



iCARE-2 Program

(international CAncer REsearch fellowships 2)

iCARE-2 fellowship program has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 800924.

AIRC
Milan, May 2018



Welcome...

... to today's webinar on iCARE-2
post-doctoral fellowships program.

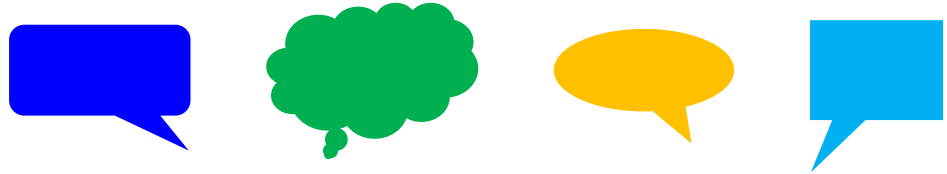


Maria Francesca Mossuto, PhD
AIRC Peer Review Officer



WEBINAR

~ 30min



QUESTIONS

- write them in the chat
- will be answered at the end of the webinar
- will be collected and reported in the FAQs section of iCARE-2 website

Questions concerning personal issues (such as CV and eligibility) must be sent to airc-direzione.scientifica@airc.it

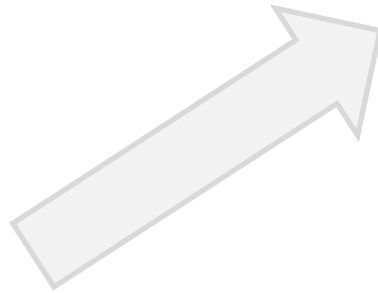
The slides and the recording of this webinar will be available on iCARE-2 website

Who are we?



Founded in 1965,
AIRC (Italian Association for
Cancer Research)
is a leading charity in Italy,
providing at least 40% of all
research funds invested in
cancer research in Italy.

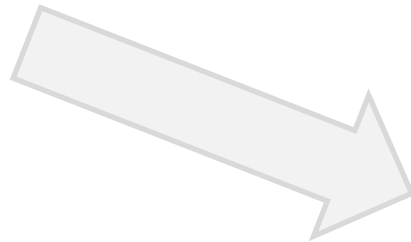
**Our
activities**



support **research** on cancer
through individual and
collaborative research grants
targeting researchers at different
stages of their careers



complete the
training of young researchers
with fellowship awards



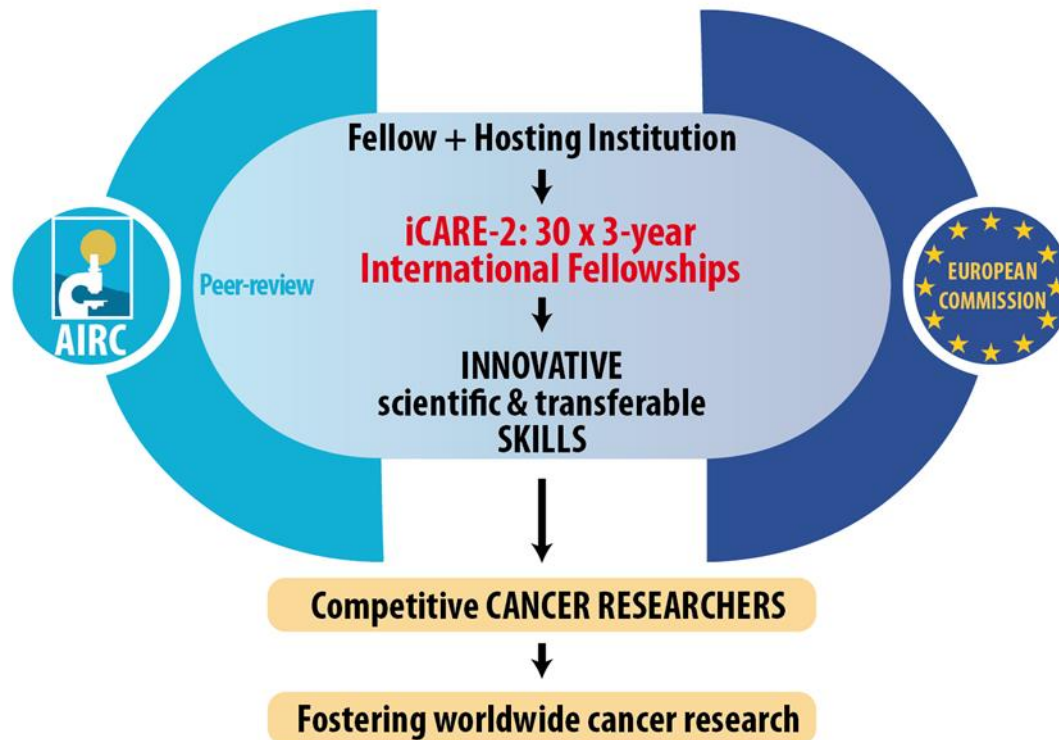
educate the public and
raise awareness of the progress in
cancer research

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- **What is iCARE-2?**
 - Who can apply?
 - Evaluation steps
 - 5 tips



iCARE-2 (international CANcer REsearch fellowships)

is a program for transnational mobility post-doctoral fellowships co-funded by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, intended to **foster worldwide cancer research by training** competitive researchers.



2 calls for applications

2018

**15 international post-doctoral
3-year fellowships**

2019

**15 international post-doctoral
3-year fellowships**

(Applicants not funded in the first call can apply to the second call)

3 types of fellowships:

INCOMING:

To bring to Italy the most promising foreign researchers



REINTEGRATION:

To favour the return of Italian scientists after a successful research experience abroad



OUTGOING:

To support fellows interested in a research experience in a competitive laboratory outside of Italy



3-year fellowships

The fellowship must be focused on training on SCIENCE



in the field of ONCOLOGY.

BOTTOM UP approach.

Any project applied to cancer in any field can be submitted.

INTERDISCIPLINARITY is welcome, since cancer can be studied from different points of view.

The fellowship must be focused on training on TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

beyond
science

Research
Integrity

Intellectual
Property Rights

Data protection

Leadership

Grant
writing

Entrepreneurship

Science
Communication

iCARE-2 program adopts **SEVERAL STRATEGIES** to train fellows in transferable skills:

- ✓ Advertisement of **publicly available training events** on transferable skills
- ✓ **iCARE-2 meetings** in Milan
- ✓ A **dedicated budget** (€ 1800/year) to be used for meetings and/or training events
- ✓ **Hosting Institutions** must provide fellows with training opportunities



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Applicants

must be EXPERIENCED RESEARCHERS

i.e. at the time of the submission deadline, applicants **MUST** either be in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience after the degree which formally allowed them to embark on a doctorate

Mobility rule

INCOMING FELLOWSHIPS:

- Applicants non-Italian.
- Hosting Institution in Italy.
- Applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity in Italy for more than 12 months in the 3 years prior to the Call deadline.



REINTEGRATION FELLOWSHIPS:

- Applicants Italian.
- Hosting Institution in Italy.
- Applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity in Italy for more than 12 months in the 3 years prior to the Call deadline.



OUTGOING FELLOWSHIPS:

- Applicants must have legally resided and have had their main activity in Italy for at least 3 out of the last 4 years prior to the Call deadline.
- Hosting Institution not in Italy.
- Applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity in the country of the hosting organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years prior to the Call deadline.

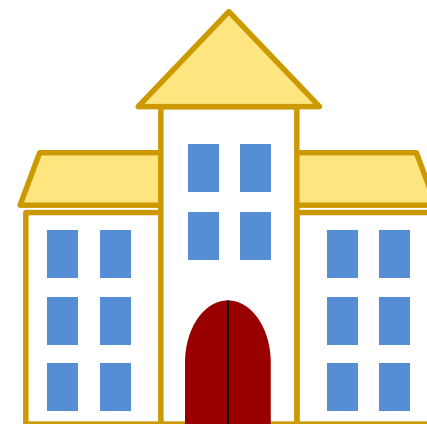


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Hosting Institution

must be research organisations, organised under public or private law, whose primary goal is to independently conduct non-economic biomedical research and to disseminate its results.

Applicants can choose
the most suitable
Hosting Institution and Hosting Lab
for their project!!!



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- What is iCARE-2?
 - Who can apply?
 - **Evaluation steps**
 - 5 tips



Three reviewers per fellowship application

Each application is evaluated in an independent manner by

1 member of CTS

and **2 international reviewers**

with specific expertise in the research area
of the application.

Peer Review evaluation steps

Step 1 Admissibility & eligibility check

Formal requirements of the applicant and of the Hosting Institution will be verified



Education records (PhD or 4 years)

Mobility check

(it takes time!!!...there is a video tutorial!!!)



Peer Review evaluation steps

Step 1
Admissibility
& eligibility
check

Formal requirements of the applicant and of the Hosting Institution will be verified



Step 2
Assignment to
reviewers

Each application will be assigned to 3 reviewers based on keywords, abstract and expertise



Step 3
Evaluation
and
ranking

Each reviewer will evaluate and give a score to the proposal. The average of the 3 scores will decide the position in the preliminary ranking



Peer Review evaluation steps

Step 4

Notification of preliminary results

Out of the **preliminary ranking**

- the top 15 applications will be the FINALISTS
- other 5 applications will be RESERVISTS



Step 5

Interviews and ethics review

The **15 FINALISTS** will undergo:

- A **phone interview** with two of the three reviewers
- An **ethics review** of their application



Ethics Self Assessment!!!

We ask information about the procedures.

Peer Review evaluation steps

Step 4

Notification of preliminary results



Step 5

Interviews and ethics review



Step 6

Notification of award

Out of the **preliminary ranking**

- the top 15 applications will be the FINALISTS
- other 5 applications will be RESERVISTS

The **15 FINALISTS** will undergo:

- A **phone interview** with two of the three reviewers
- An **ethics review** of their application

Applicants with positive interviews and ethics review will be awarded an iCARE-2 fellowship.



Evaluation criteria

Quality of the Hosting Institution/laboratory and training



It must be tackled in these sections of the application:

- «Letter of acceptance by the Hosting Institution»
- «Biographical sketch» and «Publications» of the head of hosting lab

Curriculum vitae of the applicant



It must be tackled in these sections of the application:

- «Biosketch of the applicant»
- «Personal Statement»
- Education records
- «Publications of the applicant»
- «Letter of presentation»

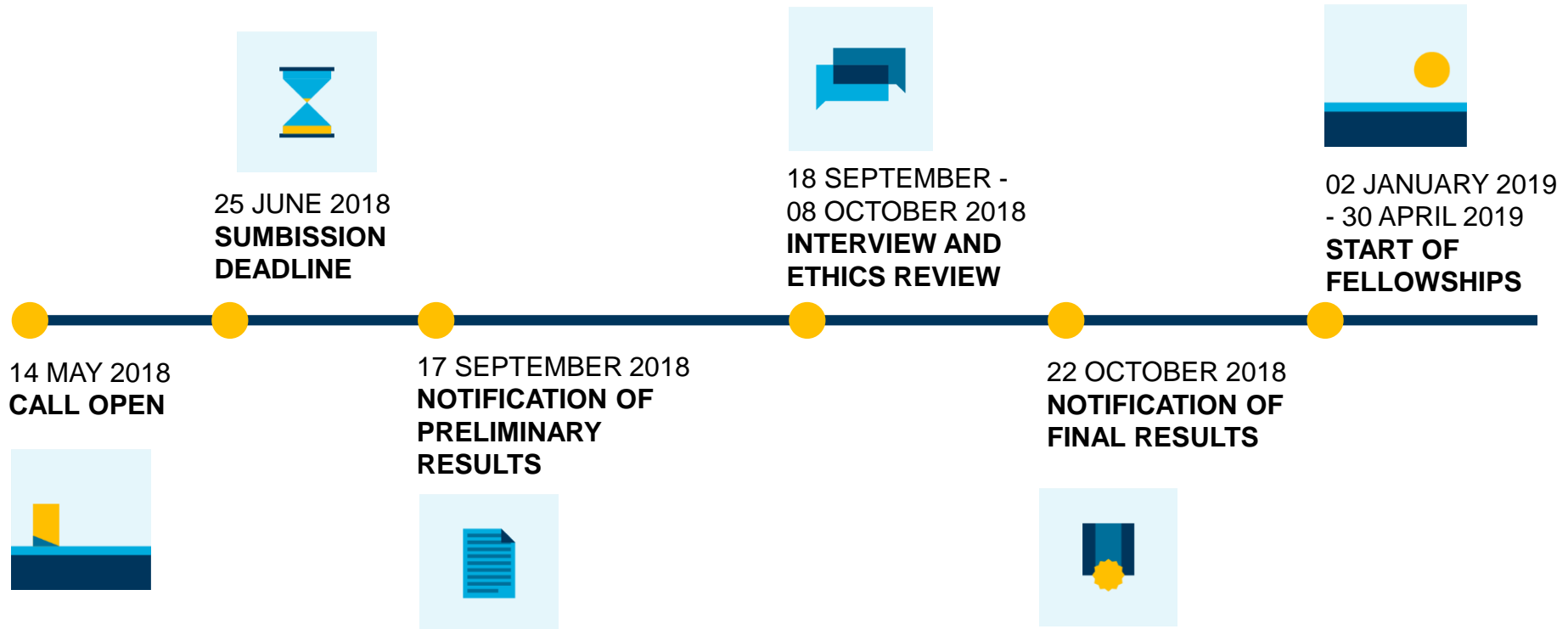
Research project



It must be tackled in this section of the application:

- «Abstract and Proposal main body»

Timeline of iCARE-2 fellowships 2018



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- What is iCARE-2?
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Common mistakes

Step 1

Admissibility
& eligibility
check

- Missed deadline
- Application does not fulfill all formal requirements
(applicant's track record, missing documents,...)

Step 2

Assignment to
reviewers

- Vague or similar keywords
- Abstract based mainly on background with few indications
on project rationale and approach

Step 3

Evaluation
and
ranking

- Scattered, confused or vague proposal
- Poor grantsmanship
- Lack of expertise

5 tips



- 1. Read the call documents and be sure to be eligible!**
(Call, Tips for applicants, FAQs on iCARE-2 website)

5 tips

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(Call, Tips for applicants, FAQs on iCARE-2 website)



2. Deadlines are deadlines

Make a plan and take time to

- collect all documents and information needed
- have your proposal read by colleagues/experts/non experts

5 tips

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3. **Keywords & abstract**

Choose carefully the **keywords** describing your project.

In the **abstract** specify project rationale and scientific approach.

5 tips

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4. Help the reviewers

Write the proposal in a clear and straight-to-the-point way

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5. Do not procrastinate on the long and «boring» parts (mobility check, ethics self assessment, ...)

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Previous AIRC-EU co-funded programs

Since 2010 AIRC and EU co-funded 2 Programs for Fellowships to Italy and for Abroad: FELCARES and iCARE

Years	Program	Submitted Applications	Awarded Fellowships	Average success rate
2010-2011	FELCARES	87	30	35%
2014-2015	iCARE	125	30	24%

Contact us:



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AIRC Calls for proposals can be found at:

<https://www.direzionescientifica.airc.it/>

iCARE-2 Website

www.icare-2.airc.it

Thank you!