

-FoRST-
**FONDAZIONE PER LA RICERCA
SCIENTIFICA TERMALE**

CALL 2009

GRANT PROPOSAL IN BIO-MEDICAL SPA RESEARCH

**PROGETTI DI RICERCA SCIENTIFICA NEL
SETTORE TERMALE**

FoRST is inviting to submit grant proposals in the Bio-Medical SPA basic and clinical research area. The only criterion for eligibility is to be a scientist in the area of spa research.

Applications can be made by:

- National and international, public or private research Institutions, Universities and Hospitals,
- IRCCS;
- Local administrations, Departments of Health;
- Ministry of Health;
- Istituto Superiore di Sanità (Health Agency);
- INPS
- INAIL

A. Types of grants and topics

Research projects can be of two **types**:

1. basic and applied bio-medical spa research

2. clinical spa research

Proponent's should be aware that, if their projects must be approved by their Ethical Committee, the relevant approval must be obtained BEFORE the submission of the proposal, expressly stated in project form number eight, and signed by the Principal Investigator.

Type 1. Basic and applied bio-medical spa research

FoRST believes that rigid **topics** as to the areas of basic and applied research should not be provided for this type of grant, leaving to proponent's the freedom necessary to promote effective

scientific progress. However, **projects in this area should aim at studying (*in vitro*, *in vivo* or *ex vivo*) the effects of the active substances that characterize spa therapy in the biology of tissues and organs and in the pathophysiology of diseases that are relevant to the field.** In this area, purely descriptive studies without mechanistic insights will receive low priority.

Type 2. Clinical spa research

These research projects should refer to clinical validation, epidemiology or pharmacoconomy of spa therapy, or to innovative applications or ameliorations of spa therapies within the following **topics**:

Ear, nose & throat	Dermatology
Respiratory system	Urinary tract
Reumatology	Gastroenterology
Rehabilitation	Cardiovascular system
Hygiene and microbiology of spa structures	Pharmacoconomy

B. Budget

FoRST will co-fund a **maximum of 60%** of the entire project's costs. Such contribution will have a **maximum limit** of € 150.000,⁰⁰ (one hundred fifty thousand euro) for a single project. Projects whose entire costs are smaller than € 70.000,00 (seventy thousand euro) **will not be considered**.

Should the admitted co-funded budget be smaller than the requested co-funding, the Proponent will be asked to **re-modulate** the scientific and the budget plans. The re-modulated plans **must** be subject to the review and approval by *FoRST* Executive Committee/CdA.

While precise guidelines as to the structure of the grant and to the calculation of budget are spelled out below, there are procedures of general relevance:

- The proposal should cover up to a maximum 24 months -period. It is understood that a 24 months-year plan is indicative of the proposed development of a project. Investigators will obviously be allowed a certain degree of flexibility for justified deviations from the plan, according to the success of the various phases of the project. Any variation of the duration of the projects must be authorized by *FoRST*.
- Particular attention should be given to the allocation of manpower, listing only the personnel that will actively participate to research.
- Time allocated to research should be real and directly related to the project: time devoted to routine clinical activity or other should not be included.

Allowed costs will be (see also Budget and Revenue Forms for cost limits)

- A) Personnel whose salary is paid by the Proponent Institution
- B) Fellowships: support for fellows can be requested. Proponent's should ascertain that their own Institution can acquire fellows.
- C) Overheads
- D) Research Costs: equipment (small instruments)
- E) Services and consulting related to the project

F) Research Costs: reagents and consumable
 G) Publication costs

C. Projects Submission Procedures

Deadlines overview and reminder

	On-line form accessible from:	On-line submission deadline	Paper format submission deadline
Project			10 working days after on-line submission deadline (as shown by the postmark or the date given on the delivery slip of the private mailing company): one copy of the project with Principal Investigator's signature.
Execution of Agreement between FoRST and Research Institution	From the date of communication by FoRST to Research Institution of the decision to co-fund the project	No submission on-line	Within 60 (sixty) days from the date of communication of the decision to co-fund the project (as shown by the postmark or the date given on the delivery slip of the private mailing company), Research Institution shall deliver to FoRST two copies of the Agreement with Principal Investigator's signature
Notification activity starting	From the date of communication by FoRST to Research Institution of the decision to co-fund the project	Within 60 (sixty) days from the date of communication of the decision to co-fund the project	Within 5 (five) days from the execution of the Agreement (as shown by the postmark or the date given on the delivery slip of the private mailing company)
12 Months Report	12 months after the notification of activity starting letter	13 months after the notification of activity starting letter	Within 7 (seven) working days from the on-line submission deadline (as shown by the postmark or the date given on the delivery slip of the private mailing company), Research Institution shall deliver to FoRST one copy with Principal Investigator's signature and with attached the accounting statement of the expenses incurred
Final Report	24 months after the notification of activity starting letter	25 months after the notification of activity starting letter	Within 7 (seven) working days from the on-line submission deadline (as shown by the postmark or the date given on the delivery slip of the private mailing company), Research Institution shall deliver to FoRST one copy with Principal Investigator's signature and with attached the analytical accounting statement of the expenses incurred

Publications	No submission on-line	No submission on-line	Reprints can be sent to <i>FoRST</i> any time, not later than 24 months after the Final Report date (as shown by the postmark or the date given on the delivery slip of the private mailing company)
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Projects must be written in English and submitted BOTH online (electronic format) and by regular mail (paper format).
Online submission: project forms must be filled online at <https://grants.fondazioneforst.it> At the end, forms must be printed and one copy with the proponent's signatures must be sent within 10 (ten) working days to the following address:
Fondazione per la Ricerca Scientifica Termale, via Po 22 – 00198 ROMA .

To complete the forms, please follow the instructions in the section “Guide to project preparation”, Attachment A

D. Evaluation and Admission Procedures

FoRST Scientific Committee (the Coordinator and two European members nominated by the Executive Committee) will manage the external evaluation procedure, after an initial formal evaluation of the submissions. Each project will be anonymously judged by external reviewers that will evaluate:

- The scientific soundness of the project and its relevance for *FoRST* scientific purposes;
- The scientific background of the Principal Investigator;
- The quality of the methodological approach described;
- The feasibility of the project from the technical, instrumental and manpower standpoints;
- The appropriateness of budget request.

Reviewers will give a brief itemized justification of their opinion, that will be summarized in a score expressed in hundreds. On the basis of the reviewers' evaluations, the Scientific Committee will rank all the projects and propose the list to the *FoRST* Executive Committee that after formal evaluation of the economic budget plan of each project, will submit the rank to the Board of Directors (CdA) that will take the final decision.

Bidders must be aware that their projects will be carefully monitored after their conclusion (*ex post*) by *FoRST*, and that the results of the intermediate phases of evaluation might influence the subsequent phases of financing, while the final output of the project in terms of scientific productivity might influence the success of the future applications to *FoRST* from the same scientists.

FoRST has the right to publish in its web site the abstracts of the financed projects as well as their scientifically relevant results.

E. Financing Procedures

The recognized budget will be paid to Research Institution upon specific agreement (Contratto) between *FoRST* and Research Institution, as specified below:

- (i) 70% of the overall contribution, which FoRST must pay to Research Institution, shall be paid as follows:
- a. 20% of the contribution once FoRST receives copy of the Agreement signed and the communication of the starting of the activity;
 - b. 30% of the contribution, after 12 months from the date indicated in paragraph a. above and upon prior exhibition and approval of detailed scientific report on the progress of the project as well as of the accounting statement of the expenses incurred;
 - c. 20% of the contribution, upon presentation of the final results of the research (“Final Report”) and of the analytical accounting statement of the expenses incurred, according to criteria referred in the attached form of accounting statement.
- (ii) finally, 30% of the overall funding shall be exclusively paid upon publication of the results of the research on scientific journals quoted on ISI/PubMed, within the limit of 24 months from the end of the project.

Any modification of the project timing should be communicated to and approved by *FoRST*.

Rome, 15 aprile 2009

THE CHAIRMAN
(Dott. Filippo Maria Fernè)