

Institutional commitments for grant transfer

Ref: 2019 My First AIRC Grant (MFAG) – Grant transfer

Applicant: Dr Francesco Spallotta

Guarantor: Dr Giovanni Rinaldi

Title of the application: Metabolic regulation of the DNA demethylation enzymatic machinery in pancreatic cancer

In my position as Head of the Hosting Institution, the Institute for Systems Analysis and Computer Science (IASI), it is my great pleasure to write this letter to certify all my support to Dr. Spallotta, who recently was appointed as permanent junior researcher at the National Research Council (CNR) after he was ranked among the winners of last national public selection to recruit new researchers, to carry out his research proposal funded by AIRC as an independent principal investigator (PI). IASI is an institute of the CNR established in 2002 from a partnership among CNR scientists with complementary expertise and interests derived from two Institutes: the Institute for Systems Analysis and Informatics and the Centre for the Study of the Pathophysiology of Shock. The Institute is located in Via dei Taurini – 19, where mathematics modelling techniques for biomedicine and in particular for tumor growth are conducted together with bioinformatics analyses of genes involved in tumor onset and in two dislocated units at Policlinico Gemelli and at the Medical Faculty of Catholic University of Sacred Heart, which activities focus on physiopathology, metabolism, oncology and immunology to uncover novel molecular and cellular mechanisms contributing to the development of human pathologies. IASI currently includes about 70 staff members (scientists, technicians and administrative personnel) plus a cohort of post-doctoral scientists, PhD students and associated members, working together. To favour execution of this specific funded project at Dr Spallotta's name, IASI is establishing a formal collaboration agreement with the Istituto Pasteur Italia – Fondazione Cenci Bolognetti, located at less than a kilometre from our main Institute site, where different researchers are already conducting projects funded by AIRC and there are all the facilities necessary to fully conduct the present funded proposal.

Percentage of time dedicated to the project

The applicant will have at least 50% of the time dedicated to the MFAG research project.

Lab and office space

Dr. Spallotta joined IASI in November 2019, as permanent junior CNR researcher. He will be granted with: the possibility to continue the collaboration with his formal Institute at the Department of Oncology of the University of Turin; and the necessary infrastructures to develop his research projects, including free access to all facilities available at IASI and Istituto Pasteur Italia – Fondazione Cenci Bolognetti (see below). He will be successfully integrated in IASI-Istituto Pasteur Italia – Fondazione Cenci Bolognetti cooperative environment and set up collaboration with different research institution to obtain samples from pancreatic patients, to conduct in vivo experiments and to perform all the OMIC analyses described in the funded project proposal. To permit the execution of experiments related to this project proposal, IASI and Istituto Pasteur Italia – Fondazione Cenci Bolognetti are signing a formal agreement.

Hosting Institution facilities and resources

Due to the strict interconnection among all above mentioned research centres, the applicant will benefit from training opportunities organized by all these Institutions. Hosting Institution together with Istituto Pasteur Italia – Fondazione Cenci Bolognetti background provides optimal working and cultural conditions for the career development of young scientists. The PI will have the opportunity for critical professional interactions with senior colleagues and will benefit from outstanding invited speakers giving seminars on regular base. The Hosting Institution will provide all the bioinformatics support necessary to this project and thanks to the formal agreement with Istituto Pasteur Italia – Fondazione Cenci Bolognetti, Dr Spallotta will conduct wet lab experiments having space at their laboratories fully equipped for standard molecular/cell biology experiments. Moreover, Dr Spallotta will have free access also to the following facilities present at Istituto Pasteur Italia – Fondazione Cenci Bolognetti: Next Generation Sequencing (Illumina HiSeq1500), Animal and Flow Cytometry (BD FACSAria III and BD LSR Fortessa) facilities. All the other facilities needed will be granted by the formal agreement already signed with the Medical Faculty of the Catholic University of Sacred Heart, where the secondary site of our Institute is located.

Authorship in publications

In all publications stemming from the research carried out with this grant, the applicant will be last author and corresponding author as well.

PI scientific independence

The unit headed by Dr. Spallotta will be indicated as an independent unit in IASI staff directories, website and public reports. I will provide full commitment to assist the PI during his “transition to independence”, supporting all necessary steps to reach a position of scientific independence within IASI by the end of the grant.

In conclusion, I fully support Dr. Spallotta’s funded project related to MFAG call 2019. This will be of great value for IASI and of high importance for his future scientific career. He will consolidate his background in epigenetics, metabolism and gastrointestinal tumors. MFAG will offer a great opportunity to young scientists like Dr Spallotta to develop their own ideas and be immediately competitive even in a field of study where competition is undoubtedly fierce. I do believe that AIRC support will advance his career as a fully independent cancer researcher.

Date

/02/2020

Guarantor’s signature
Dr Giovanni Rinaldi
Director of IASI-CNR