

MITOCON NEXT-GENERATION TALENTS PROGRAM 2022-2027

*Call for project proposals.
To fund a topic-bound PhD fellowship in Mitochondrial Medicine
XXXIX Cycle - Academic Year 2023/24*

Introduction

Mitocon since 2007 has been the Italian leading organization for people with mitochondrial diseases and their families and a liaison between them, the scientific community and Institutions. It supports scientific research to realize the hope to find a cure and promotes the improvement of the quality of life of people with mitochondrial diseases, children, adults and their families. A Scientific Committee, with the participation of the leading Italian and international experts on mitochondrial diseases, collaborates with Mitocon to share updates and carry out a patient-oriented research.

In order to improve and promote scientific activities, Mitocon plans to develop the **Next Generation Talents 2022-2027 Program** with the goal of investing in the talent and motivation of young researchers.

Over the past decade, research on mitochondrial diseases has experienced an unprecedented acceleration, therapies that are now reaching the clinical trial stage have emerged and are available new technologies that will change the future of mitochondrial diseases within a few years.

Mitocon, therefore, wants to boost the scientific community's interest in this field by investing in the continuing education of new generations to expand the network while ensuring a physiological generational turnover.

One of the projects under the Next Generation Talents 2022-2027 Program concerns the support of research doctorate pathways in Mitochondrial Medicine to be carried out in Italy and abroad.

The NEXT GENERATION TALENTS PROGRAM starts in 2022 with the launch of the first call "Data Manager for Clinical Research" and continues in 2023 with the call for project proposals to find a 36-month PhD fellowship in Mitochondrial Medicine, starting in academic year 2023/24 with a training period abroad of 6 to 12 months. With the contribution of its partners, MITOCON aims to increase the number of grant that can be provided.

1. Aim of the call for applications.

Mitocon – Insieme per lo studio e la cura delle malattie mitocondriali ODV (referred to herein as Funder), within the framework of the NEXT-GENERATION TALENTS program, has expressed its willingness to fund no.1 topic-bound scholarship for a research PHD in Mitochondrial Medicine. The Mitocon grant will allow a successful candidate on the general ranking list of the University or Research Institution, to attend the XXXIX Cycle doctorate Program, a.y. 2023/24, in order to develop research on specific topics related to mitochondrial medicine. The Ph.D. program in Mitochondrial Medicine will last for 3 years, with a training period abroad.

2. Beneficiaries

Project proposals may be submitted by researchers (referred to herein as Proponents) of public and private Universities and Research Institutions recognized by the MUR and by the Minister of Health based in Italy at which doctoral courses are activated, even under convention.

3. Awardees

Awardees of the topic-bound PhD fellowship in Mitochondrial Medicine are young graduates who hold a master's degree (or equivalent) in scientific disciplines, who wish to specialize in the field of mitochondrial diseases, who have been awarded the degree for no more than 5 years from the date of publication of this notice, who are residents of Italy, who have the skills and requirements for access to PhDs in line with the criteria established by the universities, and who are unemployed or unemployable at the time of publication of this notice.

4. How to apply

Proponents with a specific interest in the field of mitochondrial diseases are invited to submit project proposals for the award of No. 1 PhD fellowship in Mitochondrial Medicine . The researcher, with proven experience in the field of mitochondrial diseases, is requested to submit:

- Form A (application);
- Form B (project proposal);
- Title and proposal (max 3600 characters, including spaces) descriptive of the study on mitochondrial diseases in which the PhD student will participate, in pdf format and written in English, with:
 - a) Background
 - b) Objectives
 - c) Methodology
 - d) Preliminary data and feasibility
 - e) Expected results

- curriculum vitae with the list of scientific publications limited to the last 5 years;
- Privacy Policy available at the following link duly signed
<https://www.mitocon.it/privacy-policy/>;
- Contact details of the proposer.

The above documents can be sent by email to mitocononlus@pec.it or by recommended mail to:

Mitocon ODV
Via Francesco Benaglia, 13
00153 Rome

Under subject of the email please use **NGT PhD 23/24-Proponent Name and Surname**.

5. Evaluation Phase

The process of evaluation and selection of projects is entrusted by Mitocon to an Evaluation Committee chosen from among the members of its Scientific Committee.

The Commission gives an overall score to each project, with a maximum value of 100. The minimum score for eligibility is 60 points.

In case of a tie, precedence will be given to the subject that has obtained the best score with reference to the point "Impact on the patient's life." In case of further tie, priority will be given according to the order of arrival of the projects, as resulting from the date and time of transmission.

Members of the Evaluation committee will have to prove that they have no conflicts of interest. Mitocon in any case reserves the right to supplement/modify the composition of the Examining Board to ensure the impartiality of the choices.

The ranklist is drawn up by the Evaluation committee and announced by Mitocon on the website www.mitocon.it by no later than March 3rd, 2023

The judging of the Evaluation committee is unquestionable, and therefore no appeals, complaints, requests for reconsideration, or other forms of appeal will be considered.

6. Application deadlines

Project proposals can be submitted from **09:00 am on 05.01.2023 and by 24:00 noon on 06.02.2023**.

Applications received after the deadline and/or by different methods than those indicated and/or not accompanied by all the required documentation will not be considered. Mitocon assumes no responsibility for delays or non-receipt due to telematic mishaps or other causes beyond its control. Applications that are lacking, even partially, the requirements and the required documentation, that do not comply with the timelines and/or transmission methods will be considered ineligible.

7. Available Resources

The total amount of the three-year scholarship for conducting the doctoral program will be:

- € 71,250 in the case where the doctorate provides 30 months in Italy and 6 months abroad;
- € 76,200 in the case where the doctorate provides 24 months in Italy and 12 months abroad.

8. Communications and acceptance of the grant

The winner and the recipient institution in the person of the proposer will receive a communication by certified e-mail with reference to the results of the selection; the communication will specify the date of the start of attendance and the deadline by which the candidate must send confirmation in writing of acceptance of the PhD fellowship with a bound theme under the conditions of the regulations in force.

In the event that the selection of the doctoral student with a funded scholarship is unsuccessful, that the selected doctoral student renounces his/her studies or is excluded as a result of a negative evaluation by the board of teachers for the purpose of admission to the next year of the course, the manner of use or return of the sums paid and not already used will be agreed in a special agreement at the time of the conclusion of the Contract;

The grantee and the recipient agree to communicate through their own channels and in any useful publication, the support of the funder in the manner that will be regulated in the appropriate agreement at the time of the conclusion of the Contract;

9. Scientific and Teaching Collaboration

Admission to the PhD program entails an exclusive, full-time commitment.

The doctoral program will be activated at the location of the recipient who retains responsibility for the training of the doctoral student, it being understood that the training activity will be agreed between the parties.

To enhance the training and internationalization aspect of the doctoral program, it is mandatory for the doctoral student to spend a period of at least 6 months/12 months at foreign universities and research institutions.

The award of the doctoral fellowship will not give rise to any future rights to any employment relationship with the University.

10. Transparency

Where applicable, in compliance with applicable regulations Mitocon reserves the right to make transparent, through publication on its website, the disbursement of the contribution under the Project referred to in this Call.

11. Force Majority

Mitocon will not be liable for any failure to comply with the terms of this Call for Proposals if such failure is caused by natural disaster, riot, epidemic/pandemic, fire, or other unforeseeable event ("acts of God") and beyond the control of the party suffering it. It is understood that should the force majeure continue for more than 60 days after its occurrence, Mitocon shall have the right to terminate this Call in advance.

12. Disclosure of the Notice

This notice and the documents related to it are posted on the dedicated page of the website www.mitocon.it

13. Processing of personal data

In accordance with current regulations, personal data provided by the beneficiaries also through the proposers will be collected at Mitocon's organizational structures for the purposes of managing the PhD scholarship. The provision of such data is mandatory for the evaluation of the participation requirements, under penalty of exclusion from the fellowship. The interested party will be able to assert, at Mitocon the right to access his/her personal data to verify their use or, if necessary, to correct, update them within the limits provided by law.

14. Final Rules

Mitocon reserves at its sole discretion, the right to modify, suspend or cancel this notice without any claim or right arising to the contestants. For any clarifications or information, please contact scientific.office@mitocon.it

Rome, 5/1/2023