

4-year Research Group 2020

Call for nomination

With their strong research skills, technical resources, and close collaboration with local authorities and institutions, Institut Pasteur International Network (IPIN) members develop basic and applied research programmes to address to major national, regional, and international public health issues.

To encourage the development of ambitious research programmes, and to strengthen scientific leadership skills of promising researchers across the Network, Institut Pasteur (IP) will support the creation of 4-year Research Groups (G4) in these IPIN institutes.

The 4-year Research groups international 2020 call for applications can support up to **three (3) new G4 award holders** with a group-leader career development opportunity of up to €400,000. Applicants, nominated by their future host institutes, must propose an innovative research project, in line with the scientific strategy of the IPIN (attached document) and, more specifically, to the identified host institute and its local and regional environment.

Research must be within Pasteur's remit but applications on the priority subject of "Antimicrobial Resistance" are encouraged, in particular those at the interface of public health, microbiology, and fundamental research.

Special attention will be paid to the deployment of a G4 in resource-limited countries.

WHAT IS A 4-YEAR RESEARCH GROUP (G4)?

Selection of a principal investigator (PI) crucial for creation of a G4

The G4 funding is an opportunity for member institutes of the IPIN to recruit new, complementary research talent for their institutions. Thus, it is important to identify the most suitable candidates in order to develop or strengthen key research areas of the host institution. The aim is that after the 4 years a sustainable new research area is initiated at the host institution.

A G4 is a newly created structure in an institute belonging to the IPIN. The G4 team, as employees of this institute, must adhere to its rules and regulation.

The period of tenure of a G4 award is 4 years.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR A G4 PI POSITION?

The G4 applicant should ideally be an early to mid-career post-doctoral scientist, wishing to establish a research group as an independent researcher. The proposed research project(s) should be innovative and timely yet realistic within the 4-year timeframe of the award. He/she should be able to conduct his/her research in an independent manner, initiate collaborations, and will have demonstrated his/her capacity to secure international funding. To apply, the candidate must have identified the host institute with the appropriate research environment conducive for his/her scientific ambitions and career development. At the same time, the proposed project(s) by the

applicant must offer added value to the host institute, for example by introducing an innovative technology, and the potential of his/her research, to address gaps in strategic research domains and skill development. An enabling environment should motivate the G4 award holder to pursue his/her career in the host institute with the prospect of obtaining a permanent position at the end of the award tenure.

As the host institute is member of the IPIN, it is expected that the G4 PI will express a willingness to participate in the development of this network by strengthening research through collaboration and training across the IPIN.

As for any research group, the G4 award holder will be encouraged to develop and strengthen his/her capacity to manage a team and to welcome and supervise Masters and PhD students, as well as interns. A G4 PI can also hire postdoctoral researchers.

Finally, the involvement of the G4 PI in teaching activities will be highly appreciated.

THE ROLE OF THE HOST INSTITUTE

The institute will host the G4 as an independent research group.

Host institutes need to identify G4 applicants who would be of real strategic benefit for the institution but also for the region. They must also ensure that the proposed project(s) will be innovative and in line with the wider context of the existing research portfolio and strategy of the host institute and the Network.

It is expected that the host institute will offer all the support to the G4 award holder to ensure that he/she can successfully the proposed research project(s). This could include access to adequate laboratory space, safety level laboratories, technical staff, technological platforms, scientific and general insitutional support

The host institute should support the G4 PI to develop into independent researchers and future scientific leaders in their field. Mentorship in groups management by the host intsitution should be provided. It is expected that successful candidates will be offered a **permanent position** at the end of the G4.

THE PARTNERSHIP WITH INSTITUT PASTEUR

Institut Pasteur will support the career development of the G4 PI through four (4) annual payments of up to €100,000, payable at the beginning of each financial year. This fellowship can finance salaries up to 50% of its total annual amount.

All scientific and ethical standards and requirements, in accordance with the statutes of each host institute and Institut Pasteur, need to be respected as stipulated in the agreement relating to the G4. This agreement would also define the starting date of the G4, which will be agreed with each successful applicant.

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Eligibility

Any scientist holding a PhD and having 5 to 8 years of post-doctoral research experience can apply for G4 Award.

The application for a G4 must be submitted by the future leader of the G4 in conjunction with their host institution.

The G4 can only be held at one host institute. All institutes of the Institut Pasteur International Network (IPIN) are eligible to host a G4 with the exception of Institut Pasteur Paris.

The call is open to researchers of any nationality.

The candidate cannot already have a permanent position in the hosting institute.

Selection criteria

The candidate will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- Quality of his/her research
Did the research projects carried out by the candidate result in measurable outputs or outcomes in public health or in fundamental knowledge on the subject of interest (peer reviewed articles, patents, etc.)?
- Capacity to finance his/her projects
Has the candidate shown real ability in securing grants from national or international funding agencies?
- Collaborations and any plans to develop strategic local and regional partnerships
Has the candidate demonstrated the ability to initiate, maintain, and develop research collaborations?
- Supervising and training
What management and training experiences does the candidate have?
Does the candidate demonstrate their willingness to be involved in the training of local young scientists?
- Peer recognition
Has the candidate's work been recognised by the scientific community through awards, prizes?
Has the candidate been invited to participate in international scientific events?

The proposed research project will be evaluated not only on its quality, originality, and feasibility but also on the added values it will bring to the host institute and its contribution to the regional/global health priorities.

Thus, the right match between the candidate and the host institute will be pivotal, for as well as the motivation of the candidate to participate to the scientific strengthening of the Network.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS – APPLICATION FORM

Applications must be written in English, using the attached forms, and submitted no later than March 31st, 2021.

The document must be sent as an attached pdf. file to the following email address: marianne.lucas-hourani@pasteur.fr. The file should be named as follows: "Name of the Institute-Name of the candidate-G4_2020".

Incomplete or paper-based applications will not be considered.

When deemed necessary, Institut Pasteur reserves the right to ask candidates for additional information in order to evaluate their application.

Candidates must not submit information in their application that is confidential and/or protected by the intellectual property rights of third parties, and may contravene any rights of third parties.

SELECTION PROCESS

Department of International Affairs - Institut Pasteur (DI) is in charge of the G4 selection process.

Each application will be reviewed by two (2) scientists from our experts panel. The final decision will be made following the panel meeting and confirmed by the executive management. Candidates will be notified in due course.

FOLLOW UP PROCESS

Department of International Affairs - Institut Pasteur (DI) is responsible of the follow-up process of the G4. As part of the evaluation, each year, the G4 PI should provide a complete progress report regarding the scientific activities, including details on annual expenditures. A mid-term interview will be organised with panel members in charge of the follow up.

Each G4 PI will be paired with a suitable mentor, offering advice and guidance for all aspects relating to G4 management and career development. The mentor will be identified from a pool of experienced scientists who already have experience in leading a research group within the IPIN. The G4 PI or the host institute direction can also suggest mentor to the DI.