

CALL FOR PROJECTS**JOINT INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH UNIT FOR CHEMICAL AND BIOMOLECULAR RESEARCH ON THE MICROBIOME AND ITS IMPACT ON METABOLIC HEALTH AND NUTRITION (MICROMENU)****MARCH 15, 2018****DEPOSIT DATE: April 30, 2018****Context**

The Joint International Unit MicroMeNu - focusing on chemical and biomolecular research on the microbiome and its impact on metabolic health and nutrition - is a bilateral research unit between the Italian National Research Council (CNR) and Université Laval. Its main objective is to strengthen scientific and technological cooperation through exchanges of students and research professors within bilateral advanced research projects. The funding for this Joint International Unit call for projects comes from the Canada Research Excellence Fund, APOGÉE, a Sentinelle Nord Program (SN).

Objectives

This call for projects will fund projects in chemical and biomolecular research in the field of the microbiome in relation to the problems of the North.

In addition, the projects funded must make it possible to establish collaborations and partnerships between researchers at Université Laval and those at the CNR, and Universities associated with the Joint International Unit (University of Cagliari, Université Catholique de Louvain) or the CNR in Italy. This call will support innovative projects that have a structuring effect and offer interesting long-term prospects. It will also promote student mobility at the graduate level (M.Sc. and Ph.D.).

Field of research / Rational

The call is intended for research projects aimed at understanding the chemical and molecular basis of human microbiome (gut, oral routes, airways, skin, etc.) actions as well as other environmental microbiomes seen as sentinels for the environment and health in the North (see <http://sentinellenord.ulaval.ca/en/research/thematic-chantier-3>). For more information see the official web page of the Joint International Unit which details the Unit's specific objectives (<http://www.umilaval.cnr.it/en/homepage-2/cosa-facciamo-2/>). Any project pursuing such objectives relevant to the SN program's priorities will be eligible for funding if selected.

Eligibility

The joint project must be conducted by two researchers one from Université Laval and the other from the CNR.

The principal applicant must be a professor (regular or under grant) at Université Laval. The team must include at least one co-principal applicant attached to the CNR in Italy.



Applications may be submitted in French or in English.

Value, duration and eligible expenses

The financial support granted by the Joint International Unit cannot exceed \$ 80,000 (per year) for 2 years, and can be renewed depending on the availability of funds and relevance of the work. \$ 40,000 in co-funding is required from the principal applicant (Université Laval). It is expected that the teams of the CNR and universities associated with the Joint International Unit will finance their share of the research activities.

All planned expenditures must be directly related to the project. Faculty/Professor salary expenditures are not eligible. APOGÉE funds must be spent in Canada, but may be used to pay for services abroad. For example, the fees for specialized services (analysis, chemical synthesis, unique microorganism cultures, particular animal models, etc.) which are not available in the laboratories of Université Laval or in laboratories directly affiliated with Université Laval, may be billed by Italian collaborators in the form of a fee-for-service payment. However, no direct transfer of funds outside Canada is permitted.

Quebec teams are funded by the Canada Research Excellence Fund, APOGÉE and must therefore respect the expenses allowed by the Fund:

http://www.cfref-apogee.gc.ca/program-programme/admin_guide-guide_administration-fra.aspx#s4

The funds allocated by the Joint International Unit as part of this call for projects will be managed by the Université Laval Finance Department in collaboration with the faculties and research centers involved.

Selection criteria

Projects meeting the eligibility requirements are subject to a scientific evaluation by the director and the scientific committee of the Joint International Unit, according to the following criteria:

- Adequacy of the project with the objectives of the program
- Scientific excellence of the project
- Innovative and structuring aspect
- Continuation of the program after funding ends
- Emergence and complementarity of the partnership around the chosen theme
- Quality and adequacy of the profiles of team members
- Adequacy with respect to the research areas of the Joint International Unit

- Presence of unique scientific and technical expertise that is not currently available at Université Laval, can be provided by the Italian collaborators and eventually established at Université Laval.
- Potential for added value in terms of joint publications, training of graduate students and joint grant applications to granting agencies
- Realism of the timetable
- Benefits for the Joint International Unit, SN and Université Laval

Required documents

1. Completed application form including the CVs of the principal applicant and co-applicants
2. Deadline for receipt on April 30, 2018

**Send the complete file in one document by email Mr. Yvon Chagnon
(yvon.chagnon@criucpq.ulaval.ca)**

Replies

Decisions will be sent by email to the principal applicant May 15, 2018 at the latest

Report

Team leaders are committed to providing a mid-term report (after one year) and a final report at the end of the funding period.