

START-UP PROGRAM

Call for proposals & Application guidelines

Institute of Physiology aims to attract the best talents by offering junior researchers a career track enabling them to build their team and pursue independent research, with the option of obtaining a permanent position.

The applicants will be selected on the basis of merit and their capacity to link with the Institute's current line of research. Applicants are expected to pursue novel approaches that would not merely extend or duplicate Institute's current research program. Instead, they are encouraged to venture into fields and/or techniques that have not yet been established at the Institute.

The program imposes no limitations on nationality or origin of the applicants, and is primarily focused on researchers after postdoctoral training. Researchers previously affiliated with the Institute may also apply, provided they comply with the program's requirements and scope.

The start-up grants are intended as prestigious ones and will not be necessarily awarded every year. The call will be typically open in January/February with deadline in March and the results announced in September.

ELIGIBILITY

2-12 years after PhD graduation (excluding maternity leave), as of the application deadline (31 March).

SELECTION CRITERIA

- a) Postdoctoral training, ideally outside the Czech Republic and/or the country where the candidate has obtained his/her PhD
- b) Publication record
- c) Research proposal
- d) Intellectual independence, as documented, e.g., a shift/broadening of research interest after PhD, by previous awards, or corresponding author paper published without applicant's PhD supervisor
- e) Capability to attract funding, especially prestigious funding such as Marie Curie Career Integration Grant, ERC, ERC-CZ, Wellcome Trust's International Senior Research Fellowship, EMBO Installation Grant and the like, or funding by Czech grant agencies such as GAČR (Czech Science Foundation, <http://www.gacr.cz/>) and TAČR (Technology Agency of the Czech Republic, <http://www.tacr.cz/>) will represent a significant advantage. However, the start-up grant may be awarded without additional funding for up to two years with further extension pending on applicant's success in funding competition).

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Stage 1

The following credentials must be submitted electronically to Institute's office (fgu@biomed.cas.cz) by 31st March.

- a) Letter of intent briefly describing the project (two pages)
- b) Professional CV
- c) List of publications
- d) PhD graduation certificate/diploma
- e) Two letters of recommendation (e.g., PhD supervisor, postdoctoral mentor)

Note: Applicants intending to apply (with the Institute of Physiology) for external funding, which would require Institute's support such as co-financing or provision of space (e.g., ERC or Marie Curie Integration grants) are encouraged to contact Institute of Physiology well in advance so that they can submit their application to Institute of Physiology at least **six months** ahead of the external funding application deadline. The applicants may also consider application for Institutional equipment funding (June).

Stage 2

Applicants pre-selected in Stage 1 will be invited to submit full project proposals (max. 15 pages) to fgu@biomed.cas.cz, within 30 days of notification. The proposal should include (i) introduction; (ii) goals; (iii) hypotheses; (iv) implementation; (v) required space, equipment and personnel; (vi) expected impact; and (vii) timeline including starting date which must fall between 1st January and 31st December of the following year. They will be also invited to present a public lecture introducing the project at the Institute of Physiology.

EVALUATION PROCEDURE

Applications selected for Stage 2 will be evaluated by a Board of Experts appointed by the Institute for each call with respect to the specifics of the projects. The Board shall provide a detailed written evaluation of each application, describing the academic merit and potential benefit for the Institute. The composition of the Board and the selection of the winning candidate(s) will be at the discretion of the Council of the Institute. The results will be announced no later than 30th September, pending approval of Institute's fiscal year budget for the following year. The Institute reserves the right to select no candidate.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING THE GRANT

Duration

Two to five years (see SELECTION CRITERIA - paragraph "e")

Salary (taxable)

approx. 30 000 CZK per month; Institute's remuneration rules apply (exact salary depending on candidate's experience and research performance). Additional salary supplements may be covered by external funding.

Flat-rate contribution

CZK 400,000 annually to be used at grant recipient's discretion, providing Institutes' accounting rules are observed.

Career track

The grant recipient and his/her team acquire the status of a Junior Team Leader and a Junior Team, respectively. The project cannot be transferred to another person, neither it is possible to transfer the project to another institution. Junior teams will be evaluated once in three years. Transformation of a junior team to a standard (senior) team will be decided by the Council of the Institute no later than six years from the junior team's starting date. Additionally, the team leader will obtain a permanent position at the Institute, providing a productive team (including students) is built, able to attract external funding and producing steady publication record. Unsuccessful teams (no external funding, no publications) will be dissolved.

Space and equipment

The junior team leader will sign a contract with the Institute outlining team's allocated equipment and laboratory/office space, including provisions in case of team's dissolution for reasons stated above. In case of a successful transformation into a standard (senior) team the space and equipment may be retained. The junior team members may also use Institute's shared equipment. If equipment of other teams (laboratories) is essential, a written agreement between the junior team leader and the head of

the relevant team will be required. The agreement should outline details of such equipment use in terms of space, time, maintenance and running cost, and ideally also (co)authorship of future publications linked to such equipment sharing. The junior team leader may also apply for Institute's or Academy of Sciences' funds to purchase new equipment.