



Request for Applications: Disease Mechanisms and Underlying Cell Biology of CHOPS

Fondazione CHOPS Malattie Rare is a non-profit foundation seeking to improve the lives of children with CHOPS (Cognitive impairment, coarse facies, **H**eart defects, **O**besity, **P**ulmonary involvement, **S**hort stature, and skeletal dysplasia), a multi-system neurodevelopmental diagnosis. Due to the limited understanding of the causative mutations in the *AFF4* gene and disease mechanism, we are sponsoring research studies that aim to elucidate the underlying cell biology and genetics of this diagnosis. Areas of research focus to be considered for funding include investigations into patient-specific cellular models, organoids and animal models using DNA/RNA methods, 'omics-based studies, and biochemical analysis. This should lead to a better understanding of underlying mechanisms that will support potential translational therapeutic development.

The foundation will support one of more research projects with well-defined aims. We are particularly interested in encouraging young investigators to enter this field of study. This includes post-doctoral fellows or junior faculty, in a supportive research group. Grant recipients will be required to interact with the Fondazione CHOPS and its advisors.

A formal application will be required with a strong rationale, quantifiable deliverables, and a qualified research team with adequate infrastructure. A scientific review process is in place to assess feasibility, ensure that the proposal aligns with the foundation's objectives and the applicant's research team is qualified. Upon recommendation by the reviewers and signoff by the Advisory Board, the foundation will undertake negotiations to initiate research support.

Duration and funding level will be dictated by the scope of work and the relevance to the foundation's overall goals with a maximum total support of US\$100,000 per year for 2 years.

Proposals are due before February 29, 2024 and project(s) will be chosen by April 15, 2024. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact the foundation for more information and full application instructions.

Please contact us at info@fondazionechopsets.com.