

FJL Grants program

Session 2021B – Down syndrome

Guide for applicants

Important dates:

- **August 09th 2021:** deadline for the online submission
- **September – October 2021:** evaluation of the applications by the Scientific Board
- **November 2021:** results are transmitted to the applicants
- **From December 2021 - January 2022:** Start of contracts

Electronic proposal submission

Applications should be submitted through our grants management system.

Please follow the link [APPLY FOR THE AUTUMN CALL](#) on our website.

Contacts

conseilscientifique@fondationlejeune.org

Aim and scope of the call

The aim of the call is to support and strengthen research that will address important fundamental and translational questions related to Down syndrome. Our grants program supports fundamental, translational and clinical research projects that will lead to better understanding of the pathomechanisms underlying Down syndrome, the identification of potential therapeutic targets, innovation in the development of treatments and, preclinical testing of efficacy and safety of new treatments.

Research proposals should cover at least one of the following areas:

- Fundamental research aimed at uncovering the causal link between gene expression and physical and cognitive disabilities in people with Down syndrome and research addressing the aetiology, pathogenesis and progression of Down syndrome.
- Translational research that can have a positive impact on the well-being of patients.
- Clinical research with the potential to generate novel strategies for diagnosis, therapy and/or rehabilitation.
- Epidemiological and neuropsychology studies.
- Clinical research including early phase clinical studies, ancillary studies based on initiated or completed clinical trials, and studies involving patients in the pathophysiological analysis of their disease.
- Projects that explore in the context of Down syndrome, other pathologies like Alzheimer's disease and leukaemia which affect also non-Down syndrome individuals. Any new knowledge and/or potential therapy derived from such a project, will ultimately benefit the general population.

Applicants eligibility

- Principal investigators of any nationality and that hold a long-term appointment within an academic institution (e.g. university, hospital, research center), at least for the duration of the research project.
- Applicants must demonstrate an excellent track record and submit an outstanding proposal.
- Applicants must hold a PhD, MD, PsyD or equivalent degree at the moment of the application.
- Applicants should demonstrate that they have the scientific or medical expertise required to conduct the project, or else that appropriate collaborations are in place.
- Applicants must adhere to the principle that the funds provided by the Jerome Lejeune Foundation cannot in any way be used to purchase or make use of human embryonic or foetal tissues or another biological material obtained through abortions, IVF or human cloning or to create new human germinal cells.

Evaluation criteria

Projects will initially be checked to ensure that they meet the formal criteria of the call (e.g. date of submission, scope, eligibility, budget). Proposals not meeting the formal criteria will be rejected at this time.

Projects be evaluated and ranked by the Scientific Advisory Board of the Jerome Lejeune Foundation. External experts will be asked to evaluate the projects if necessary. Selection will be based on compliance with the eligibility criteria, scientific excellence, novelty, feasibility and potential impact on clinical or therapeutic applications.

The Board of Directors of the Jerome Lejeune Foundation will take the final decision based upon the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Board and external reviewers.

Types of grants

- **Pilot or exploratory grants** (40.000 € for up to 2 years) aimed at early stage research projects built on preliminary data or small projects that complement primary larger projects.
- **Advanced grants** (80.000 € for up to 2 years), for larger breakthrough projects with substantial preliminary data.

Elements of the application (as they appear in the application management system)

Important: this is intended to help you gather all the necessary elements for the online application. It is an example, not to be completed.

General Information

In its grant-making program, the Jerome Lejeune Foundation funds research projects aimed at discovering treatments to improve the lives of those living with genetic intellectual disabilities, especially Down syndrome. These projects can be in the fields of neuroscience or genetics, including molecular biology, behavioural science, etc. Some international very high level and renowned scientific meetings or workshops could be part of this application.

Process and Restrictions

- The research project will be reviewed by the Scientific Advisory Board of the Jerome Lejeune Foundation. The Board of Directors of the Jerome Lejeune Foundation will make a final decision of projects funded based upon the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Board, and the amount allocated for each grant.

- The grant funds must be used by the recipient within the duration of the Grant Agreement. In case of credit balance at the end of the term, the residual amount must be reimbursed to the Jerome Lejeune Foundation per the terms of the Grant Agreement.

- In the scope of its research mission related to genetic intellectual disabilities, the Jerome Lejeune Foundation collects the personal data from the researchers who are submitting a grant application dossier.

The processing of personal data from researchers is performed for the legitimate purpose of supporting the evaluation of the grant application dossier and the selection of the candidates, the management of the relationship with applicants and successful candidates, as well as the promotion of the research projects and of the Jerome Lejeune Foundation.

We do not transmit the personal data from researchers to any recipient other than the members of the staff of the Jerome Lejeune Foundation in charge of the management of the research projects, or the members of the Scientific Committee.

The data is stored for a maximum duration of ten years following the end of the relationship or contract between the researcher and the Jerome Lejeune Foundation.

If you are a researcher concerned by the processing of your data, you can at any time object, or exercise a right to restriction of its processing. You can also exercise a right of access, a right to rectification or to erasure of your data. For any request please contact us at the email address dpo@institutlejeune.org

You have also the right to lodge a complaint with the data protection supervisory authority from the country where you are established. Please consult the web site <https://edpb.europa.eu> to find more information about your supervisory authority.

Criteria for submission/Eligibility

- The request has to fall within the topic of the call for grants.
- **Reminder:** An investigator cannot apply if he already has an ongoing project funded by the Jerome Lejeune Foundation.
- If a new proposal is the continuation of a project previously funded by the Jerome Lejeune Foundation, the title, year/session and results of the previous project should be clearly indicated.
- The investigator must hold a long-term appointment in a hospital, university or research laboratory.
- The request to fund salaries must be less or equal to 50% of the total amount of the grant.

Scholarships are not authorized.

- The request must strictly comply with the laws and regulations in force, including IRB/Ethics committee approval where necessary, etc.
- Projects must not make use of human embryonic or foetal tissue, or any other biological material obtained through direct abortion, IVF or human cloning. The Jerome Lejeune Foundation cannot be associated in any way with such a work.

Applications which do not fulfil all of these criteria will not be considered.

For potential validated clinical research project, please send the electronic files/documents below, with the applicant's name, to the following email address: conseilscientifique@fondationlejeune.org

- Final protocol and informed consent form
- Ethics committee/IRB approval
- Justification of FDA information + registration number
- Insurance certificate

If the application is accepted by the Scientific Advisory Board, the grant will be allowed only after receiving the above documents.

INVESTIGATOR – ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Name (Last, First):

Gender:

Year of birth:

Nationality: *Drop down menu*

Phone:

Fax:

LABORATORY / TEAM / DEPARTMENT

Official's name (*Name of laboratory*):

Manager (*Head of laboratory*):

Name of the head of research (*Grant applicant*):

Hospital, University, Institute....:

Type: *Drop down menu*

Unit, Department, Service... (*Although not indicated in the application, please add here the name of the Head of the Unit/Department/Service*):

Address:

Zip Code:

City:

Country: *Drop down menu*

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

RESEARCH PROJECT SUMMARY AND CLASSIFICATION

Pilot or advanced: *Drop down menu*

Research project title *(160 characters max, including spaces):*

Name of the Head of Research *(Grant applicant):*

Training background of people involved in this project: *(Please indicate only the names here. The complete information will be demanded in chapter 5 of the scientific file).*

Abstract of the research project *(250 words):*

Target disease(s) of the research project: *Drop down menu*

Keywords of the research project *(4 maximum):*

Main orientation of the research project: *Drop down menu*

Secondary orientation of the research project: *Drop down menu*

If project on samples / patients, please precise the recruitment procedures:

Is it a clinical research program? *Yes/No. If yes, please answer the questions below.*

Any data linked to specific patients or specific patients 'data must be considered as a Clinical Research project.

The documents listed in "Clinical Research" menu (page 3) will be required if the project is accepted.

Drug to be used *(if applicable):*

Date of first enrolment (already done or planned):

Enrolment duration:

DETAILED FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

The amounts must include all taxes.

* For any administrative costs/services, a maximum of 10% of the grant is allowed.

** Salaries: - a maximum of 50% of the grant is allowed. No scholarship.

Requested amount

(euros VAT included):

- 1) Installation, major and small equipment
- 2) Administrative costs/services* (*including overheads*)
- 3) Congress, conferences and travels
- 4) Salaries** (No scholarship)

Total

Requested granting period

years(s)

1) Installation, major and small equipment

Description of installation, equipment and consumables.

2) Administrative costs/services *

Description of overheads

10% maximum of the grant allowed.

3) Congress, conference, travels

Description of meetings and travels

5% maximum of the grant allowed.

4) Salaries ** (No scholarship)

Description of salaries.

50% maximum of the grant allowed. No scholarship. No salary for the Principal Investigator.

CAUTION: Please follow the above instructions and check each expenditure item before validation of the budget.

5) Total budget of the research project

Including the grant requested to the Jerome Lejeune Foundation

Please, precise the planned + confirmed additional project budget breakdown if any:

**Your commitment to abide by the ethical principles of the Jerome Lejeune Foundation in this project is required before you may be considered for funding.
In applying:**

- I acknowledge that should the Jerome Lejeune Foundation decides to provide funding for this project, the foundation and/or its administrators or assigns will not be responsible in any way for the material or immaterial results obtained, or for the quality or durability of products or services obtained by myself or those working within this research program,
- I acknowledge that fair principles of research: data, code and materials generated throughout this project shall be findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable,
- I assume full responsibility for the anticipated or unanticipated results of this research, whatever they may be,
- I affirm that the funds provided by the Jerome Lejeune Foundation cannot in any way be used to purchase or make use of human embryonic or foetal tissues or another biological material obtained through direct abortions, IVF or human cloning or to create new human germinal cells. The Jerome Lejeune Foundation does not agree to be associated with such a work,
- I notice that I will have to follow the academic and national Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) (i.e. all measures that ensure, during the all research, quality, traceability and integrity of the data),
- I agree to the possible visit by a Jerome Lejeune Foundation representative for observation of the research project and its progress,
- I agree to acknowledge the Jerome Lejeune Foundation in publications related to this grant (print publication, poster presentation, oral communications, etc.). Publications must be communicated to the Jerome Lejeune Foundation: conseilscientifique@fondationlejeune.org and uploaded on the application,
- In order to help the Jerome Lejeune Foundation to prepare a communication, I am committed to inform the Jerome Lejeune Foundation about any future publication(s) regarding my funded research project. Of course, this communication will be effective only once the official release of the said publication,
- If funded, I approve the communication of my name, title of the research project and name of the University/Institute. To this end, I am communicating the title to be disclosed in the JLejeune Foundation website www.research.fondationlejeune.org under section "Research funding".
- I certify as accurate all information mentioned in this grant application.

I ACCEPT ALL THE ABOVE-MENTIONED CONDITIONS

"I have read the conditions under which my personal data are processed by the Jérôme Lejeune Foundation, and have obtained the agreement of the other persons whose name appears in this file".

In this section you must click accept in order to continue with the application. Please follow the specifications for the scientific file and CV listed below.

SCIENTIFIC FILE STRUCTURE: CHAPTERS HEADINGS

Maximum 10 pages for chapters 1-7; chapters 8 and 9 are not considered for the maximum number of pages. Font: Arial, 10; Line spacing: single spaced. Format: PDF, DOC, DOCX (PDF is our preferred format). Please add a header indicating Title, Name of applicant, Date.

- 1 – General presentation: Academic track record, current state of knowledge within the research field.
- 2 – Scientific hypothesis: objective(s), rationale of the project (highlighting originality and novelty and publications within the same topic).
- 3 – Preliminary results.
- 4 – Experimental plan (aims, methodology (including design justification, power and statistical analysis), material and methods including statistics, if applicable: patient population definition and accessibility).
- 5 – Team description and ability to run this project (*we recommend using a table format as shown below*).

Last name	First name	Current position	Role & responsibilities in the project	Involvement duration (in months).
e.g. Karr	Axel	technician	Behaviour; Management of mouse colonies	24

Describe here also your choice of animal model:

If possible, two animal models should be justified and tested in parallel. Otherwise, the choice of a single model must be justified. Moreover, the immediate or delayed availability (ex: purchase...) should be specified.

- 6 – Time schedule. *Can be shown as a Gantt chart.*
- 7 – Expected results, including potential therapeutic/clinical applications.
- 8 – If applicable, Legal authorizations.
- 9 – Bibliography, and team publications (at least 5 publications from the team). *Starting labs might list less than 5 publications. Use a full citation style for all the references. Please include DOI or active PubMed links for the team publications only.*

Curriculum vitae

Applicants must upload their CV containing the following information (if possible, max. 4 pages):

PERSONAL INFORMATION *Please indicate:*

Name, date of birth, nationality

- EDUCATION *In reverse chronological order, indicate:*

Year, degree name, institution, country

- CURRENT AND PREVIOUS POSITIONS *In reverse chronological order, indicate:*

Year(s), name of position held, institution, country

- FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS *In reverse chronological order, indicate:*

Year, fellowship/award name

- PUBLICATIONS *In reverse chronological order.*

- SUPERVISION OF GRADUATE STUDENTS AND POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS *(if applicable) indicate:*

Year, number of students and postdoctoral fellows.

- TEACHING ACTIVITIES *(if applicable) indicate:*

Year, position, topic, name of university/institution, country.

- ORGANISATION OF SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS *(if applicable) indicate:*

Year, role, name of the event, country.

- INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES *(if applicable, e.g. Member of a committee, Organiser of internal seminar, etc)*

- REVIEWING ACTIVITIES *(if applicable)*

- MEMBERSHIPS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES *(if applicable)*

- MAJOR COLLABORATIONS *(if applicable)*