

Call for research projects 2026
From AFMF association

"Fanconi anaemia" Biomedical Sciences

Maximum budget: **100 000 €** - Maximum duration: **24 months**

Deadline: **07/01/2027 - 5pm** (Paris time)

Your profile must be created on the application platform prior to any application (instructions p3).

Context

Due to the specificities of the field of rare diseases, the Association Française de la Maladie de Fanconi (AFMF) and the Fondation Maladies Rares (Foundation For Rare Diseases - FFRD) have agreed on a **partnership to support and stimulate research on Fanconi anaemia** (network(s): MaRIH, EuroBloodNet).

AFMF¹ is a non-profit organization under the French Law of 1901 recognized as being in the public interest. It was founded in 1990 by families directly affected by Fanconi anaemia. Since its inception, it has worked for and with families to help them live as well as possible with this very rare genetic disorder. Regular publications—guidance sheets, newsletters—and several annual events, held either to enable families to meet and interact with medical specialists or to raise funds for research, help create a positive, dynamic, and supportive environment for all affected families, thereby facilitating their understanding and management of this serious and complex disease.

AFMF has a 11-member Board of Directors that meets once a month and a 10-member Scientific Advisory Board that assists and advises the association on the allocation of the funds it raises for research.

FFRD² is a private non-profit organization, founded in 2012³ by five members⁴, with the aim of helping to (i) deciphering rare diseases to facilitate diagnosis and accelerate the development of new treatments, (ii) improve the daily lives of people with disease and their loved ones. Its mission is of general interest: to lead, coordinate and support research on rare diseases. It provides free support to patient organizations in their efforts to promote rare diseases research, for example through joint calls for projects such as the one proposed here.

Aim of the call

Fanconi anaemia is a rare, severe, incurable, and progressive genetic disorder. It is inherited mainly in an autosomal recessive pattern and is associated with chromosomal instability. It is characterized by a very high degree of genotypic and phenotypic heterogeneity. This disease is one of the so-called "DNA-breaking" disorders, in which there is impairment in 1) DNA repair mechanisms, 2) cell cycle control, 3) oxidative metabolism, and 4) gene expression.

This call aims to support **innovative, fundamental, translational or clinical research programs** on Fanconi anaemia.

All disciplines in **Biomedical Sciences** are eligible.

¹ www.fanconi.com

² <https://fondation-maladiesrares.org/en/>

³ PNMR2 : <http://www.sante.gouv.fr/le-plan-national-maladies-rares-2011-14-une-ambition-renouvelee.html>

⁴ AFM-Telethon, Rare Diseases Alliance, Inserm, Conference of University Hospital Directors, Conference of University Presidents

The association wishes to support any research aimed at the **pathophysiological understanding** of the disease, the improvement of **diagnosis**, the development of **better management modalities** and/or the **development of therapeutic strategies**, with a particular focus on:

- The pathophysiological understanding of the disease, including its inflammatory and epigenetic processes and the role of oxidative stress.
- The prevention, understanding, management, and treatment of solid tumours (for ex. ENT or anogenital) in the specific context of Fanconi anaemia.
- The prevention, understanding, and management of GvHD in the specific context of Fanconi anaemia.
- Drug repurposing (e.g., afatinib, used in other European countries).

Priority will be given to research addressing major unmet needs in Fanconi anaemia and with a clear potential to improve diagnosis, patient stratification, disease management, prevention of complications or therapeutic options.

Eligibility criteria

The project must explicitly formulate a **research question directly relevant to Fanconi anaemia and clearly demonstrate how the proposed research will advance the understanding, diagnosis, prevention, management or treatment of the disease.**

The project must demonstrate its **originality**, feasibility and **the expertise(s) of the researchers** involved.

The principal investigator of the project ("lead applicant" – P.I.) must be a **clinician** (MD) and/or a **researcher** (PhD), belonging to a European academic or public research organization, French or foreign. **International collaborations are strongly encouraged**, particularly when they provide access to unique patient cohorts, biological resources, expertise, technologies or complementary models that are not readily available to the applicant.

In case the PI belongs to a foreign organization, involving close **collaboration** with a researcher who belongs to a French organization will be an advantage. If this is not the case, the principal investigator must clearly demonstrate **how the project will benefit French patients**.

It is expected that the bearer will be **statutory and hold a permanent position**. Otherwise, the applicant will have to provide proof of an employment contract with the organization managing the allocated funds. The said employment contract must run for the entire duration of the research project plus 6 months.

There must be a **clear match between the main methodology used in the project and the expertise** of the principal investigator.

Funding

Thanks to AFMF, this call for research projects provides for financial support up to **100 000 €**, for a maximum duration of **24 months**.

Funding support can cover, **if it is entirely and exclusively dedicated to the research experiments**, the costs of:

- Fixed-term contract staff (excluding administrative staff).
- Equipment, up to a maximum of €2,000 (any excess to be justified precisely in the application form),

- Consumables,
- Travels, up to a maximum of €2,000 (possible overage to be justified precisely in the application form),
- Provision of services/Subcontracting, if they relate only to the execution of a **very limited part** of the project (maximum 10% of the budget).

No environmental costs or management fees are eligible.

Funding must be **realistic, reasonable, detailed line by line**, and **fully justified**.

For any question regarding the budget, please see: [Guideline to Eligible Expenses](#)

Co-financing of the selected project is possible as long as no conflict of interest exists.

The lead applicant will be responsible for the management of the allocated funds, including, where applicable, the agreement and distribution to the partner teams.

An agreement will be established between the organization managing the research programme (organization of the PI) and FFRD. **The management organization will not be able to charge any management fee on the amount granted.** *FFRD manages the financial support provided by AFMF and oversees the scientific and budgetary aspects of the winning projects. FFRD does not charge any fees on the sums entrusted to it by AFMF; these will be paid in full to the winning projects.*

Submission process, Selection and Schedule

The application form, in English, can be found and must be uploaded at <https://ffrd.syntosolution.com/> before **07/01/2027, 5pm** (Paris time).

You must have already created your profile on the application platform before submitting (a delay may be necessary). Technical support for the platform is available from 9am to 6pm until January 6.

The joint selection by AFMF and FFRD will take place on the basis of:

- 1/ validation of the eligibility criteria by FFRD,
- 2/ **priorities** of AFMF members,
- 3/ evaluations by independent external experts (see Annex);
- 4/ final scientific opinion, issued by the scientific committee (SC) of AFMF.

The members of the board of AFMF and the external experts sign a confidentiality and a non-conflict-of-interest agreement.

The reports, documents and filings sent to the members of the board and of the SC of AFMF are confidential.

Scientific and financial follow-up

*AFMF is committed to this approach with gravity and a strong sense of responsibility. The budget that its Board of Directors will commit to the selected projects comes exclusively from donations. These include donations from members, as well as funds donated by friends and families, sometimes following the death of one of their own, in a gesture of solidarity with those who are waiting and hoping. **PI, its organization and its partners teams must adhere to this commitment.***

Half of the grant will be paid at the start of the project.

For projects longer than one year, the PI will have to share briefly by email, every 6 months, on the progress of the project (a few lines).

A complete scientific and financial report must be produced by the PI at mid-term, in order to justify the correct progress of the work and trigger the payment of 40% of the grant.

A final scientific and financial report must be produced by the PI at the end of the project in order to trigger the payment of the remaining 10% of the grant.

Each report must be accompanied by a report in French, understandable by all members of the association, regardless of their scientific knowledge.

It is expected that the work carried out and the results obtained at the end of the project will be promoted, in the form of publications, and scientific and mainstream communications. The project leader will make himself available for the presentation of his results at a meeting organized by AFMF.

Annex

Evaluation criteria for external experts and SC

1. Interest and importance of the research project to meet the missions of the association.

Does this study address an important problem? Innovative potential of the expected results for exploitation and for future relevant applications? Is there a sufficient body of evidence for high-quality research that supports the rational? How is the project positioned regarding international competition in the field?

2. Quality and feasibility

Soundness of the concept, clarity, originality, and pertinence of the objectives. Are the conceptual framework, design, methods techniques, and analyses adequately developed, and appropriate for the aims of the projects? Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the timeframe, allocation of task and resources (financial, human, and technological resources linked to the laboratory's infrastructure). Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative strategies? Effectiveness of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results.

3. Quality of the applicant

Ability of the applicant to conduct the research based on the quality of the CV, on its publications and on the quality of the laboratory. Competence and experience of participating research partners. Does the applicant have the right network of collaborators to undertake this type of project? If not, is it important for the Association to attract this researcher because of their skills or previous work on related subjects?

4. Budget

Budget and cost-effectiveness of the project (rational distribution of resources in relation to project's activities, partner responsibilities, and time frame).