



Call for proposals

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH project in Rare Diseases - 2026

To promote new collaborative clinically-oriented projects within the Marseille Rare Diseases community, the MarMaRa institute extends its “incentive action grant” to translational research projects. The aim of this call “**incentive action – translational research project**” is to support new innovative and high-quality projects based on the collaboration between a research structure and a clinical or laboratory unit of the AP-HM hospitals. By translational project is meant any research project involving healthy subjects or patients, including epidemiological, pathophysiological or social sciences aspects.

- at least **one of the two main partners must be a researcher/physician affiliated to amU and to a team/group of the institute.**
- The other partner(s) can be any healthcare staff affiliated to AP-HM hospitals, then **only half of the grant will be attributed to the MarMaRa affiliated team.**
- *When applicable, the name of the rare disease(s) addressed by the project should be clearly identified.*
- The involvement **of patient support groups and organizations** in the project is strongly encouraged.

The research project must be innovative and interdisciplinary and involve complementary expertise between the research laboratory or a research platform and the Hospital structure.

The project will be granted up to **30,000 € and for a maximum duration of 12 months.**

Please note that the partner in charge of the financial management must belong to a research laboratory which has a financial manager certified for amU funding administration. Co-funding is recommended.

General eligibility criteria:

- **Researchers who are not from MarMaRa are eligible on the condition to also have applied to join the institute** and have been accepted (validated) before the evaluation of the call (see description of the call “new team”).
- **A team can only apply twice for the same call.** The team leader will be asked to rank the applications.
- For TAGC members (laboratory not operating in teams) only four applications for the whole laboratory are accepted for each call session.
- In case of two applications from the same team for the same call, the applications ranked second will be evaluated by the scientific committee according to the budget available.

- Masters' internships and PhD students must only be funded by the dedicated calls ("Master"; "End of thesis").

Ethicals aspects

Non-interventional studies will be preferred. Whenever applicable, ethical, and regulatory issues should be precisely addressed, including confidentiality of data processing, need for institutional review board approval ("*Comité de Protection des Personnes*" or adequate ethical committee), and management of any patient-derived biological samples.

Specific eligibility criteria:

- All researchers from MarMaRa are eligible: researchers (post docs, AHU, CR, MCU, DR, PU) and engineers (AI, IE, IR). Applications from junior medical residents' researchers (post docs, medical residents, and AHU in particular) are highly encouraged.
- **A team cannot apply for more than two research projects** and is limited to once as project leader and once as project partner.
- **Only one application to this MarMaRa's grant per year per candidate.**
- To be eligible, the applicant will commit to present the project and/or its results to MarMaRa's scientific meetings and annual symposium the following academic year. As mentioned in all MarMaRa's document, laureates must participate to at least 2 institute's activities¹

Evaluation rule:

The scientific committee of MarMaRa will pre evaluate the feasibility of the project prior its selection and the deadline. The evaluation criteria will include eligible criteria, relevance to rare diseases, novelty, scientific quality of the project and of the participating teams. Projects involving interdisciplinary and/or collaboration between several teams will be favoured.

Documents required:

- Application form (document to download [on the website](#))
- CV and a list of publications of the project leader
- Detailed budget: eligible expenses include operating costs, internship gratuity if needed and small equipment for the running of the project. Please note that the funding must [follow the A*Midex financial rules \(see Annex\)](#).

To evaluate the feasibility of your project, all documents must be sent first in a single PDF

("MarMaRa_AO_Translational_Research_[Name of project leader]_[Laboratory – team]_OCT26" to: Marie-Cécile Gaillard, project officer: marie-cecile.gaillard@univ-amu.fr

¹ Annual symposium, JIMR, seminars, PhD program, WG CIVIS, WG 3M...

Terms of engagement:

All scientific publications and communications which have benefited of the financial support of MarMaRa must mention the following sentence:

*"This work received support from the French government under the France 2030 investment plan, as part of the Initiative d'Excellence d'Aix-Marseille Université - A*MIDEX (AMX-19-IET-007) through the Marseille Maladies Rares Institute (MarMaRa)."*

- Publications must be deposited in the A*Midex HAL AMU collection, the University's open archive.
- Assistance Publique - Hôpitaux de Marseille, AP-HM must also be mentioned as partner.

Deadline 19/10/2026