



Drawing on a long tradition and renowned expertise in tackling health and biology issues, the mission of the Institut Merieux is to improve patient care worldwide with innovative solutions derived from biological knowledge and relevant technologies (www.institut-merieux.com).

Institut Mérieux is a holding merging four main companies, bioMérieux (*in vitro* diagnostics and industrial microbiology control), Transgene (immunotherapy, therapeutic vaccines, oncolytic viruses), Advanced Bioscience Laboratories, Inc. (ABL), (bioengineering and CMO), and Mérieux Nutrisciences (food safety and nutrition). Institut Merieux' strategic fields of interest are : infectious diseases, cancer biomarkers and immunotherapy, food and water safety, nutrition with a particular focus on the suspected links between metabolism and microbiota.

In this context, Institut Mérieux has launched the Mérieux Research Grants Programme to support potentially disruptive conceptual and technological research in its fields of interest, and seeks for fertile partnerships with renowned scientists and medical doctors. This call aims at building a worldwide research community with a strong interest in public health.

The Merieux Research Grants are flexible (i.e. can be used for consumables, equipment, salaries and/or travel expenses), and open to any established scientist from academic and private research institutions. Applications from pharma/biotech entities are not eligible. Grants are primarily allocated to proposals submitted by a single established principal investigator (with proven ability to run competitive research in an independent fashion). Collaborative projects from two PIs are eligible (though not prioritized) : in such a case, grants from successful applications will be allocated to the hosting institution of the main PI. Since the primary objective of the Merieux Research Grant call is to initiate a collaboration with the holding that could be possibly pursued with particular companies from the Institut-Merieux Group, requests for Merieux Research Grants renewal are generally rejected. Only one proposal can be submitted to a given evaluation session by a given PI.

Grants are awarded upon assessment of a short (seven pages) proposal. Evaluation is carried out three times a year by internal and external experts (deadline for submission : January 29, 2016 / May 20, 2016 / October 14, 2016). The selection is stringent with an approximate 5-10% rate of acceptance. The whole selection process takes about 4-6 months. Money for the first year is allocated between 3 to 12 months after decision of acceptance (depending on further negotiations between the Institut Merieux and the hosting institution of the Principal Investigator).

Institut Mérieux will not claim any intellectual property rights but will however request a free right of first refusal to negotiate a license on the results of the funded research project.

Should the exploitation of such results be also subject to the use of pre-existing intellectual property rights belonging or licensed to the Grant Applicant, said Grant Applicant shall necessarily clearly identify within its Grant Application such pre-existing intellectual property rights and their associated conditions of access.

Depending on the scope and maturity of the project, and track record of the applicant, two types of Merieux research Grants are proposed :

- 1° - The "Advanced" Mérieux Research Grants provide a financial support from 100,000 euros to 200,000 euros for two years (i.e. 50,000 to 100,000 euros per year)
- 2° - The "Starting" Mérieux Research Grants provide 40,000 euros for two years (i.e. 20,000 euros per year)

Whatever the type of grants, the application should provide the informations detailed below, using templates that can be downloaded from the Institut Merieux website. The overall length of the application should not exceed 7 pages (Arial 11, single space). Any application that does not respect this length constraint will not be reviewed.

- 1) Information on the Principal Investigator (name, first name, title, gender, nationality, current faculty/institute /department/laboratory, phone and e-mail contact details).
- 2) Description of the Project (title, keywords, state of the art, preliminary and expected results, methods and workplan, ethical issues if applicable, expected translation into innovative tools and technologies, budget (consumables, equipment, salaries and/or travel).
- 3) Information on other participants (name, title, positions).
- 4) Information on potential subcontractors (third party which has entered into an agreement on business conditions with one or more participants and that may be related to the submitted project in the absence of direct supervision of the PI or without a relationship of subordination to the PI); (name, position and e-mail contact details).
- 5) Information on the administrative official of the host institution (if applicable; person representing the host institution for intellectual property); (name, position, phone and e-mail contact details).
- 6) Brief description, if available, of the intellectual property policy relevant for the Principal Investigator, his(her) team and subcontractors; repartition of this property among the participants and the host institution, if applicable, existing pre-existing intellectual property rights and their associated conditions of access.
- 7) CV (half page biosketch) and main achievements (15 relevant publications maximum) prizes, awards, patents, involvement in main steering committees, study sections and/or editorial boards)

Before submitting a Grant application to Institut Mérieux, please be informed that this call is associated with the following non-negotiable conditions:

1. As mentioned above, Institut Mérieux (or any of its designated affiliates) shall benefit from a free right of first refusal to negotiate a license on the results of the research project funded by Institut Mérieux.

2. The lump sum granted is a maximum amount, which **includes a maximum overhead rate of 10%** from your organization.
3. Institut Mérieux will request a binding statement of the host institution establishing the conditions of independence of the Principal Investigator. This binding statement can be sent at a later stage for successful applications only.
4. **Attendance to a two-day annual seminar held in Annecy (France), which gathers scientists awarded by the Institut Merieux with ongoing grants, is mandatory to receive the second year funding allocation.**
5. **Issuance by the Grantee and communication to Institut Mérieux of a final Report at the end of the research conducted under the Project funded.**
6. The Grant agreement shall be **governed by French law and submitted to French jurisdictions.**
7. The negotiation of the Grant Agreement has to be finalized at the latest 12 months after the sending date of the Grant Acceptance. Beyond this period, the Institut Mérieux Grant offer will be deemed null and void.

Information:

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