

ANR-23-IAHU-0008	 LYON HEPATOLOGY INSTITUTE <small>COMPREHENSIVE LIVER CENTER</small>	IHU "EVEREST" CALL FOR PROPOSALS GUIDE Internal call for proposals	
July 2024			

IHU EVEREST
INTERNAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS N°1
CLOSING DATE : 1ST OCTOBER 2024

This call for proposals takes place within the Hospital-University Institute (IHU) EVEREST "intEgratiVE RESearch in hepaTology" labeled by the French government on 16 May 2023.

EVEREST aims to be at the forefront of translational research in hepatology by creating a **unique Comprehensive Liver Center**. The institute fosters integrated research and clinical care for innovation in diagnostics and therapy in Hepatology where researchers and physicians will work together with industrial partners to bring innovation to patients and clinical practice. It aims to ensure that the highest standard of care is developed, implemented and evaluated, focusing on patient needs and providing innovative training to healthcare professionals and scientists. EVEREST's long-term aim is to develop a model of sustainable precision medicine for patients with Chronic Liver Disease (CLD).

The call for proposals is open to all IHU's teams and involves 2 funding instruments:

- **Starting grant:** to initiate new projects, test conceptual ideas, generate preliminary data to support application to national or international grants
- **Research grant:** for full research projects.

The projects must be led by an IHU member and are expected to propose research and innovation projects in the frame of EVEREST's objectives (*basic, translational and clinical research relevant to liver diseases*).

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS:

Electronic submission of the application and supporting documents is mandatory before:

1ST OCTOBER 2024

By email to: contact@ihu-hepatolyon.fr

FOR ANY QUESTIONS:

contact@ihu-hepatolyon.fr

Or

Christelle.couvrie@chu-lyon.fr

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1. Context and objectives of the call for proposals

The French IHU initiative aims to create centers of excellence with international visibility, on a par with the best international institutions, in research, teaching and care.

It should enable the development of biomedical research in its fundamental, translational research and clinical research components, and encourage its transfer to all levels of the healthcare system, thanks to the creation of a limited number of IHUs. One of the objectives will be to enable experimentation with new methods of care and prevention, to ensure the training of outstanding professionals in the fields of care and R&D, and to promote cultural change by encouraging public-private partnerships.

The IHUs are designed to accelerate progress in healthcare research in France, by reinforcing a dynamic of transfer to the industry and partnership research in the healthcare and life sciences sector, and to better coordinate research, teaching and care around major healthcare challenges.

The Lyon Hepatology Institute EVEREST is focused on a specific organ – the liver – and engaged in generating innovation to treat all Chronic Liver Disease (CLD). It is expected to provide an attractive environment of scientific excellence for talented researchers and clinicians, as well as for industrial partnerships.

More specifically, EVEREST will

1. meet the current and future challenges of hepatology by integrating scientific and clinical expertise, training young scientists and doctors, and attracting world-class talents to develop novel diagnostics and therapeutics in collaboration with industry to transform the current CLD patient management paradigms;
2. evolve in to an international reference hub for hepatology research and care to enable fast transfer of diagnostic and therapeutic innovation to clinical practice through real-life validation, generate and analyze large data sets, provide evidence for the value of novel care pathways, implement network-based care trajectories to engage professionals and patients integrating public health, health economics, and human & social sciences dimension.

2. Scope of the call for proposals

The call objective is to support research projects and not to support structures. Only projects submitted by EVEREST teams will be considered.

The projects must demonstrate coherence and added-value in scientific terms; with a view to collaborate on a hepatology-related project; it may concern medical devices, therapy products, diagnostic tools, disease understanding, new care pathways, ...

The projects must aim for excellence and consider the patient perspective. Collaboration between clinicians and researchers is encouraged whenever possible. Innovative approaches in the basic understanding of liver disease mechanisms, translational research, and clinical research are expected.

Although not mandatory, the EVEREST Institute encourages submissions which:

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- Have a valorization potential, e.g. a focus on technology transfer, dissemination or commercialization.
- Involve collaboration of several teams within the EVEREST Institute

The projects must be new and not be financed identically elsewhere.
Co-funding will be appreciated.

The requested budget must be consistent with the project’s program

Maximum requested budget:

- 300 k€ for full research projects
- 50 k€ for starting grants

Maximum duration of the project: 36 months.

3. Evaluation of submitted projects

Projects will be evaluated by the EVEREST international Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) members, according to the following criteria:

- **Relevance** of the research project proposal with respect to EVEREST objectives and missions
- **Innovative** nature of the proposal
- **Scientific quality and impact** (including potential to inform further studies)
- **Methodology and study design**, with milestones and deliverables
- **Quality of environment and team**: ability of the PI and team to deliver
- **Feasibility** of proposal and costing (assessment of costs and human resources, achievable timelines, value for money)
- **Translational relevance for patients with liver disease**
- **Valorization**: potential for medical and/or public health applications, industrial transfer, etc.

4. Provisions for the funding

The project will be funded by an allocation from the French State to ANR within the frame of the Investments for the Future program – IHU action.

The funding awarded will be a non-reimbursable grant, according to the provisions of the “regulations on the funding modalities within the frame of calls for proposals in the hospital-university research”, available on the website of the calls for proposals.

The allocated budget to a project will be managed by the IHU teams, within one specific account hosted by one of the 4 founders (HCL, UCBL, Inserm or CLB). No repayment will be done from the IHU towards the PI’s team. Industrial partners cannot be funded.

According to IHU regulations, the following rules will be followed:

- No financing of permanent staff
- No real estate financing
- Outsourcing limited to 50% maximum of the allocated grant.

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The funding of a project does not exempt the involved partners from meeting their obligations regarding the institutional regulations, the ethical rules and the code of ethics applicable in their activity.

On behalf of all the partners, the project's coordinator commits to keep the IHU team informed of any change or difficulty modifying the content, the partnership and the completion timeline of the project.

5. Conditions of submission

The complete submission dossier should include the following documents fully filled in:

- The scientific document (in English) which describes the scientific, technical and clinical objectives of the project, as well as its educational and valorization objectives (whenever applicable)
- The PI's CV

The PI can only coordinate **one IHU-funded project at a time**. He may participate to several IHU projects, but not as the scientific leader.

Applications must be sent to contact@ihu-hepatolyon.fr before the closing of the call for proposals, whose date is indicated on page 1.