- has a Ph.D. in biomedical sciences, or equivalent degree.

Eligible Applicants are required to be competitive at the international level:

- 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
- the holder of a grant obtained by Ring14 International in the past is **not eligible** for the present Call.

PRIORITIES

- young investors or early career scientists are encouraged to apply
- some priority domains have been identified as the basis of this Call:
 - **Genetic heterogeneity** of the Ring14 syndrome (i.e. studies on transcriptomic, methylation profiling, multivariate expression of candidate genes, chromosomal “hotspot” breakpoints,...)
 - Immunological or neurological aspects (such as **Epilepsy**)
 - Long-read screenings to improve **diagnostic procedures**
 - **Clinical studies** (i.e. exploring the “compassionate” use of antiepileptic drugs).

THE APPLICATION

Steps and Timetable

Stages	Date or indicative period
Publication of the Call	20/11/2020
Deadline for submitting the Lol (*)	15/01/2021
Lol approval notification	2 nd half of February 2021
Deadline for submitting the Full Application (**)	31/03/2021
Evaluation of the Full Application period	April-May 2021
Award notification	Later June 2021
Project start	3 rd trimester 2021

*) The Letter of Intent (Lol) is mandatory. The form can be download from the institutional Ring14 International [website](#).

) Full Application (FA) forms will be sent only to the top ranked Applicants and must reflect the project submitted with their Lol. Please note that the Applicant **MUST send together with his/her FA also the Host Institution approval and letters of collaboration (if any).

Budget

Funds are raised through small individual donations, therefore Ring14 International recognizes a special responsibility to oversee an appropriate allocation of funds. The budget availability is € 50.000 (fifty thousand Euro): 10% max could be allocated to the Host Institution’s overhead.

Project renewal for an additional year of funding

At the end of the 1st year of funding the awarded Applicant may apply for a renewal when he/she submits the Final Scientific Report (see below). The project renewal for the 2nd year is contingent upon the availability of funds and the positive approval of the FSR by Ring14 International.

THE EVALUATION PROCESS

The language to be used is only English. Applications that are incomplete or do not comply with the requirements stated in this Call for Applications will not be accepted. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis.

All accepted applications will be peer-reviewed by a “mixed” Panel composed by the Ring14 Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and representatives of families selected among the members of the Board of Directors (BoD) of Ring14 International (external experts could be also invited for ad-hoc reviewing).

The evaluation will be based on the following criteria:

- **Significance of the project:** coherence of the research goals with the objectives stated in the Call
- **Rationale and originality:** scientific and technological interest of the study, novelty
- **Impact to patients:** relevance in term of producing results destined to have an impact on health, and, in particular, on the quality of life of children affected by Chromosome-14 related syndromes
- **Feasibility of the proposed project:** clarity of objectives that must be verifiable through a scientific approach and methodology

- **Curriculum Vitae of the candidate:** applicants' proven track record of successfully delivering projects.

At the first stage the Panel (SAB plus BoD) will rank the submitted Lols on the basis of the criteria highlighted above. The top ranked Lol will be invited to submit a FA that will undergo plenary discussion and final scoring by the SAB only. Applicants will be notified of the evaluation results afterwards.

GENERAL FUNDING POLICIES

Project can be funded for one year with starting dates from Summer 2021 onwards. Funds will be awarded to the Host Institution's administrative body. An agreement signed by both parties, the Ring14 International and the Host Institution, is a requirement for the award.

Administrative and funding arrangements will be stated in the Agreement and include the right for Ring14 International to ask for a copy of the Statute of the Host Institution and to site visit the Applicant's laboratories any time during the funded time period or onwards.

RESPONSIBILITIES, REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND GENERAL ITEMS

The release of funds is subjected to the submission of all the necessary documentation as specified in the present Call for Applications and as requested in the Agreement. Ring14 International reserves the right to drop payments whenever a conflict arises regarding the policies contained in this Call for Applications as well as the signed Agreement.

The Grantee will be required to present his/her work at the next Ring14 International workshop.

The Grantee is required to ensure that any patentable results is registered and duly protected by a patent application to facilitate the circulation and the availability to the public of such results. The Grantee shall promptly notify and agree in writing with Ring14 International about any decision or other action connected with the filing of a patent application or the execution of any agreements with other entities in relation to any discoveries or inventions deriving from or connected with the grant sponsored by Ring14 International.

The Grantee must ensure that all outcomes (publications, etc.) of supported projects include a proper acknowledgement of Ring14 International and they are required to send the relative PDF file by email to info@ring14.org. A Scientific Final Report on the funded project must be submitted by the awarded Applicant at the end of the project.

PRIVACY

Ring14 International, as holder of the information, is legally bound to obtain the consent of the Applicant regarding the use of his/her personal data. The Host Institution shall ensure that the project will be conducted in compliance with any applicable privacy regulation or legislation, including those concerning the processing of personal data.

For further information, please visit us on our [website](#) or contact us by email: info@ring14.org.