

# GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSALS

## 1. BINC GENEVA FOUNDATION

Biostime Institute for Nutrition and Care - Geneva (BINC-Geneva) is a non-for-profit organization committed to promoting research and developing comprehensive health solutions in the fields of infant and maternal nutrition, skin care and psychology.

## 2. CONTEXT OF THE CALL

Biostime Institute for Nutrition and Care - Geneva welcomes grant applications from research scientists based in Universities, hospitals or other academic institutions. The research grants aim to provide financial support for innovative original research projects in the fields of infant gut microbiota & allergy, infant brain development, skin microbiota, infant obesity and postpartum depression.

This call applies to fundings of fellowships for master students, PhD, post-doctoral students and/or laboratory equipment for a specific project.

Research applicants will receive from 35'000 to 50'000 Euros for a specific project with a maximum duration of 2 years.

## 3. SCOPE OF THE CALL

Proposed projects will cover research projects focusing on the five following areas:

1. Infant gut microbiota & allergy
2. Skin microbiota
3. Infant brain development
4. Child obesity and nutrition
5. Postpartum depression

#### 4. BENEFICIARIES OF THE CALL

This call for research proposals addresses any certified research teams situated in Europe with a focus on France and Switzerland. However, projects outside these geographic locations are also welcomed.

#### 5. FUNDING and FINANCING AGREEMENT

Projects must be sized for funding between 35'000 and 50' 000 Euros over a period of 2 years maximum. The relevance of the project to the characteristics of the call, the scientific excellence of the project and its feasibility will be the main criteria for the selection of the project (s). BINC-Geneva Foundation reserves the right not to award funding if the quality of the submitted files is deemed insufficient by the expert committee. A financing agreement will be signed between BINC-Geneva Foundation and the Research Scientists managing the funding.

#### 6. FUNDING MODALITIES

A detailed budget broken down by expenditure heading must be presented in the full application Dossier (second step of selection). The funding modalities will cover:

- Consumables
- Staff costs (Personnel-technicians, research engineers, master students, PhD students, post doctoral students)
- Purchase of equipments necessary to the research (if the amount exceeds 10% of the total amount requested, it must be justified)

The granted budget will be paid in several terms according to the duration, the methodology of the project and the total amount of the funding. The first payment will be made after the signature of the financing agreement (40% of the total allocated amount). The second payment will be made after receiving a scientific report showing the progress of the project and a report justifying the use of the already paid funds from the research scientists (30% of the total allocated amount). The last payment (30% of the total allocated amount) will be made following completion of the project after receiving a full report and a public summary.

A bonus of 5'000 euros will be granted to scientists if results are published in a peer-reviewed Journal with an impact factor equal or above 2.5.

## 7. CRITERIA FOR ADMISSIBILITY OF THE PROJECTS

The application shall be written in English (preferably) or French and must follow the plan given in the application form. The project leader may submit only one or multiple applications in the context of this call. The projects outside of the scope of the call will not be assessed. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

## 8. EVALUATION OF THE PROJECTS

The selection of the proposals will be conducted in two steps:

The first selection based on project Synopsis will be conducted internally. The second selection based on Full Application Dossier will be conducted by a panel of independent, international experts, who will judge the scientific quality of the projects, resources and feasibility.

The scientific committee of BINC-Geneva will propose a list of one or several project(s) susceptible to be funded and the executive Board of BINC-Geneva will choose one or several project(s) to be financed.

One project per thematic will be granted.

## 9. CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF THE PROJECTS

Particular attention will be paid to the relevance of the research project and the question asked in regard of the current state of the art, the quality of the used methodology, and the potential impact of the scientific applications. The evaluation of the project by the Scientific Committee of BINC-Geneva Foundation will cover:

- Adequacy to the call
- Relevance and innovation
- Potential benefits of scientific application
- Ethical aspects
- Project leader qualities (training, publications, national international fame, ability to federate and coordinate the consortium, communication ...). Particular attention will be paid to the recognition of the PI in its field of expertise
- Quality of the involved teams and laboratory (ies) (scientific, publications, fame)
- Adequacy of financial resources to the scale of the proposed project in order to ensure its feasibility.

Co-financing(s) must be entirely declared in the application form. The part of the project corresponding to the financing of BINC-Geneva Foundation must be clearly documented.

## 10. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION AND TIMELINES

The Synopsis for research application must be sent before March 15th, 2018 through the online application form on BINC-Geneva website. Its content will have to follow the plan and the specifications of the form. In case of download difficulties, the Foundation may be contacted by e-mail at the following address: [contact@binc-geneva.org](mailto:contact@binc-geneva.org).

The Full Project Dossier Application form will be sent by email to selected applicants for completion before May 04<sup>th</sup> 2018. The Full Dossier Application should not exceed 20 pages (including bibliographic references, budget presentations and CV's which will be provided in appendices) (single-spaced, Arial 11 minimum). Only complete applications will be evaluated.

### Summary of the timelines

<b>STEPS</b>	<b>TIMELINES</b>
<b>Applicants will send a project synopsis (online application)</b>	<b>Up to March 15th 2018</b>
<b>Preselection of applications</b>	<b>March 15th, 2018</b>
<b>Selected applications will receive by email a Full Application Dossier to complete and send</b>	<b>Up to May 04th, 2018</b>
<b>Examination of Full Dossier Applications by the Scientific Committee</b>	<b>May 08th 2018</b>
<b>Final Decision and Communication to the applicants</b>	<b>May 15th</b>
<b>Establishment of Financing Agreements</b>	<b>May 15th - June 15th</b>
<b>Start of research projects</b>	<b>June 15th - October 15th</b>

## 11.SCIENTIFIC AND FINANCIAL FOLLOW-UP- VALUATION OF THE RESEARCH

Accurate, scientific and financial interim reports will have to be produced by the project scientific leader according to the timetable agreed in the agreement of funding. The satisfactory progress of the project (compared to the steps outlined in the grant application form) and the respect of the planned budget will condition the payment of the following funding. A final research report of the results must be produced by the project leader respectively 6 months and 3 months after the end of the project. According to the duration of the project, works related to the project (s) funded (s) will have to be the object of at least 1 scientific publication. Publications relative to the intermediate stages of the project and to its terminal realization are encouraged. Research scientists are deeply encouraged to propose scientific communications in national and international congresses. The team(s) of research scientists will commit to mention the support of BINC-Geneva in all the publications and communications in connection with the funded project.