

THE ERA-NET: ALIGNING NATIONAL/REGIONAL TRANSLATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

Launch of the Joint Transnational Call 2017: 5th December 2017

“Translational Research on Rare Cancers”

- **23 national/regional funding organizations from 17 countries are participating in this Call with a total earmarked budget of 16,73 M€.**
- **Pre-proposal deadline submission: February 6th 2018.**
- **Full proposal deadline submission (only for invited proposals): May 30th 2018.**
- **Final decision for funded projects: Foreseen at the end of 2018.**

The TRANSCAN-2 consortium has agreed to focus its fourth and last Call for proposals on rare cancers, in order to address this broad and complex issue with a collaborative transnational and translational approach. Management of rare cancers is often associated with delays in diagnosis due to inadequate diagnostic precision and difficulties in the identification of appropriate treatments. In addition, access to clinical trials is a challenge. The burden of rare cancers is noticeable. Indeed, when globally considered, these tumours represent about 20% of all human cancers and are associated with lower survival rates as compared to the so-called frequent tumours. They are traditionally defined on the basis of epidemiologic estimates. For the purposes of this Call, the operational definition of rare cancers, provided by the European RARECAREnet project, and the related list, were adopted. Incidence rates for rare cancers in Europe were obtained from cancer registry data. In total, 94 cancer registries contributed data to the RARECAREnet project.

The projects proposed within this Call will have to address the following aims:

- Design and conduct of translational research studies exploiting/combining currently available resources from clinical trials, bio-repositories and epidemiological studies;
- Study of drug responses/resistance and toxicity, drug screening or repurposing of approved anticancer drugs;
- Implementation of precision biomarkers for better stratification of the clinical cohorts.

Considering the relevance of the Call topic, the creation and implementation of outstanding scientific consortia may significantly contribute to discovering and/or implementing: **i)** The molecular and genomic mechanisms responsible for rare tumour development and progression; **ii)** The use of innovative therapeutic approaches involving both conventional and targeted agents; **iii)** Possible application of drugs successfully used in other neoplasms; **iv)** Research on orphan drugs and **v)** Most interestingly, novel drugs, making them appealing and economically sustainable.

Visit the TRANSCAN-2 website for more information:

<http://www.transcanfp7.eu/index.php/calls/fourth-joint-transnational-call-jtc-2017.html>

Results of the Joint Transnational Call 2016

“Minimally and non-invasive methods for early detection and/or progression of cancer”

- 23 national/regional funding organizations from 16 countries participated in the Call.
- The deadline for proposal submission was in June 2017.
- In October 2017 **14 projects were selected for funding** (more information at: <http://www.transcanfp7.eu/index.php/pages/funded-projects.html#JTC2016fundedprojects>), with a **total requested budget of 15.2 M€**.
- The selected projects are funded by 16 funding organizations from 12 countries.
- Foreseen start of the projects: April 2018.
- More details on the results of the JTC 2016 will be published in the April 2018 TRANSCAN-2 newsletter.

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