



Atip–Avenir Program 2027

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 to establish and lead their own research team** within an established Inserm or CNRS Biology¹ laboratory in France.
- **Promoting mobility** and attracting talented early-career scientists to assume leadership roles.

The Atip-Avenir grant is awarded for 5 years.

The program is open 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 defence between September 15th, 2018 and September 15th, 2024)². Successful applicants are required to conduct their projects within a structure in which he/she has not been working for more than 18 months³ and will not find any prior mentors from their PhD and/or post doctorate. Candidates who received fundings similar to the Atip-Avenir program (e.g. ANR JCJC, ERC or Impulsience) are not eligible. Atip-Avenir laureates are asked to apply for ERC fundings during the 5-year program.

Applicants may apply to a maximum of two different Atip-Avenir calls.

Projects must relate to Life sciences or Health. The contract must begin during the first half of 2028. 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.

Selection procedure

Applicants must submit their applications without specifying a host laboratory but indicating the specific characteristics they expect from the research environment to develop at best their project. If shortlisted for interviews, candidates must identify three potential host laboratories in which they will not find any prior mentors from their PhD and/or post doctorate, and where they have not been working for more than 18 months as of the opening date of the call for applications (i.e. March 15th, 2025).

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, FINOVI (Fondation innovations en infectiologie), Fondation Bettencourt Schueller, LNCC (Ligue Nationale contre le Cancer), Stratégie décennale de lutte contre les cancers 2021-2030, I-SITE LUE, I-SITE MUSE, A*Midex.

Applications will be assessed by specialized international scientific committees composed of experts in the relevant fields⁴:

- 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 will be applied: initial shortlisting will take place in April 2027, and interviews with selected applicants in early June 2027. CNRS Biology and Inserm will finalize the list of laureates in July 2027.

Submissions open on **Tuesday, October 1st, 2026, at 00:01 am CET**

The **deadline** for submitting applications is **Monday November 2nd, 2026, at 10:00 am CET**

Applications must be submitted electronically at:

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

¹CNRS Biology as primary affiliation

²Exceptions 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...)

³Exceptions can be granted to teachers and medical doctors affiliated with university hospitals

⁴Topics of research covered by these juries on the following page online

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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