



IRP RESEARCH GRANTS 2024-2026

Overview

Fondazione Città della Speranza – Onlus (CDS) offers funds to support novel and cutting-edge paediatric research within the Paediatric Research Institute Città della Speranza (IRP). Following the success of previous years, this call will offer a total of 3.3 million euros to sustain the best clinical and translational research projects that aim to prevent paediatric pathologies and accelerate diagnosis and therapeutic innovation for childhood diseases.

What we fund

IRP will manage the research funding and intend to provide support for research projects aimed to advance the treatment of paediatric diseases.

Consistent with IRP's mission, preference criteria include:

1. clear translational approach of research;
2. applicability in the short term to clinical practice;
3. collaboration with paediatric clinics;
4. interdisciplinarity;

IRP will consider research proposals for the 2024-2026 research grant program in the following four categories:

1. IRP Starting Grant (IRP-StG-2024);
2. IRP Consolidator Grant (IRP-CoG-2024);
3. IRP Advanced Grant (IRP-AdG-2024);
4. IRP Moving Grant (IRP-MoG-2024).

Researchers must demonstrate the cutting-edge and ground-breaking nature, strong translational perspective, ambition and feasibility of their scientific research proposal.

Detailed policies for all grant categories

1. IRP Starting Grant (IRP-StG-2024)

The IRP Starting Grant supports talented early-career scientists who are starting their own independent research team or program. Researchers must have already produced excellent supervised work, been ready to work independently and showed potential to be a future emerging research leader.

Who can apply?

A competitive Starting Grant Investigator is an IRP-based researcher or MD of any nationality with at least 2 years of experience since completion of his/her PhD or of his/her specialization degree (prior to January 1st, 2024).



Applicants must be 40 years old or younger by the time of the pre-submission application's deadline.

Applicants must have shown potential research independence and evidence of maturity, for example by having achieved at least one important publication as main author in major international peer-reviewed multidisciplinary scientific journals, or in the leading international peer-reviewed journals of their respective field.

Past My first and Starting IRP Grant recipients are not eligible to apply.

Only IRP-based researchers and MDs from Azienda Ospedale of Padova are eligible to apply.

Applicants should also be able to demonstrate a promising track-record of early achievements appropriate to their research field and career stage.

Funding and Duration

For this call, IRP Starting Grant projects will be funded up to a maximum of 170.000 € per project for a period of three years.

It's mandatory that recipients commit themselves to participate in awareness and fundraising events promoted by the Fondazione Città della Speranza Onlus and IRP for the duration of the project.

2. IRP Consolidator Grant (IRP-CoG-2024)

The IRP Consolidator Grant supports excellent researchers who want to consolidate their own independent research team or programme and continuing to develop a success career.

Who can apply?

A competitive Consolidator Grant Investigator is an IRP-based researcher or MD of any nationality with at least 7 years of experience since completion of his/her PhD or of his/her specialization Degree (prior to January 1st, 2024). In addition, interested applicants must have already shown research independence and evidence of maturity, by having produced several important publications as main author and at least one publication as last author in major international peer-reviewed multidisciplinary scientific journals, or in the leading international peer-reviewed journals of their respective field.

Past Consolidator IRP Grant recipients 2021-2023 are not eligible to apply.

Only IRP-based researchers and MDs from Azienda Ospedale of Padova are eligible to apply.

Applicants should also be able to demonstrate a promising track-record of early achievements appropriate to their research field and career stage. They should also demonstrate a record of invited presentations in well-established international conferences, granted patents, awards, prizes, etc.



Funding and Duration

For this call, IRP Consolidator Grant projects will be funded up to a maximum of 250.000 € per project for a period of three years.

The projects are co-financed to 20% by companies identified by the Fondazione Città della Speranza Onlus. It's mandatory that recipients periodically update the supporting companies on the implementation of the projects and participate in awareness and fundraising events selected by the Fondazione Città della Speranza Onlus and IRP for the duration of the project.

3. IRP Advanced Grant (IRP-AdG-2024)

The IRP Advanced Grant supports exceptional Researchers at the career stage at which they are already established research leaders with a recognised track-record of research achievements.

Who can apply?

A competitive Advanced Grant Investigator is an IRP researcher or MD of any nationality with a track-record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years. In addition, interested applicants must have already shown exceptional leadership in terms of originality and significance of their research contributions for example by having produced at least ten important publications as main author and several publications as last author in major international peer-reviewed multidisciplinary scientific journals, or in the leading international peer-reviewed journals of their respective field. No specific eligibility criteria with respect to the academic requirements are foreseen.

IRP Grant 2021-2023 recipients who have been granted an extension and/or still have a remaining funding of > 20% are not eligible to apply (before 15 September 2023).

Only IRP-based researchers and MDs from Azienda Ospedale of Padova are eligible to apply.

Applicants should also be able to demonstrate a promising track-record of early achievements appropriate to their research field and career stage. They should also demonstrate a record of invited presentations in well-established international conferences, granted patents, awards, prizes, etc.

Funding and Duration

For this call, IRP Advanced Grant projects will be funded up to a maximum of 340,000 € per project for a period of three years.

The projects are co-financed to 20% by companies identified by the Fondazione Città della Speranza Onlus. It's mandatory that recipients periodically update the supporting companies on the implementation of the projects and participate in awareness and fundraising events selected by the by the Fondazione Città della Speranza Onlus and IRP for the duration of the project.



4. IRP Moving Grant (IRP-MoG-2024)

The IRP Moving Grant supports talented early-career scientists who have completed their PhD or their specialization degree and want to work in a research institute in Italy or abroad to obtain excellent technical and professional skills not available in their hosting institution.

Who can apply?

A competitive Moving Grant Investigator is an IRP-based researcher or MD of any nationality with 0 - 5 years of experience since completion of his/her PhD or specialization degree (graduation date prior to January 1st, 2024). In addition, interested applicants must have produced excellent supervised work, for example by having achieved at least one important publication in major international peer-reviewed multidisciplinary scientific journals, or in the leading international peer-reviewed journals of their respective field.

Past Moving Grant, My first and Starting IRP Grant recipients are not eligible to apply.

Only IRP-based researchers and MDs from Azienda Ospedale of Padova are eligible to apply.

Applicants should also be able to demonstrate a promising track-record of early achievements appropriate to their research field and career stage.

Funding and Duration

For this call, IRP Moving Grant projects will be funded up to a maximum of 60.000 € per project for a period of one year.

IRP will only support researchers' salary and two return trips. The salary amount will be estimated accordingly to the country where the hosting institution is based.

It's mandatory that recipients commit themselves to participate in awareness and fundraising events promoted by the Fondazione Città della Speranza Onlus and IRP for the duration of the project.

General policies for all grant categories

Project timeline

The IRP Research Grants 2024-2026 calls open on October 10th, 2023.

The IRP Grant Office must receive all applications by November 10th, 2023 via email at grantoffice@irpcds.org. Applicants are encouraged to submit applications before the due date to ensure they have time to make any required corrections necessary for a successful submission.



Indicatively, applicants will be informed via email by the end of January 2024 and the research projects must commence by February 2024.

Titles and lay abstracts of the funded projects will also be posted online on the IRP website .

Application procedure

A research proposal will only be considered eligible if it meets all of the following sections and conditions:

- it is submitted via email at grantoffice@irpcds.org using the provided application form available on the IRP website at the following URL: <http://www.irpcds.org/grants> before the deadline, 10th November 2023, 6 pm Rome time;
- it is written in English and must not exceed 15 pages (Times New Roman 12, single line-spaced; abstract, tables, figures and references included). References and figure legends should be in Times New Roman 10;
- it is submitted by an eligible participant (see eligibility information in section “Who can apply?” of each grant category);
- the content of the proposal relates to the call topic (see section “What we fund”);
- requested contribution is within the funding limits specified in each call category (see section “Funding and Duration”);
- it is complete of all elements forming the application (templates provided):
 - the research proposal;
 - the applicant’s CV;
 - a list of the five most important publications in the last five years;
 - an acceptance letter from the Principal Investigator of the IRP host laboratory;
 - an acceptance letter from the foreign or Italian Host Institution (IRP Moving Grant only).
 - a list of the call of proposals to which they have applied in the past three years (Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grants only);
- A single PDF file of the research plan and supporting documentation is required to submit a complete application.

Applicants will receive a confirmation email from the Grant Office within 48 hours from the application deadline.



Applications that are incomplete, do not adhere to the required formatting, are not presented according to the application procedures and do not respect eligibility requirements and deadline, will not be reviewed.

Evaluation and selection

The following evaluation procedure will apply:

1. Pre-selection step: the IRP Scientific Direction will perform an eligibility check of the full proposal according to the above-mentioned conditions;
2. Selection step: evaluation of eligible full proposals will be carried out with the assistance of a scientific review committee.

The Review Committee will record his scientific opinion on each assigned proposal and will score the following evaluation criteria:

- scientific excellence of the approach, novelty and potential impact of the research project;
- feasibility, specific objectives, methodology, anticipated achievements and outputs of the proposed research project;
- adequate timescales, resources, requested budget and PI commitment for the proposed research project;
- identification of potential risks and risk mitigation plan;
- applicant's CV, expertise, track-record and publications;
- working arrangements, associated collaborations, partnerships or co-funding;
- host laboratory's track-record.

The evaluation is unchallengeable; however, the applicant may request a feedback of his/her project.

Funding duration

The period of funding and the award budget depend on the grant type (see each grant category).

A higher score will be awarded to projects that provide co-funding.

It is mandatory to specify whether external co-funding, in terms of value, personnel, equipment and external services, are available at the time of application. Co-funding does not comprise of in-kind contributions provided by third parties free of charge and costs of linked third parties.



Fondazione
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PEDIATRICA**

Contact information

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