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Foreword - A Short Presentation of the FC Fellowships - Call for Proposals 2017

Il Bando FC Fellowships 2017 intende incentivare i giovani laureati o i neo-dottori di ricerca ad intraprendere la carriera della ricerca scientifica nel settore della celiachia e della dermatite erpetiforme, sostenendoli per un triennio di attività in un progetto di ricerca che i Borsisti FC svolgeranno presso i centri non-profit di ricerca italiani, pubblici e privati. La Borsa di Studio Triennale FC è come un trampolino di lancio con il quale il giovane ricercatore interessato ai temi della celiachia e della dermatite erpetiforme completa la sua formazione e porta a termine un programma di ricerca triennale i cui obiettivi siano il miglioramento della qualità della vita del celiaco, lo sviluppo di nuove terapie o il miglioramento di quelle attuali, l'approfondimento della patologia e delle sue implicazioni, la ricerca in campo alimentare e nutrizionale inclusa la food-technology.

La prospettiva di carriera attesa è che al termine del Programma di Fellowship Triennale FC il giovane ricercatore abbia arricchito la letteratura scientifica di qualità con proprie pubblicazioni scaturite dal suo progetto di ricerca, e sia quindi pronto a diventare un ricercatore indipendente e idoneo allo sviluppo di programmi di ricerca nel campo della celiachia, anche attraverso la partecipazione ai Bandi FC Investigator Grants dedicati appunto ai ricercatori senior.

The 'FC Fellowships - Call for Proposals 2017' is aimed at awarding Triennial Fellowship Programs to highly qualified young graduates and/or post-doctoral fellows who wish to broaden or acquire experience in scientific research within the field of celiac disease and dermatitis herpetiformis in public or private non-profit Italian research institutes/organisations. The FC Triennial Fellowship Program includes both training and research activity of the Fellow, and aims at pursuing scientific purposes such as proximity to cure, innovation of clinical methodologies, improvement of the quality and safety of the gluten-free diet, innovation of food products, new therapeutic drugs, etc.

Therefore, the FC Triennial Fellowship Program represents a starting point for the young researcher to publish high quality papers in the field of celiac disease, and to become an independent researcher who is able to set up a complete research program on celiac disease in the future, also by applying to the FC Investigator Grants Call for Proposals.

The Fondazione Celiachia (FC) is releasing the 'FC Fellowships - Call for Proposals 2017' aimed at awarding **up to 5 Triennial Fellowships** to highly qualified young graduates and/or post-doctoral fellows who wish to broaden or acquire experience in scientific research within the field of celiac disease and dermatitis herpetiformis in public or private non-profit Italian research institutes/organizations.

The Call will be released on this website on March 15th. Since that date, Applicants will find documents to be downloaded (the Call, the Application Form and the other mandatory annexed documents). Instructions for submission will be reported into the Call.

The **deadline** for submitting Applications is **29 April 2017 at 18:00 o'clock Italian time.**

Eligibility criteria for the Applicants

At the time of the deadline for submission, the following eligibility criteria must be met:

1. Applicants must have obtained a Master's Degree (equivalent to the Italian *Laurea Magistrale*) or a Long Single Cycle Degree (equivalent to an Italian *Laurea a ciclo lungo*, lasting 5 or 6 years) or an equivalent non Italian degree in Medicine, Biological Sciences, Pharmacy, Chemistry, Agriculture or other scientific disciplines. The obtained degree should formally entitle the Applicant to embark on a doctorate in the country where the degree was attained. Applicants who have obtained a PhD will also be eligible. Applicants having obtained a Bachelor's degree (equivalent to the Italian "*laurea breve*") are **not eligible**
2. For all Applicants, the Degree (*Laurea*) must have been obtained **after 31st December 2010**
3. Applicants must submit research plans exclusively and fully focusing on **celiac disease and/or dermatitis herpetiformis**
4. The Applicant and his/her Head of the Hosting Lab **must not have any kind of active FC Grants** in which they act as principal investigator, Head of the Hosting Lab, internal collaborator, fellow, doctorate, technician etc, nor as multicentre study partners receiving part of the funds of

the active FC Grant. Exceptions are allowed only in case of Applicants/Heads of the Hosting Lab participating to other active FC Grants as **external collaborators** who **do not receive any FC funds**

5. Only **1 Applicant per research group** (i.e. having the same Head of the Hosting Lab) can apply, and only **1 proposal per applicant can be submitted**

Funding

The total funding available for the 'FC Fellowships - Call for Proposals 2017' is € 425.000.

Each Triennial FC Fellowship is granted for overall € 85.000: € 75.000 for the triennial gross salary of the FC Fellow (€ 25.000 per year gross salary) and € 10.000 to be used during the Triennial FC Fellowship program exclusively for the purchase of Consumables and Supplies. All the other costs annexed to the FC Triennial Fellowship Research Plan (consumables and other direct costs, indirect costs, general costs of the Hosting Institute etc) will be completely covered by the Head of the Hosting Lab and the Hosting Institute.

The Head of the Hosting Lab (the senior investigator coordinating the laboratory in which the awarded Applicant will perform the research plan) and the Hosting Institute (the public or private non-profit Italian research institute in which the Head of the Hosting Lab is working and the awarded Applicant will perform the research plan) MUST:

- ensure optimal working conditions to the FC Fellow
- provide facilities, equipment, reagents, consumables and infrastructure
- offer adequate training resources and cover expenses for travel, conferences and meetings when these are deemed important for the training and education of the FC Fellow
- supervise the work of the FC Fellow
- provide training and mentoring
- make available the necessary resources (e.g. research grants held by the Head of the Hosting Lab) to the FC Fellow for carrying out the proposed research plan

Research Topics

The Call **will only consider 3-years research plans** submitted by young graduates and by post-docs in scientific disciplines, with a clear **focus on celiac disease OR dermatitis herpetiformis**.

Research Areas

- Allergology - *Biomedical Research*
- Anatomic pathology – Histopathology - *Biomedical Research*
- Biochemistry - *Biomedical Research*
- Biology (structural, computational, signalling) - *Biomedical Research*
- Clinical trials - *Biomedical Research*
- Clinics (paediatrics or adult) - *Biomedical Research*
- Dermatology - *Biomedical Research*
- Drug discovery – screening – development - *Biomedical Research*
- Endocrinology - *Biomedical Research*
- Epidemiology – Prevention - *Biomedical Research*
- Genetics - Control of gene expression and epigenetics - *Biomedical Research*
- Gynaecology - *Biomedical Research*
- Immunology – Immunobiology - *Biomedical Research*
- Infection and inflammation - *Biomedical Research*
- Nutrition - *Biomedical Research*
- Oncology - *Biomedical Research*
- Preclinical study - *Biomedical Research*
- Proteomics - *Biomedical Research*
- Grains chemistry and biochemistry - *Food Technology Research*
- Microbiology and grain biotechnology - *Food Technology Research*
- Grain genomics and proteomics - *Food Technology Research*

- Grain processing - *Food Technology Research*

FC's HIGH Funding Priorities

- Proximity to find new pathogenic mechanisms
- Proximity to cure
- Natural history of the pathology by linking different phases of the disease to specific biological/genetic profiles
- Interactions between environmental risk factors, genetic profiles and intermediate biomarkers. This also includes defining harmful components of gluten
- Innovation of clinical methodologies
- Evaluation in clinical practice of the efficacy of diagnostic and therapeutic approaches, in terms of outcome and quality of life. This also includes improvement of the quality and safety of the gluten-free diet, and innovation of food products
- New therapeutic drugs, procedures or strategies (pilot clinical studies)
- Critical evaluation of last generation drugs (their activity by mechanistic insights)

The Review Process

All Applications received by FC within the framework of the FC Fellowships - Call for Proposals 2017 will undergo the following steps:

First Step	Administrative Check of Conformity
Second Step	Peer Reviewers' Evaluation
Final Step	Approval of the Ranking List by the FC Board, and funding

