

THE RECTOR

- - considering the Statute of the University of Pisa, issued by a Decree of the Rector on 30 September 1994, and subsequent amendments thereto;
- considering the decisions made by the Board of the Center for the Clinical Use of Stem Cells (CUCCS), approved by Tuscany Region on 1st September 2009;
- considering the decisions of the Rector with regard to the budget of the CUCCS for the triennium 2010-2012;
- CONSIDERING THE DECISIONS OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (STC) OF THE CUCCS DURING ITS MEETING ON 29 JANUARY 2010;
- considering the budget of the CUCCS estimates for the year 2010

HEREBY DECREES

ART. 1 – Object of the announcement

This regulation deals with the rules for submission and selection of three-year translational research proposals in the field of mesenchymal stem cells co-financed by the University of Pisa in 2010.

ART. 2 – Scientific and Technical Committee

The selection of proposals is carried out by the University of Pisa via the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) of the Center for Clinical Applications of Stems Cells (CUCCS).

ART. 3 – Projects characteristics

The announcement "CUCCS 2010" is aimed at co-financing projects of translational research on mesenchymal stem cells for the quick transfer of knowledge into clinical practice for diagnostic and/or therapeutic applications.

ART. 4 – Proposing senior researcher

The proposing researcher (Scientific Coordinator) must present a CV with at least 5 scientific publications (reviewed on med-line) during the last 5 years in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, penultimate or last author positions.

ART. 5 – Projects requirements

- 1 - Conduct of the main research in the laboratories either of the University of Pisa or the University Hospital of Pisa (Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria Pisana, AOUP);
- 2 - Involvement of other researchers of the University of Pisa or AOUP;
- 3 - Co-financing for at least 50% of the overall budget by public or private entities;
- 4 - Presentation of a Gantt chart, with detailed phases and time courses of the project and indication of both intermediate and final aims and deliveries.

ART.6 – Project presentation

The proposing researcher (Scientific Coordinator) is responsible for both scientific and financial organization of the project;

The presentation of the project must include the letter of acceptance from the Director of the Laboratory hosting the main research work;

The latest deadline for submission of the co-financing application is set on 8th March 2010. If by mail, applications must arrive in any case within 8th March 2010;

Applications must be addressed to the *Rector of the University of Pisa - Lungarno Pacinotti, 43/44 - 56100 Pisa, Italy*; envelopes must contain the words "CUCCS 2010 c.a. dr. Vincenzo Tedesco".

The Administration does not accept any responsibility for the loss of communications due to mistakes in the indication of the address of the candidates, or failure or delay in notifying any change of address indicated in the application, nor for any postal or telegraph misdelivery, or otherwise attributable to acts of others, unforeseen circumstances or force majeure.

Applications must be submitted in Italian or English languages as indicated in the guidelines available online at <http://www.unipi.it>.

Applications must contain:

- Brief CV of the scientific coordinator;
- List of scientific publications of the coordinator (maximum of 10, including 5 in the last 5 years).
- List of researchers involved in the project;
- Keywords;
- Abstract (in Italian and English);
- Description of the rationale of the research, that should be based on scientific knowledge obtained from the work performed at least in part by the proposer, although not necessarily inherent in the final aim of the research proposal;
- Objectives of the research;
- Synthetic design and methodology with references or other informations documenting the specific expertise for the implementation of the project;
- Intermediate endpoints (on annual basis), deliveries and outcome indicators. The sustainability of the intermediate endpoints and their lead times are part of the proceedings for the selection of projects, as well as their refinancing. A Gantt chart should accompany the documents;
- Expected results;
- Budget. A prospect must include the following funds with a detailed analysis.
 - 1 – Co-financing already available from public or private entities;
 - 2 - Overall co-financing from the CUCCS of the University of Pisa should not exceed 300,000 €.

The sum of the available co-financing can not be less than 50% of the sum of the overall budget of the project. The financing from CUCCS may include staff, consumables and other costs provided that the costs of the consumables does not exceed 50% of the funding from CUCCS. Other cost items need to be covered by external co-financing.

+ART. 7 – Criteria for evaluating the projects

A maximum of 4 projects will be approved according to the following criteria:

- 1- originality of the proposed research and potentials for significant advancement of knowledge beyond the state of the art, up to 35 points;
- 2- short term translational relevance, up to 35 points;

3- scientific expertise of the reaserch team, up to 30 points.

Following the procedures of admission, the winners will be invited by the Scientific Director of the CUCCS at a hearing by the Scientific Technical Committee and the proposer will present (in 15 minutes) briefly the project and its budget needs. After that meeting, the Technical and Scientific Committee, will determine the amount of funding for each project.

ART. 8 - Management and reporting of projects

The administration of the funding will be performed by he administrative office of the University of Pisa. The budget will be assigned on year basis, depending on the funding approved and after reporting of the achievements to the Scientific and Technical Committee of CUCCS. The implementation of each phase of the research according to the proposed Gantt chart will be essential for the maintenance of the funding annuality.

For projects that will not achieve the expected results yearly funding will be stopped. The corresponding will be assigned to other pursuing projects that have reached their endpoints as expected, during the three years of research. The overall objective of the research can not be changed, unless the project manager asks permission from the Technical and Scientific Committee.

The scientific coordinator is responsible for the overall management of the project. Any publication and other product resulting from the research will have to aknowledge the co-funding as "CUCCS 2010." As for the intellectual property is concerned, it will be covered by the existing regulation of the University of Pisa.

ART. 9 - Scientific reports and evaluation of projects

Within 30 days after completion of the project, the scientific coordinator is required to produce a final scientific report on the results obtained, and to forward it to the Rector of the University of Pisa. The report must contain a detailed list of publications and other scientific products resulting from the research project. The Technical and Scientific Committee is entrusted with the overall scientific evaluation of projects at the end of the same.

ART.10 - Standard law reference

This regulation is applied under the rules of the Civil Code and the laws in force at the court of Pisa.

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(Prof. M. Pasquali)