



UMFT
Universitatea de
Medicină și Farmacie
„Victor Babeș”
din Timișoara

INFORMATION PACKAGE

Postdoctoral Research Projects of "Victor Babeș" University of Medicine and Pharmacy Timișoara

COMPETITION 2019

1. Aim

To support early career researchers at Victor Babeș University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Timisoara (UMFVBT), which hold a doctoral degree, to develop and/or to consolidate their own research program in order to stimulate scientific excellency in Romanian research.

2. Objectives

- Providing young researchers with the financial support required to conduct research activities;
- Developing the research capabilities of young researchers in coordinating research groups and managing research projects;
- Strengthening the critical mass of UMFVBT young researchers capable of participating in interdisciplinary, national and international research project competitions;
- Increasing the competitiveness of UMFVBT young researchers in national and international research funding competitions;
- Promoting innovative research with results at international standards;
- Increasing the international visibility of the UMFVBT by improving the quality and capitalization of research results.

3. General conditions for participation

- The project proposal is developed by a researcher / staff member of the UMFVBT, further referred to as project director
- The project director has sole responsibility for managing the project
- A project director can enter this competition with a single project.

4. Eligibility criteria

- a) The project director is a full time researcher/ staff member of the UMFVBT;
- b) The project director has an Hirsch index (Web of Science, Clarivate Analytics) ≥ 1 ;
- c) At the time of application, the project director is **within 10 years after being awarded the PhD title** (awarding date of the Ministry of Education);
- d) At the time of application, the project director does not benefit from another public or private research grant with national or international financing as director / manager / responsible / coordinator;
- e) The research proposal is not financed by other public or private, national or international funding sources;



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- f) For the applicants who were previously awarded UMFVBT grants, in order to be eligible, at least one (1) ISI paper published in academic journals that acknowledge the university funding is mandatory for each financed grant.

5. Project duration

The duration of the project is minimum 12 months and maximum 24 months.

6. Budget

The maximum funding for a project is € 50,000. For the 2019 competition, a maximum of 5 projects will be funded.

7. Eligible expenditures

- Materials, software, access to data bases and programs, reagents and consumables
- Contracts with third parties that provide services required to carry out the project
- Participation in training courses or research internships (maximum duration 3 months) in the project field (maximum 1 mobility / year)
- Participation with oral or written presentations / posters in national (maximum 1 / year) or international (maximum 1 / year) scientific events related to the project field
- Equipment, with a maximum of 10% of the total project funding.

Observation.

- Audit costs will be supported by UMFVBT as financing body.

8. Ethics

The project director has the obligation to ensure that the project proposal complies with the Law 206/2004 (including subsequent amendments and additions) regarding good conduct in scientific research, technological development and innovation, as well as other ethical regulations specific to the project's field.

In case of funding approval, the project director has to obtain the approval of the UMFVBT Commission for Scientific Research Ethics (CSRE) for the submitted project. The original document from CSRE will be part of the project's file.

9. Procedure for submission, evaluation and selection of project proposals:

The submission of project proposals is a one-step process, using the online application platform.

The project director is requested to create an account with the identification data in order to upload the project proposal on the online dedicated platform.

The application will be written in English according to Annex 1 of the present information package.

10. Calendar of the competition

The research project proposals competition takes place as follows:

01.07 - 01.09 (23:59:59) projects submission

02.09 – 05.09 eligibility check

06.09 – results of eligibility check are posted



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07.09 – 11.09 – appeals for eligibility results
12.09-15.09 – final results regarding the eligibility check are posted
16.09 – 17.11 – scientific evaluation of projects
19.11 – final results are posted
19.11 – 13.12 signing of financing contracts
01.01.2020 – start of projects.

11. Eligibility check

The applicant must be an UMFVBT employee during the entire period of the grant. The project director can be replaced during the grant period only once and only with another UMFVBT employee that fulfils the same eligibility criteria as the project director.

The project director will upload a scanned copy (pdf format) of a signed statement that he / she does not benefit from another public or private research grant with national or international financing as director / manager / responsible / coordinator and the research proposal is not financed by other public or private, national or international funding sources. The original of the non-concurrent financing statement will be part of the project's file.

The project director will upload a scanned copy (pdf format) of his PhD diploma on the online platform.

The project director will upload a proof (pdf format) of the Hirsch index (Web of Science, Clarivate Analytics) on the online platform.

If during or after the completion of the evaluation phase, an infringement (failure to meet) of any of the eligibility criteria will be found, the project proposal will be declared non-eligible and will be excluded from the competition or from funding, and the project director is banned from participating in all internal grant competitions of UMFVBT for the next three years.

12. Evaluation process

The evaluation of the research projects submitted for assessment in the competition for postdoctoral researchers is anonymous, ensuring the confidentiality and impartiality of the evaluating experts.

The projects are evaluated by biomedical and pharmaceutical experts, who have published as main author (first, corresponding and last author) at least two ISI articles in the research field of the project evaluated.

Each evaluator has to maintain confidentiality regarding the evaluated projects and to signal any incompatibility situation with the project director.

The evaluator has to notify the UMFVBT if, at any time during the assessment process, it finds that one of these conditions is not satisfied or he/she is in conflict of interest. If a conflict of interest or misconduct are established or notified, the necessary measures shall be taken to replace the evaluator.

There will be two evaluators for each proposal. If there is >10 points difference between the scores of the two evaluators, a third evaluator will review the proposal. The final score will be represented by the average between the two scores closer to each other. If the three scores are equidistant, the average of all three scores will represent the final score.



Evaluation criteria:

I. Scientific performance of project director (Annex 2)

The following criteria will be scored:

- Scientific papers published in IF journals
- Hirsch index
- UMFVBT, national or international grants won by competition as a director (manager) / responsible / coordinator

II. Quality of the research project

The following criteria will be scored:

- Originality of the research topic
- Suitability of the proposed methodology
- Adequacy of the proposed budget
- Feasibility of the project in relation to the research plan and the experience of the project director
- The existence of preliminary data will be additionally scored.

The following scale will be used for rating:

Rating	Score	Description
Absent	0	The criterion cannot be analyzed due to lack or incomplete information
Weak	0-10	Serious deficiencies
Satisfying	11-20	Significant deficiencies
Good	21-30	Significant improvements are required
Verygood	31-40	Minor improvements are required
Excellent	41-50	No improvements are required

Obs. In the even score situation, the tiebreaker criteria are the total number of citations according to Google Scholar.

The structure of grant application

(all proposals that do not respect the limitations regarding the number of words, characters or pages will be disqualified)

A. General information

1. Project title (maximum 200 characters)
2. Acronym
3. Abstract (maximum 200 words)
4. Project director (personal data)
5. Research team structure (optional)
6. Keywords (maximum 5)

B. Project director (scientific biography)

1. CV short format (maximum 2 pages)



2. Proof (pdf format) of Hirsch index (Web of Science, Clarivate Analytics) ≥ 1
3. Proof (pdf format) of the total number of citations in Google Scholar
4. Proof (scanned pdf format) of PhD diploma
5. Scanned copy (pdf format) of the signed and dated statement that he / she does not benefit from another public or private research grant with national or international financing as director / manager / responsible / coordinator and the research proposal is not financed by other public or private, national or international funding sources.
6. The list of articles published in IF journals, as per Annex 2
7. List of internal, national or international grants, won by competition as a director / manager / responsible / coordinator or research team member

C. Description of the research project

1. Scientific background (maximum 1 page)
2. Novelty/impact of the proposed topic (maximum 1/2 page)
3. Objectives (maximum 1/2 pages)
4. Methodology (maximum 2 pages)
5. Budget (maximum 1 page)
6. References (maximum 1 page)

The archive of the project (to be kept for auditing / control for 10 years) includes the following documents:

- the statement (scanned, signed and dated, pdf format) of non-financing from other, national or international sources of funding (non-concurrent financing statement).
- the research project submitted for assessment
- procurement and delivery contracts for materials, software licenses, access to databases and software, reagents and laboratory consumables used for the project implementation
- certificates of attendance in scientific events and specialization / training courses
- scientific articles published as a result of the project



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ANNEX 1 – Funding application (to be filled out in English)

A. General Information (to be filled out directly on the online platform)

1. Project Title (200 characters max):

2. Project acronym:

3. Abstract (200 words max):

4. Project leader (personal information):

Name (last name):

Previous names (if any):

Surname (first name):

Date of birth:

Year of PhD degree:

Telephone:

UMFVBT e-mail address:

Academic position within UMFVBT:

5. Research team, if any (name the team members):

6. Key words (max 5)

B. Project leader (to be filled out directly on the online platform)

1. Project leader's short CV (2 pages)

2. Pdf proof of an H index value (Web of Science, Clarivate Analytics) ≥ 1

3. Pdf proof of the total number of citations in Google Scholar.

4. Pdf copy of PhD diploma.

5. Signed pdf declaration to confirm that the applicant is not a project leader or key person in another grant funded from public or private sources and that the proposed research topic is not currently being funded as part of other public or private, national or international granting mechanisms.

6. A list of representative articles published in IF journals, showing the IF from the year of publication, according to Annex 2.

7. A list with internal, national and international grants competitively awarded to the applicant as project leader/director/coordinator/team member.

C. Description of the research project (to be filled out in the online platform; any tables and/or figures are to be attached individually in the platform if needed)

1. Scientific background (1 page)



The scientific rationale should be presented, highlighting the scientific importance of the topic in the context of current knowledge in the field, together with any limitations of the current approaches.

2. Novelty/impact of the proposed topic (1/2 page)

There will be presented the elements of originality and innovation that the proposed project brings to the field, with respect to the current knowledge on the topic and related to previous projects of the applicant.

3. Objectives (1/2 page)

The specific objectives (aims) of the project will be presented in a concise manner.

4. Methodology (2 pages)

A detailed presentation of the methodology is needed, highlighting possible milestones. This section should present: (1) the methods and instruments used; (2) a work plan with timelines describing the project planning in order to reach the proposed objectives; (3) potential risks and alternative approaches to overcome them; (4) deliverables; (5) preliminary data if available.

5. Budget (1 page)

If new equipment or new components of existing equipment are to be purchased, a justification for their use in the proposed project should be provided.

The budget breakdown by type of expenses should be detailed and justified.

Budget breakdown (in euros, for the entire project; not all budget categories are mandatory)

Budget category (expenses)	Total budget
Logistics	
Third party services	
Participation to research courses or trainings	
Participation to scientific meetings	
Equipment, maximum 10% of total budget	
TOTAL	

6. References (max. 1 page)



ANNEX 2. Scientific evaluation of the project leader

For this criteria, the points range from 0 to 100, with the following breakdown:

- The cumulative IF of papers published as main author (first, corresponding or last), indexed in Clarivate Analytics' Web of Science, from the year of publication (20% of total)
- The cumulative IF of papers published as co-author, indexed in Clarivate Analytics' Web of Science, from the year of publication (10% of total)
- The value of the applicant's Hirsch index in Clarivate Analytics' Web of Science (40% of total)
- Project leader (director) of research grants awarded through competitions (20% of total)
- Project coordinator (responsible) of research grants awarded through competitions (10% of total)

For each of the above five criteria, the points range from 0 to 100, as flows:

Scoring the impact factor as main author (IF1)

- Only the IF of maximum 10 representative articles indexed in Clarivate Analytics' Web of Science, indicated as such by the applicant, is taken into account. The applicant must be main author (first, corresponding or last) on all these publications.
- The sum of IF of all these 10 publications is calculated.
- If the cumulated IF is ≥ 20 , the given score will be 100. For any cumulative IF below 20, a proportional value will be given [the IF1 score = (cumulated IF x 100)/20].

Scoring the impact factor as co-autor (IF2)

- Only the IF of maximum 15 representative articles indexed in Clarivate Analytics' Web of Science, indicated as such by the applicant, is taken into account. The applicant must be co-author author on all these publications (publications having the applicant as main author are also accepted as long as they were not included for the IF1 criteria).
- The sum of IF of all these 15 publications is calculated.
- If the cumulated IF is ≥ 30 , the given score will be 100. For any cumulative IF below 30, a proportional value will be given [the IF2 score = (cumulated IF x 100)/30].

Scoring the Hirsch index (H)

- Only the H index from Clarivate Analytics' Web of Science at the time of application is taken into account.
- For an H index ≥ 6 , the score will be 100.
- For an H index below 6, a proportional value will be given [the H score = (H index X 100)/6].



Scoring for the project leader (director) of research grants awarded through competitions (P1):

- If the applicant was project leader on 3 or more research grants awarded through competitions, a score of 100 will be given
- If the applicant was project leader on less than 3 research grants awarded through competitions, a proportional score will be given (the P1 score = 33.333 for 1 grant, and 66.666 for 3 grants).

Scoring for the project coordinator of research grants awarded through competitions (P2):

- If the applicant was project coordinator on 5 or more research grants awarded through competitions, a score of 100 will be given
- If the applicant was project coordinator on less than 5 research grants awarded through competitions, a proportional score will be given [the P2 score = (no. of grants x 100)/5].

The final score for the scientific evaluation of the project leader is calculated with the formula:

$$\text{Project leader score} = \frac{IF1}{5} + \frac{IF2}{10} + \frac{H}{2,5} + \frac{P1}{5} + \frac{P2}{10}$$



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ANNEX 3 – Selection criteria for evaluators (reviewers)

The proposals will be evaluated by experts in the bio-medical and pharmaceutical fields. In order to qualify as an evaluator, the expert must be main author (first, corresponding or last author) of at least two research papers published in IF journals on the topic of the project to be evaluated.

All evaluators are national or international experts, independent of UMFVBT.



ANNEX 4 – Evaluation sheet

The evaluation of all proposals will be done in English.

Evaluation criteria:

I. The score for the scientific quality of the project leader will be calculated after filling in the relevant data in the online platform.

II. The score for the quality of the research project will include:

II.1. Originality of the proposed topic, importance and difficulty of the problem, and the potential to advance knowledge in the field and to influence the direction of thinking and action.

II.2. Objectives

Please comment on the relevance and description of the objectives, and if these can be fulfilled through the proposed methodology.

II.3. Feasibility of the proposed methods

Please comment on the relevance of the proposed methods, study design, work plan and resources. Are there any potential problems and alternative methods described? Are there any deliverables mentioned, especially related to the publication in international journals? Are there any preliminary data that supports the feasibility of the proposal?

II.4. Proposed budget, feasibility of the proposal as it relates with the research plan and the experience of the project leader.

Please evaluate if the budget is adequate and suggest any corrections if necessary. Please comment on the concordance between the proposed budget and the work plan, travelling and proposed infrastructure purchases.

There will be five scores, one for each category, with the following scoring range:

Grade	Score	Description
Absent	0	This criterion cannot be scored because of lack of or incomplete information
Weak	0-10	Severe deficiencies
Satisfactory	11-20	Significant deficiencies
Good	21-30	Significant improvements are necessary
Very good	31-40	Minor improvements are necessary
Excellent	41-50	No improvements are necessary

Obs.: If two or more applicants receive identical scores, the tiebreaker criteria will be the total number of Google Scholar citations.