



CAROLINA ZANI
MELANOMA FOUNDATION

1st CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2023

Carolina Zani Melanoma Foundation RESEARCH GRANT

CAROLINA ZANI MELANOMA FOUNDATION

Sede operativa: Via F Parri,9 25050, Passirano (BS) | Tel. 030.4196697
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Foreword

Carolina Zani (Brescia, 1990 - 2017)

After completing her studies in Economics and Business Management, a master degree at the Bocconi University and after a significant experience in a multinational consultancy company, Carolina joined the staff of the family companies on a permanent basis.

Carolina was a great lover of Egyptian art, a lover of animals and an tireless supporter of associations linked to their protection and that of the environment. A girl full of energy, motivation and compassion, an example of courage and determination whose youth was interrupted by melanoma at just 27 years old. From a commitment made directly by her mother to Carolina, the Foundation was born with the aim of doing everything possible to ensure that cases like hers will not happen again.

The Butterfly has a very profound value for the foundation. It represents the memory and the indissoluble bond between mother and daughter. Carolina, in fact, was used to play on an ancient table whose ornamental theme was precisely the butterfly. It also represents the love for her daughter and the will and courage of her mother, Patrizia Ondelli, in keeping her promise to help those who, like Carolina, have suffered from melanoma. The butterfly is also a symbol that represents the inner transformation and the difficulty process of changing, not different from what happens when one encounters a serious illness. However, the butterfly is also a reminder of light-heartedness, joie de vivre and the realization, with responsibility, of our projects.

The Foundation

The Carolina Zani Melanoma Foundation (from now on “CZMF”) is an independent non-profit organization founded on 10/30/2020 by Patrizia Ondelli, Carolina's mother, with the aim of actively supporting those who fight melanoma every day. The foundation consists of a decision-making bodies of governance made of highly committed and skilled individuals and volunteers from different background including corporate governance, medicine and science:

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- the Board of Trustees: dictates the strategic line, appoints the executive body and approves the preventive and final budgets
- the Board of Directors is the body that translates into operational plans the indications of the Board of Trustees and manages on a day-to-day basis the activities of the Foundation,
- the International Scientific Committee is the body that identifies the research activities that can be financed and evaluates the results of the initiatives supported in the field of scientific research.

Our aims are:

- Supporting research to create new opportunities
- Getting to the causes to prevent the disease.
- Providing practical help to cancer patients and caregivers.
- Promoting knowledge and supporting clinical excellence

Corporate bodies

Board of Trustees

Patrizia Ondelli (Founder and President)

Cristina Ondelli

Renata Ondelli

Board of Directors

Enrico Zampedri (President)

Nini Ferrari (vice President)

Umberto Cocco

Marco Mattei

Erika Portesi

Director

Stefania Lanni

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Scientific Committee

Dermatology

Prof. Vincenzo De Giorgi, Dermatology Unit, University of Florence, Italy

Prof. Ignazio Stanganelli, Dermatological Oncology, Skin Cancer Unit – IRST Meldola, Italy

Prof. Caroline Robert, University of Paris, Institute Gustave Roussy, Paris, France

Prof. Bastian Schilling, University of Würzburg, Germany

Surgery

Dr. Alexander Van Akkoi, Associate Professor, Melanoma Surgical Oncology, Melanoma Institute, Australia

Prof. Piotr Rutkowski, Maria Sklodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Poland

Dr. Mario Santinami, Istituto Nazionale Tumori Milano, Italy

Medical Oncology

Prof. Mario Mandalà, University of Perugia, Unit of Medical Oncology – **PRESIDENT**, Italy

Prof. Paul Lorigan, University of Manchester The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, UK

Dr. Paul Nathan, Mount Vernon Cancer Centre, Northwood, UK

Medical Genetic

Dr. Giuseppe Palmieri, CNR Sassari, University of Sassari, Italy

Translational Immunology

Prof. Michele Teng, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Università di Brisbane, Australia

Cellular Biology

Dr. Tobias Bald, University di Bonn, Germania

Pathological Anatomy

Prof.ssa Daniela Massi, Istologia Patologica e Diagnostica Molecolare, Università di Firenze, Italia

Statistics

Dott.ssa Eliana Rulli, Capo di Laboratorio Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche Mario Negri, Milano, Italia

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1. Research plan

The following are the topics foreseen with this call for proposals:

1.1. Ref 2023-1C-CZMF: The impact of new therapeutic strategies in melanoma patients with brain metastases

1.2. Ref 2023-1T-CZMF: Molecular mechanisms of resistance to immunotherapy (both basic and translational studies)

2. Eligibility criteria

2.1 These grants provide funding aimed at established and independent PIs, holding a permanent position in an academic, private or governmental institution. The lead applicant must be the PI who will lead and be responsible for the project. PI must be directly involved in the project for at least 20% of their time. Their salary cannot be covered by the grant. Applicants must have at least ten last- or co-last-author research papers, published in the last 3 years. However, for long career breaks (> 12 months) the above criteria will be extended to 5 years.

The CZMF is not responsible, and does not accept any liability, for misconduct of any sort of personnel involved in the funded project.

2.2 Eligible expenses must be:

- Necessary to the project;
- Exclusively for the project;
- Sustained after the starting date and before the ending date;
- Supported by financial record

Equipment and any other devices are considered non-eligible expenses

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2.3 Plagiarism

Proposals must be original and results/data/material from other sources must be properly referenced. The CZMF will verify all the documents using anti-plagiarism software and the proposals containing copied information as mentioned above, will be automatically rejected.

2.4 Animal Testing

In accordance with the legislation of the country where the project will be carried out.

2.5 Holding Institutions

Since the CZMF is a charitable foundation based in Italy, hosting institution outside the Italian country can be financed but it must have interconnections and a part of the work carried out in Italy. The Hosting Institutions must abide to the highest standards of integrity in research and they must provide working spaces (laboratories, equipment etc.) and assistance (administrative, personnel etc.) for the entire duration of the project.

2.6 Any changes related to the PIs (e.g. retirement, leave of absence, etc.) and/or the Hosting Institution (e.g. changes in address, institution name, Legal Representative etc.) must be communicated promptly to the CZMF.

The CZMF is not responsible, and does not accept any liability, for misconduct of any sort of personnel involved in the funded project.

3. Abstract and Proposal body

3.1 The Abstract must be written in English language. and must not exceed a 1000 words - spaces and line breaks included.

Please refer to the template available from the “Research grant” section in the CZMF website.

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3.2 Proposal Body

A single PDF file of max 7 pages, including figures and tables. The applicant's role should be clearly stated.

Font: Arial, Font size: 12,

Paragraphs are justified (straight- edged) on both left and right.

Page format A4 - margin 1 inch / 2.5cm in each side.

The content must be organised as follow:

- Background;
- Research plan relevant to the topics of the proposal.
- Feasibility
- References

The research plan must be consistent with the duration of the grant.

4. Review process

Proposals not meeting the eligibility criteria and not being relevant to the topics of the call will be automatically rejected.

The CZMF will not be responsible for any difficulties encountered during the application process.

Funding applications will be assessed in two stages:

The CZMF Scientific Committee will undertake a preliminary evaluation of the eligible proposals by conducting an assessment based on a grading scheme.

In the second phase, proposals will undergo a full external peer review assessment conducted by an international external panel, identified by the Scientific Committee, to ensure a fair, objective and independent evaluation. Their identity will not be disclosed at any stage of

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the process.

In the event of disagreement, a third reviewer will be appointed to act as a super part to re-evaluate the areas in conflict.

The finalists will need to be endorsed by the CZMF Steering Committee and ratified by the CZMF Board of Directors. All applicants will receive, by email, an official communication of the final decision, which cannot be appealed.

5. Privacy

All personal data communicated by the parties are lawfully processed by them on the basis of the assumption of lawfulness set forth in article 6 par. 1, lett. b) of EU Regulation 679/2016.

By signing this Agreement, each Party declares to be informed on the use of their personal data upon stipulation and execution of the contractual relationship between the same Parties. These data might be communicated to third parties in Italy and / or abroad, also outside the European Union, if such communication will be necessary in order with the fulfilments, rights and obligations connected with the execution of this Agreement. The privacy policy made by CZMF pursuant to articles 13 and 14 of Regulation 679/2016 / EU, it is attached to this announcement to be an integral and substantial part of it and can also be consulted on the institution's website <https://www.carolinazanifoundation.org/>

The parties are aware of rights prescribed by the applicable legislation in force.

6. Intellectual properties (IP)

The CZMF ensures that the results of research funded are used for the public good and lead to health improvements. To act in accordance with the above:

- Grants can be used to cover the costs for filing patent applications within the EU for inventions deriving from CZMF funded projects.

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- Grants cannot be utilised to extend patents to non-EU countries.
- PIs and Holding Institutions will own and manage IP and patents deriving from CZMF funded projects.
- In the event of revenues and royalties arising from CZMF funded projects, money must be reinvested in independent, non-economic oncological research.
- Proposals for research studies, property of companies producing drugs or diagnostic tools and from which PIs receive economic support, will not be accepted.
- Drug supply and economic support from companies do not prevent the project from being considered on condition that PIs have full property of information and results, for which companies do not possess any power of veto for publications at anytime. It is a must to include a statement with the application to declare that the management of the study, data acquisition and analysis and data property are completely independent of any company producing and/or marketing drugs or diagnostic tools, or with any variety of economic interest within the study. Furthermore, it is compulsory to indicate whether the companies provide products to the PI for free or not. Applications without the information above will not be considered.

The policy applies to all forms of IPs.

7. Disclosure of Financial Conflicts of Interest

PIs are required to disclose any financial conflict of interest with the proposal. Reviewers will be asked to determine if the conflicts declared may affect the objectivity and integrity of the proposed research plan. Appropriate measures will be taken against applicants who have deliberately or recklessly failed to disclose conflicts of interest, including: the termination of the grant, the obligation to return grant money to the CZMF, the ineligibility to apply to future CZMF grants and the exclusion from CZMF review panels and other bodies.

8. Duration

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Grants of €125,000 each for up to two years, are awarded to PIs starting from June 2023. The CZMF will disburse 50% of the contribution at the start of the research project (June 2023) and the remaining 50% will be paid the year after (June 2024)

The Hosting Institution must provide funds to the PIs within 30 days of contribution made available. The PIs are fully accountable for the budget allocation.

The grantee is required to submit a detailed scientific progress report before the end of the first year and a final report at the end of the project.

The CZMF reserves the right to audit the financial record and the administrative management of the project anytime and up to 5 years after conclusion.

All abstracts, manuscripts and publications related to the research project must acknowledge the Carolina Zani Melanoma Foundation.

Unexpended funds should be refunded to the CZMF.

9. Termination and transfer

In the event of the awarded PI transferring to another Institution, the grant awarded may be transferred providing:

- The PI sends, in a timely manner, a written communication to the CZMF requesting transfer of the grant, giving the new address, contact details and signatures from the head of department and the head of the new institution as to acknowledge that the transfer has been accepted.
- All the Eligible criteria, stated at point 2, must be abide in full.
- A financial statement of all the expenditure from the original institution.

10. Deadline

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Call opens 01 Dicembre 2022

Deadline 22:00 (Central European Time) on 15 February 2023

Funding decisions announced 30 April 2023

Starting grants June 2023

Applications submitted after the deadline date and time will not be accepted.

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