

**Launch of a first**  
**International Call for Projects**  
**focused on**  
**Bioproduction Breakthroughs in Gene Therapy Technologies**

AFM-Téléthon is pleased to announce the launching of its first international call for proposals for Research Projects on **Bioproduction Breakthroughs in Gene Therapy Technologies**. This call will open **June 4<sup>th</sup> 2018** to any project aimed at initiating, optimizing or translating disruptive research toward large-scale production of gene therapy viral vectors (notably AAV, lentivirus...), with emphasis on vectors that can accommodate large transgenes. **Projects will be evaluated in two steps**. The first step will be for the applicant to declare its intention to apply (see “How to apply” below) before the evaluation of a detailed application. **The deadline for such declaration is by latest July 6<sup>th</sup> 2018. Selected applicants will be informed on mid-September 2018 and will have until October 26<sup>th</sup> 2018 to complete their application. Final selection is expected to be announced by the end 2018/early 2019.**

For more than 30 years, AFM-Téléthon has supported research on several innovative therapeutic approaches. Among those, gene therapies have shown impressive progress, including in the field of neuromuscular disorders.

Nevertheless, further development is hampered by several limitations, including:

- Vectors with limited encapsulation capacities.
- Treatments of large tissues and large populations of patients require production capacities that must be substantially improved in terms of yields and cost. The current technologies have shown their limits.

AFM-Téléthon is launching this call to promote innovative research in the field of vectorology and gene therapy tool production, with a clear industrial potential. New producer cell lines, disruptive methods of production are among the possibilities the present call wishes to explore. Projects with the greatest potential to be translated into an industrial application will be favored.

**The selected projects will be subject to a collaboration agreement with AFM-Téléthon that will define among others the terms and conditions of the co-ownership and use of the project’s results.**

**About the call**

- The call is open to international researchers
- Collaborative projects can be submitted

- Industrial applicants are also eligible
- Project grants of up to 3-year duration will be funded
- No budget limitation according to novelty and quality of the project
- Funding will be available for salaries (including post-doc, excluding PhD students and permanent position personnel), consumables, subcontracting and possibly equipment
- Projects with co-funding will be accepted
- The selected projects will be subjected to collaboration agreement that will define among others the terms and conditions of the co-ownership and use of the project's results
- Submitted projects will be evaluated through a rigorous peer review process with input from independent external reviewers and experts from AFM-Téléthon Scientific Council
- Upon conclusion of the review process, the AFM-Téléthon Board will decide which of the fundable projects will be awarded
- Excluded topics:
  - Marginal modification of existing vectors
  - Minimal change of culture medium composition
  - Non-viral vectors

### **How to apply**

If you are interested in applying to this new Bioproduction Breakthroughs in Gene Therapy Technologies Call, please follow the proposal preparation instructions on the AFM-Téléthon website:

<http://www.afm-telethon.com/research/calls-for-proposals/current-calls-for-proposals.html>

If you have any queries regarding the call or the application process, please contact Jean-François Briand at [jfbriand@afm-telethon.fr](mailto:jfbriand@afm-telethon.fr)