



LaSpes ONLUS
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LaSpes Research Fellowship

LaSpes Onlus is a non-profit organisation which exclusively pursues social utility goals. It is devoted to funding basic and preclinical research on Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases, with a special focus on Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome. La Spes Onlus aims at sustaining projects that tackle key pathophysiological processes or develop novel therapeutic approaches.

The 2021 Research Fellowship call from LaSpes is focused on the topic of nervous system manifestations in primary immunodeficiencies. Indeed the nervous system is commonly affected in patients suffering from primary immune deficiencies. This happens by diverse pathologic mechanisms (infections, autoimmunity, metabolism alterations, DNA repair defects) which are often not well understood.

The Research Fellowship will support a young researcher who aims at investigating one of the following lines of research:

- Mechanisms underlying neurological disorders in Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome
- Mechanisms of iron accumulation leading to neurological disorders
- Mechanisms underlying neurological disorders in Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases

The LaSpes Research Fellowship is awarded for a period of one year and supports excellent postgraduate or postdoctoral researchers in laboratories in Italy and Europe in the field of neurological disorders linked to primary immunodeficiency diseases. The Fellowship is awarded to a candidate; however, the selection process also takes into consideration the specific research project proposed and the suitability of the host laboratory. For this reason, substantial changes to the proposed project or moving to a different host laboratory would result in the termination of the fellowship.

The primary selection criteria applied by the LaSpes Scientific Committee are scientific excellence of the candidate, quality of the research project (based on its scope, novelty, biological significance and impact), quality of the host laboratory, as well as the coherent and logical presentation of the whole application.

Contract

LaSpes will provide a 30.000€ donation to the host institution with the sole intention to cover the cost of a stipend to be issued by the host institution to the awardee. The Fellowship does not cover bench fees, overheads, funds for consumables or any other financial benefits to the host supervisor or the receiving institute. The contract between the host institution and the awardee will be issued by the host institution according to the national and local regulations. A copy of the contract will be sent to LaSpes for information. The stipend might be subject to taxation, we cannot advise on



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national tax regulations and we recommend fellows to contact the relevant authorities in the host country.

Eligibility

Applicants must hold a scientific degree at the start of the fellowship.

Applicants who do not have a PhD must be maximum 30 years old by June 30th 2021.

Applicants who already hold a PhD must be maximum 35 years old by June 30th 2021.

Applicants who already hold a PhD at the time of application are eligible to apply only if they obtained it during the three years prior to June 30th 2021.

Applicants who already hold a PhD must have at least one first author publication accepted in or published in an international peer reviewed journal at the time of application.

Candidates can only submit one application for one project at one host laboratory at each round of selection.

Applicants cannot receive other funding other than the criteria for a top-up from the host institute, for the time of the fellowship.

Reapplication is permissible only once.

Application process and reporting

Applications received before midnight on June 30th 2021 will be assessed by the Scientific Committee and the decisions will be communicated to the applicants no later than August 31st 2021.

Applications should be sent electronically to laspes.comitatoscientifico@gmail.com as a single PDF file, the object of the email should read " Neurological Disorders in Primary Immundeficiencies – WAS".

Applications must be written in English.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Applications exceeding the word limit will not be considered.

Applicants whose applications are under evaluation will be notified via email no later than July 31st 2021.

The Fellowship should start within 6 months from its award, any delay should be authorized by the LaSpes Charing Committee and LaSpes Scientific Committee.

Within 1 month from the completion of the fellowship, the Fellow must prepare a final report detailing the work implemented during the Fellowship. A scientific report will be evaluated by the Scientific Committee, and a lay people science summary will be uploaded on the LaSpes website. These reports are to be sent electronically to laspes.comitatoscientifico@gmail.com. The LaSpes Fellowship should be acknowledged in any work published relating to the project



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funded and a reprint of each article should be sent electronically to the LaSpes Scientific Committee at laspes.comitatoscientifico@gmail.com.

Application form

The application for LaSpes Fellowship must contain the following parts in one single PDF file.

1 - CV of the applicant

This section should contain at least the following information:

- Personal information (such as name, date of birth, citizenship, address, email, phone, etc.).
- Present position (such as title, ORCID, etc.).
- Present supervisor.
- Work experience.
- Education.
- Publications.

2 – Reference letter

One reference letter from a current or former supervisor.

3 – Summary of the current work (max 1000 words).

A summary of the research work performed at the home institute should allow the reader, in a brief and concise manner, to appreciate both the applicant's past experience and its relevance to the proposed research topic. Applicants must clearly communicate their career plans for the period following the LaSpes Fellowship.

4 – Proposed project

This section should contain the following paragraphs:

- Title.
- Summary of the proposed project activity and impact in popular science terms to be uploaded on the LaSpes website if the fellowship is awarded (max 200 words).
- Scientific summary (max 250 words).
- Impact and significance for the field (max 250 words).
- Detailed outline of the work to be performed at the host laboratory including the following: (max 2000 words).
 - state of the art in the field and purpose of the project
 - novelty of the project
 - methods to be used
 - time plan and implementation of the proposed work
 - expected results



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- References (in Nature formatting style).

5 – Host laboratory and supervisor

This section should contain the following paragraphs:

- CV of the supervisor (containing also address and contact information).
- Address of the host institution.
- Acceptance letter from the host institution/laboratory.
- Justification for working at the proposed project in the host laboratory, including the appropriateness of the equipment and expertise available (max 250 words).
- Personal motivation for working in the host laboratory (max 250 words).
- List of relevant publications issued in the host laboratory.
- The acceptance letter will also specify the obligation of the Institution to report, whenever required, details on the destinations of funds received by LaSpes ; to comply with all laws and regulations of the country regarding employment relationships, administrative and tax matters ; discharging Laspes of any responsibility with regard to the issues above indicated

6 – Ethical information

If the proposed work requires the use of human material, human embryonic stem cells or animal models, the applicant should explain why this is necessary and whether ethical approval according to relevant legislation has been obtained.

Final Report

Within 1 month from the end of the fellowship the Fellow must submit a final report containing the following parts in 2 separate PDF files:

1 – Scientific report

A summary of the activity performed in the host laboratory and its planned future development (max 500 words).

2 – Popular science report

A summary of the scientific activity performed in the host laboratory, as well as its impact for the field and a future prospective. This part must be written in popular science terms and will be uploaded on the LaSpes website (max 200 words).