



UNIVERSITÉ DE NANTES



**BIOREGATE**  
PÔLE DE MÉDECINE RÉGÉNÉRATRICE



RECHERCHE  
FORMATION  
INNOVATION ) en Pays  
de la Loire



**BIOREGATE**  
PÔLE DE MÉDECINE RÉGÉNÉRATRICE

# Call for proposals 2020

## « Hosting of Foreign Post-doctoral Students »



UNION EUROPÉENNE



CE PROJET EST CO-FINANÇÉ PAR LA RÉGION  
ET LE FONDS EUROPÉEN DE DÉVELOPPEMENT RÉGIONAL





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## A. Call for proposals context

The Bioregate cluster brings together the Pays de la Loire main actors from the Research / Education / Innovation triangle in the field of 4R medicine (Replace, Repair, Regenerate, Reprogram) with the aim of strengthening the sector from research to innovation and increasing its international competitiveness and notoriety.

The Bioregate cluster, inaugurated in November 2015, formally unites the establishments / supervising bodies involved in the topic on the Pays de la Loire region (INSERM, IFREMER, INRA, Oniris, Universities of Nantes, Angers, Le Mans, University Hospital Centers of Nantes and Angers), the Atlanpole Biotherapies competitiveness cluster and local authorities.

With the help of the financial support of the Pays de la Loire Region, Bioregate is launching its call for proposals "Hosting of foreign post-doctoral students" dedicated to members of the Bioregate cluster in order to promote exchanges with Bioregate strategic partners registered in a dedicated roadmap to its international development.

Expenses related to the salaries of post-doctoral candidates in selected projects must be closed by July 10, 2023 at the latest.

## B. Call for proposals objectives

The call for proposals will finance the salaries of post-doctoral researchers in collaboration with the spots identified in the "Bioregate International Strategy" roadmap. The Bioregate grant for the salary of this post-doctoral student must be part of a collaborative research project including at least one laboratory from the Pays de la Loire Region competent in the fields of Bioregate and an associated partner laboratory which is one of Bioregate's international strategic partners.

Project leaders will have to show the degree of excellence of their post-doctoral candidate as well as the quality and feasibility of the project to which this post-doctoral student is contributing.

Post doctoral salaries will be allocated to the pilot laboratory of the research project for a period of 12 to 18 months maximum. The annual salary supported by Bioregate will be a maximum of 45,833 €, if an additional salary is necessary for the attractiveness of the candidate, it will be up to the project owner to find this amount.

The call for proposals will be closed as soon as the global amount will be targeted.

The objectives of this call for proposals are :

- Support research in the field of **4R medicine** (all techniques aiming at restoring a defective biological function whatever the cause are to be understood under the term 4R medicine)
  - Eligible projects concern :
    - As a priority, therapeutic research (soluble factors, cellular therapies with modified or unmodified cells, gene therapy, tissue engineering, bio- / nanomaterials, experimental organogenesis, biomechanical repair, etc.)
    - Diagnostic research and tools to monitor restorative and regenerative medicine treatments



- Research for tools, supports, specific or key equipment for research or development of restorative and regenerative medicine therapies (eg 3D / bio printing, improvement of bioproduction systems, 3D cell culture, culture of organoid for drug screening...)

Nota Bene 1 : If no medical field of application is excluded for the projects proposed in this invitation to tender, strengthening of competitiveness in the osteoarticular, dermatological, metabolic (pancreas, liver), gastroenterological, neuro-muscular and cardio fields -vascular would be appreciated.

Nota Bene 2 : Projects on the subject of cancer treatment are not eligible except those relating to regeneration, for example projects which aim to reconstruct damaged tissues after tumor excision.

- **Bring out innovative research.** The Bioregate grant cannot be assimilated to other existing research funding methods. This aid should make it possible to **acquire skills** and preliminary results with a view to consolidating more competitive funding requests and in particular towards **European and international funding or development**.
- **Reinforce the international development and influence of the Bioregate network of Pays de la Loire actors** by encouraging collaborative research between **at least one research structure in the Pays de la Loire Region and an international strategic partner Bioregate**.

Those international partners are:

- ThéCell Network, Québec Region, Canada: <http://www.reseauthecell.qc.ca/index.php/en>
- OIRM (Ontario Institute for Regenerative Medicine), Canada: <https://oirm.ca/>
- Liège University, Belgium : [https://www.uliege.be/cms/c\\_8699436/en/portail-uliege](https://www.uliege.be/cms/c_8699436/en/portail-uliege)
- Catholic University of Louvain: <https://uclouvain.be/en/index.html>
- Curam, Galway, Ireland: <http://www.curamdevices.ie/>
- CUSTOM (Center for Stem Cell & Organoid Medicine), Cincinnati, USA: <https://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/research/divisions/c/CuSTOM>

The Bioregate international strategy document describing these partners is on the extranet of [www.bioregate.com](http://www.bioregate.com).

Nota Bene 1 : These international partners as well as other laboratories in the Bioregate perimeter may be the subject of collaborative research, but only one of the Pays de la Loire partners is eligible for funding the post-doctoral salary.

Nota Bene 2 : As the international partner collaborating within the framework of the post-doctoral research program does not benefit from a Bioregate grant, it will then be indicated as an associate partner in the project, just like the other possible Pays de la Loire laboratory.

## C. Call for proposals criteria

### 1. Eligibility

- Project led by a teacher-researcher or full-time researcher based in Pays de la Loire and attached to an academic laboratory of a higher education or research organization or establishment. This project leader is the future supervisor of the post-doctoral candidate.
- Project in partnership with one of the laboratories of international strategic partners Bioregate



- Profile of the post-doctoral candidate:
  - cannot be French
  - obtained his doctorate in less than 3 years
  - scientific excellence (the candidate's CV including his list of publications and patents as well as a letter of recommendation from a researcher who supervised him must be attached to the file)
- Project in line with the research objectives and axes of this call for projects
- New / original project with regard to the state of the art (academic and industrial)
- Projects oriented towards the development of an identified product for an identified target will be favored
- Maximum duration of the project : 12 to 18 months
- Complete file including administrative and financial elements, written in English, well written

## 2. Selection criteria

- Credibility and ambition of the scientific and technical objectives of the project
  - Quality of the post-doctoral candidate
  - Complementarity of skills at consortium level
  - Credibility of the objectives in terms of time, funding, human resources brought to go to the end of the project
  - Justification of the competitive positioning of the project
  - Argumentation on the added value of the project for the international development of the Pays de la Loire partner(s) and the Bioregate collective
- Quality of the reflection on the development plans and on the future extensions of the project (leverage effect on European or international funding or development, prospects for future collaboration with the post-doctoral student and / or the foreign partner laboratory)

## D. Financing terms

Bioregate will only finance the salary of the post-doctoral researcher hosted in the Pays de la Loire region according to the standard grids at most 45,833 € for 1 year. The lead laboratory or the lead laboratory and its Loire partners and the foreign partner laboratory are in charge of providing all the additional resources necessary for carrying out the project to which the post-doctoral student contributes.

These resources are preferably acquired when the project is submitted. However, some prospective financing is acceptable at this time. This funding must nevertheless be valid at the time of the establishment of the funding agreement for the selected projects. In view of the funding arrangements described below, the laboratory carrying the Bioregate grant will have to open a budget line dedicated to the project and request advances from their managing establishment.

Payment will be made according to the following schedule:

- 80% deposit after signing the agreement
- Balance released after the end of the project and depending on the validity of the scientific and financial supporting documents provided by the project leader

Nota Bene : This call for projects targets above all academic partnerships, if nevertheless there was



a private partner, the consortium agreement must make it possible to establish the absence of indirect aid in accordance with European regulations in force. (regulation 2014/C 198/01 – JOUE 26/06/2014 C198/1). For any information on this subject, please contact [nissrine.mekkaoui@univ-nantes.fr](mailto:nissrine.mekkaoui@univ-nantes.fr).

## E. Commitments of the project leader

### Communication

The project leader must give activity reports:

- a mid-term review which will afford the continuation of funding
- a final report in which will be provided :
  - a financial statement
  - a scientific assessment
  - information on the follow-up given to the project :
    - submission of the project to more competitive European / international funding and / or obtaining other bridging funding for development, for example
    - prospects of collaboration with the hired post-doctoral student and / or the foreign partner laboratory or a laboratory from the same spot

The project leader having benefited from a Bioregate grant may be called upon to present the project during governance meetings, events or general meetings organized by Bioregate. He therefore undertakes to respond positively to this request either himself or by representation of an agent of the consortium.

He undertakes to provide in French and English a non-confidential summary of the project and its progress so that it can be published, in particular on the Bioregate website.

Beneficiaries of Bioregate funding undertake to publicize the Bioregate cluster. In particular, they mention Bioregate and the Pays de la Loire Region in their communications relating to the funded project and use the graphic charter (Bioregate, RFI and Pays de la Loire Region logos) in their communications. These elements are available on the bioregate website extranet <http://www.bioregate.com/>.

## 2. Consortium agreement

Partners will have to build a consortium agreement. This should mention the rights and duties of the partners and describe the decision-making processes in the event of a malfunction. This agreement will also establish a balance sheet of input from each partner and output of expected deliverables so that the intellectual property generated is distributed as appropriate. This agreement should be produced before the start of the project.

## 3. Employment contract

It is the responsibility of the supervisory manager of the Bioregate grant to draw up a formal employment contract for the post-doctoral researcher received. The project owner will be responsible for transmitting a copy of this employment contract signed by the parties by e-mail to the attention of [nissrine.mekkaoui@univ-nantes.fr](mailto:nissrine.mekkaoui@univ-nantes.fr) as soon as it is ready.



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## F. Sending and selection procedures, timetable

The complete file, written in English, is to be sent electronically (with the visas of the Pays de la Loire project leader, his laboratory manager and his head of establishment of the project leader as well as the letter of commitment of the foreign partner and manager) to the following email address: [nissrine.mekkaoui@univ-nantes.fr](mailto:nissrine.mekkaoui@univ-nantes.fr). The assessment will be made continuously until the global amount of the grant will be targeted.

The terms of the financing agreement / notification between the establishment managing the Bioregate grant and the University of Nantes for Bioregate will be explained to the project holder. It will be his responsibility to inform its partners and collect any possible information missing from the project file. The first payments will take place once these funding agreements / notifications have been finalized (this includes the project and financial documents as well as the post-doctoral work contract) and signed.