

Title: The *Test your idea* programme

Goals of the programme

This is a highly competitive talent development programme that aims to nurture **the next generation of scientists at the Mario Negri (MN)** by supporting excellent young talents so they can test highly innovative ideas and start their own research. Young Principal Investigators must demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, impact and feasibility of their scientific proposal.

Research priorities

Candidates working in all areas of research can apply, including basic research with relevance to mechanisms of disease, translational and clinical research, as well as candidates working on developing new technologies or tools for diagnosing, modelling, understanding and treating diseases.

Duration

The programme will provide support for up to two years.

Funding

The *Fondazione Riccardo Terzi e Silvio Albini* will support the successful candidate with €100.000, which will cover salaries, reagents, publication fees, basic equipment, travel and up to 10% of overheads.

Suitability

Applicants

Applicants can be early postdoctoral researchers (who have completed their PhD no more than 3 years before the submission of the application).

PhD students in the final stage of their studies are also encouraged to apply; however, by the starting date of the project they should have completed their doctoral degree.

Project

The program is designed to support innovative research projects that address a specific hypothesis or medical need, or aim to develop new tools or technologies.

The grant scheme is not intended to incrementally support research or existing research lines at the host laboratory.

Host laboratory

The successful applicant will be placed in a host laboratory with relevant research interests and the necessary facilities. Host laboratories will develop a challenging training programme, and a well-articulated supervision plan that will offer solid personal and career development opportunities to young scientists.

Candidates are not expected to identify and/or contact possible host laboratories during the first stage of the selection process.

Training modules

The programme will provide an integrated training programme to prepare young researchers to establish themselves in their field and to become proactive and competitive players in biomedical research. The programme will include the following training modules, based on the candidate's and project's needs:

- *Training in cutting-edge technologies and state-of-the-art methods, when needed*
- *Active participation in internal and external seminars*

- *Scientific writing training*
- *Mentoring of undergraduate students*
- *Grant preparation, from the conceptualisation of specific scientific or social needs to the formulation of experimental strategies, and writing and submission*

Expected outcomes

By the time the project has been completed, the junior PI will be expected to:

- *Produce new, publishable scientific knowledge (led by the junior PI)*
- *Develop innovative technologies and/or tools, techniques, methodologies and protocols (as appropriate)*
- *Develop the conceptual and methodological basis for a new grant submission (e.g., an ERC starting grant)*

Impact

The program will:

- *Contribute to developing the next generation of scientific leaders at the Mario Negri Institute and in Italy*
- *Advance current scientific knowledge and enhance technological innovation*
- *Prepare young scientists for the major scientific and social challenges facing the planet*

Selection criteria

The *Test your idea* grants will be peer-reviewed across four categories; Research Quality, Innovation and Creativity, Significance and Competence.

Application process

Interested applicants must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) and, if successful, will be invited to submit a full proposal.

Submission deadlines

Submissions will be extended to 10 March 2023

Forms are available on <https://www.marionegri.it/formazione>

Completed application forms should be submitted via email to idea@marionegri.it

Phase I: Submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI) and CV.

NEW LOI Deadline: 10 March 2023

Phase II: Researchers whose Letters of Intent receive a positive evaluation, will be invited to submit the entire scientific project (Full Application) and letter(s) of support (from internal or external referees, as appropriate).

The full application form and further information about the submission will be provided to successful candidates when they receive the feedback on their LOI.