



## Atip–Avenir Program 2026

### Young group leader

#### Objectives

In the context of a partnership, Inserm and CNRS Biology launch every year a call for proposals aimed at:

- **Facilitating young researchers in establishing and heading their own research team** within an established Inserm or CNRS Biology<sup>1</sup> laboratory in France. The Atip-Avenir team will contribute to the advancement of research in the host unit while simultaneously **pursuing independently their own scientific project**.
- **Promoting mobility** and attracting talented early-career scientists to assume leadership roles, reinforcing Inserm and CNRS commitment to **scientific excellence, integrity, and diversity**.

**The Atip-Avenir grant** is allocated for a duration of **5 years**.

The program is opened to young scientists, regardless of their current position or nationality, who possess 2 to 8 years of experience since obtaining their PhD or equivalent doctoral degree (PhD defense between September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023)<sup>2</sup>. Successful applicants are required to conduct their projects within a structure in which he/she has not been working for more than 18 months<sup>3</sup> and will not find any prior mentors from their PhD and/or post doctorate. Candidates who received grants similar to the Atip-Avenir program (e.g. ANR JCJC or ERC programs to manage a research group) are not eligible. While Atip-Avenir laureates can apply to similar programs, they cannot combine funding from programs similar to Atip-Avenir.

Applicants are limited to apply for a maximum of two different Atip-Avenir calls.

Projects must relate to Life sciences or Health. The contract will have to begin by the first half of 2027.

Clinicians are encouraged to submit applications. Projects must comply with the ethical guidelines established by Inserm and CNRS.

#### Funding:

Package for 5 years including:

- Annual grant of €60,000.
- Two-year salary for a postdoctoral researcher or a research engineer.
- Five-year salary for non-tenured laureates.

A mid-term report must be provided.

The host laboratory will provide a dedicated research area of at least 50 m<sup>2</sup>, with infrastructures costs covered by the host lab. Additionally, the team will have access to the local technological facilities. Candidates may submit their proposal without having identified a host laboratory.

#### Potential partners for the co-funding of projects in their scientific areas

ANRS-MIE (Agence nationale de recherches sur le sida et les hépatites virales – Maladies Infectieuses Emergentes), AFM-Téléthon (Association française contre les myopathies), Fondation ARC, Fondation Bettencourt Schueller, LNCC (Ligue Nationale contre le Cancer), Stratégie décennale de lutte contre les cancers 2021-2030, I-SITE LUE, I-SITE MUSE, I-SITE CAP 20-25, A\*Midex.

#### Selection procedure

Applications will be assessed by specialized international scientific committees composed of experts in the relevant fields<sup>4</sup>:

- AA1 Molecules of Life and Integrative Biology
- AA2 Cell Biology, Development and Evolution
- AA3 Physiology, Pathophysiology, Immunity, Infection and Microbiology
- AA4 Neurosciences and Cognition

Projects that are epidemiological, technological, or cover any approach or theme not specifically mentioned in the generic titles of the AA panels above will be evaluated by the AA panel that aligns most closely with their thematic content.

Two rounds of selection are applied: initial shortlisting will take place in April 2026 and interviews of the selected applicants in early June 2026. CNRS Biology and Inserm will finalize the list of laureates in July 2026.

Opening for submissions starts on **Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025 at 00:01 am CET**.

The **deadline** for submitting applications is **Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 10:00 am CET**.

Applications must be submitted electronically at:

<https://sp2013.inserm.fr/sites/eva/appels-a-projets/Pages/Atip-Avenir.aspx>

<sup>1</sup>CNRS Biology as primary affiliation

<sup>2</sup>Exceptions can be granted for maternity (12 months per child), paternity, military service leaves, and for clinicians (laureates from the École de l'Inserm Liliane Bettencourt...)

<sup>3</sup>Exceptions can be granted to teachers and medical doctors affiliated with university hospitals

<sup>4</sup>Topics of research covered by these juries are listed on the following page online

#### Contacts for further information:

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## **Atip-Avenir evaluation panels with the covered fields of research**

### **AA1 Molecules of Life and Integrative Biology:**

- Molecular biology, biochemistry, structural biology, molecular biophysics, synthetic and chemical biology, drug design, innovative methods and modelling,
- Genetics, epigenetics, genomics and other 'omics studies, bioinformatics, systems biology, genetic diseases, gene editing, innovative methods and modelling, 'omics for personalized medicine

### **AA2 Cell Biology, Development and Evolution:**

- Structure and function of the cell, cell-cell communication,
- Embryogenesis, tissue differentiation, organogenesis, growth, development, developmental and evolutionary genetics, organoids, stem cells,
- Regeneration, development of cell-based therapeutic approaches for tissue regeneration, Functional imaging of cells and tissues,
- Theoretical modelling in cellular, developmental and regenerative biology,
- Physics of biological systems,
- Non-canonical biological models and mechanisms

### **AA3 Physiology, Pathophysiology, Immunity, Infection and Microbiology:**

- Organ and tissue physiology, comparative physiology, physiology of ageing, pathophysiology inter- organ and tissue communication,
- Endocrinology, nutrition, metabolism, interaction with the microbiome,
- Non-communicable diseases including cancer and immunity-related diseases (except disorders of the nervous system),
- The immune system, related disorders and their mechanisms,
- Innovative immunological tools and approaches, including therapies,
- Biology of infectious agents and infection, biological basis of prevention and treatment of infectious diseases,
- Pharmacology and toxicology,
- Nanomedicine, Technologies, genetic tools and biomarkers for prevention, diagnosis, monitoring and treatment of diseases

### **AA4 Neurosciences and Cognition:**

- Nervous system development, homeostasis and ageing, nervous system function and dysfunction,
- Systems neuroscience and modelling, biological basis of cognitive processes and behavior,
- Neurological and mental disorders,
- Cognitive basis of human development, developmental disorders,
- Comparative cognition,
- Attention, perception, action, consciousness, learning, memory, cognition in ageing, reasoning, decision-making,
- Innovative methods and tools for neuroscience