



Open Lab Cofund Fellowship Program Call for applications 2013-2018

The Tres Cantos Open Lab Foundation targets the selection of 19 Experienced Researchers to progress innovative ideas in drug discovery for diseases of the developing world, while developing their capabilities as research leaders.

The Cofund Program scientists will access the resources and drug discovery expertise of the host institution GlaxoSmithKline's Tres Cantos Medicines Development Campus near Madrid (Spain), in the framework of a collaborative project with any research organization working in the field.

The Open Lab Cofund Fellowship scheme is supported by the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission through its Marie Curie Co-funding of Regional, National and International Programmes.

Deadline for submission of applications: As published in the website ([link](#)).

Calls will be opened on a regular basis, with cut-off dates every six months approximately.

Concept of “Home” and “Host” Institution:

“Home Institutions” can be public or private Research Institutes, High Education Institutions or Companies working in the research areas supported by TCOLF.

The “Host institution” is GSK’s Tres Cantos Medicines Development Campus (GSK TCMDC) near Madrid, Spain.

TCOLF supports collaborative projects between a “Home” and the “Host” institution. They can be implemented entirely at the GSK TCMDC, or at both the Home and the Host Institution facilities; timelines at each site must be coherent with the expertise and resources available at each site.

Applicants must obtain support by a home institution of their choice to implement the proposed project (refer to the *Guide for Applicants* for additional information). [A list of potential Home Institutions and Principal Investigators](#) may be published each call to facilitate contact by potential applicants. This list does not represent any restriction to apply with support of any other Home Institution.

Eligibility: To be eligible for funding you must:

- Have institutional endorsement to carry out the project
- Propose a project aligned with the strategic objectives of the Foundation (drug discovery

for Malaria, Tuberculosis and Kinetoplastid diseases, see “key areas of interest” below) with a maximum duration of 24 months.

- Be available to conduct research at the Tres Cantos Campus, Spain, and at the home institution location, if the case, for the time needed to execute the proposal
 - Fulfill the **eligibility criteria**, namely:
 - Experience: Applicant researchers must, at the time of deadline for submission of proposals, be in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience.

Full-time equivalent research experience is measured from the date when a researcher obtained the degree which would formally entitle him or her to embark on a doctorate, either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the research training is provided.
 - Mobility: researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc) in the country where more than half of the project will be implemented,¹ for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the reference date (deadline for submission of proposals). Compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account.
 - Residence: the applicant must be resident in a Member State or Country Associated to FP7² by the application deadline ONLY in the case that more than half of the project is implemented at the home institution premises AND the home institution is not located in an EU Member State or Country Associated to FP7.
 - Completeness of the application: Only complete applications will be evaluated. Complete applications consist of: CV, project description, and home institution’s signed expression of interest.
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Key areas of interest of TCOLF

MALARIA

- 1) Identification and characterization of novel antimalarial modes of action using both phenotypic and target based approaches - to enable selection and development of safe potential drugs promoting fast clearance of parasites by the host and/or blocking transmission
- 2) Understanding mechanisms of antimalarial resistance and the development of assays to anticipate impact in the clinical setting
- 3) Antimalarial PK/PD translational models to understand key parameters affording a drug its antimalarial effect
- 4) Assess new culture systems for *Plasmodium* species including *P. vivax* liver stages

¹ Spain or the country where the home institution is located. Duration to be measured as number of months according to the Gantt chart presented in the application

² Switzerland, Israel, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Turkey, F.Y.R. of Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Republic of Moldova ([link](#))

- To enable screening and identification of anti-hypnozoite drugs
 - To ensure 'pan-active' activity of antimalarials in all *Plasmodium* species (*falciparum*, *vivax*, *ovale*, *malariae* & *knowlesi*)
- 5) Translational *in vitro* and *in vivo* models to assess transmission blocking potential
 - 6) Evaluation of combination regimens through development of *in vivo*, *in vitro* and *ex vivo* models

TUBERCULOSIS

- 1) Exploitation of novel small molecule screening approaches beyond commonly employed phenotypic strategies (i.e. more relevant to mycobacterial survival in the host)
- 2) Access to unexplored chemical space, natural products and other sources of compounds as hits/leads in TB medicinal chemistry discovery programs.
- 3) *In vivo* technologies and disease models with increased translational value.
- 4) Target based approaches on genetically and chemically validated TB and host targets.
- 5) Novel approaches to screen and identify additive or synergistic drug combinations.
- 6) Development of new image-based methods to characterize *in vitro* or *in vivo* the behavior of anti-mycobacterial compounds.

KINETOPLASTIDS

- 1) Novel libraries and assays to identify compounds against Leishmaniasis and Chagas disease.
- 2) Novel hits/leads as starting points in medicinal chemistry discovery programs.
- 3) Animal models that allow the quick evaluation, ranking and establishment of PK/PD relationships of drug leads against Leishmania and Chagas disease.
- 4) Target based approaches on genetically and chemically validated anti-Kinetoplastid and host targets.
- 5) Deconvolution of mode of action and target identification for anti-kinetoplastidal compounds .

Evaluation: The TCOLF will assess each application on two main criteria:

- Quality of the research project: scientific merit, innovative approach, impact, alignment with the Foundation funding principles
- Profile/potential of the applicant

each of them comprising several aspects.

→ Refer to the *Guide for Applicants & FAQs* document ([link](#)) for additional information

Financial regime: The Program will cover personnel costs and accommodation during the stay at Tres Cantos, Spain. Other costs such as lab consumables, conference fees, travel costs for meetings, etc. can be covered according to the project needs.

→ Refer to the *Guide for Applicants & FAQs* document ([link](#)) for additional information

Schedule: the expected timeline will be as follows:

- Eligibility check: within 2 weeks from submission date.
 - Evaluation: around 8 weeks after the call cut-off date (depending on the TCOLF review schedule).
 - Communication on the evaluation outcome and offer of fellowship contracts: 3 weeks after evaluation.
 - Targeted start date of the fellowships: 6-10 months after the evaluation.
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Click [here](#) to access the *Guide for Applicants & FAQs* document

Click [here](#) to access the application submission webpage