



Associazione Italiana Oncologia Medica

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2017

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### Two-stage project selection:

1. Letter of intent
  - deadline for submission: April 7, 2017
2. For projects selected at the first stage
  - deadline for submission of complete proposal: June 30, 2017

Projects should be submitted electronically to [cecilia.bettinelli@aiom.it](mailto:cecilia.bettinelli@aiom.it).  
Other modalities of submission (by hand, via traditional mail) are not allowed.

### Eligibility of applicants

Principal Investigator (applicant) must be a medical doctor, with AT LEAST one of the following characteristics:

1. Specialty in Medical Oncology (completed or ongoing)
2. PhD in Medical Oncology

The applicant must be AIOM member (mandatory condition).

The applicant should demonstrate to be part of a working team. The project should be conducted in a Hospital or University or a National Cancer Institute (IRCCS, *Istituto di Ricerca a Carattere Scientifico*).

The grant will be allocated to the institution where the research will be conducted.

### Objectives:

Due to the latest acquisitions in the diagnostic (molecular biology) and therapeutic field as far as lung cancer concerns, AIOM aims to support translational research in the thoracic oncology field (lung, pleura, thymus gland, mediastinum). The supported projects should have a potential impact on clinical practice and patients' clinical management.

**With this aim, AIOM provides 120.000 euros, to be appointed to a single project or more projects. Projects should have a min 12 to max 24 months duration.**

**Co-financing of research projects is allowed. If the overall budget of the project is higher than the requested amount for the grant, the applicant must specify the modality of co-financing the remaining amount.**

### Selection criteria

Projects must cover at least one of the following topics (always in the thoracic oncology field, as indicated above):

- Checkpoint inhibitors resistance mechanisms in tumors and immune system cells; role of the tumour micro-environment in resistance
- Immuno-oncology in thoracic oncology: definition through gene sequencing methods, immunosignature and analysis of the prognostic and/or predictive value of response to the immune-checkpoint inhibitors;
- Neoantigens in thoracic oncology: study of new methods to identify and predict tumor neoantigenes associated to DNA mutations

Each project:

- must demonstrate a scientific validity, supported by a referenced background and rationale, with a clearly stated study hypothesis
- must describe the potential impact of results on clinical practice and patients' management
- must be accompanied by complete requested documents, within the indicated deadlines
- should be based on a cooperative working activity within a Hospital, a University or a National Cancer Institute (IRCCS)

In the evaluation process, some further elements will be taken into account:

- CV of the Principal Investigator (that must be attached to the project)
- Publications (of the Principal Investigators and/or other participants in the project), on peer-reviewed scientific journals, in the last 5 years in the thoracic oncology field
- The ability (of the Principal Investigators and/or other participants in the project) to cooperate with other research groups, both at a national and international level, documented by publication and/or participation in research projects in the last 5 years.

### Exclusion criteria

- All projects with objectives that are different from those specified in the previous paragraph will not be considered
- Generic requests of support (without a specific research project) will not be considered
- All requests not accompanied by the requested forms in the specified deadlines will not be considered
- All projects already ongoing will not be considered
- All projects focused on the study of new drugs (or combinations or drugs) in terms of activity, tolerability and efficacy, will not be considered (if the drug is already available in clinical practice, but the project is based on its evaluation in a different setting/indication, the project is not eligible).

### Submission modality

**Projects must be submitted in English, to allow peer-review by International experts.**

The Letter of intent must be prepared in English according to the dedicated form (“*Lettera di Intenti*” file) and instructions.

The complete project (for projects selected after the first stage) must be in English and must report the budget details, according to the dedicated instructions that will be available for the candidates who will pass the first selection (file named “*Progetto completo*” and file named “*Budget*”). All projects lacking, even in part, the requested forms will not be considered. In case of co-funding, the budget must indicate the total amount of the co-financed project and other subjects’ co-fundings.

All the documents should be submitted electronically, within the below specified deadlines.

### Schedule

Submission of Letter of intent	April 7, 2017 (1:00 p.m. Italian time)
Pre-selection results	May 31, 2017
Submission of final project	June 30, 2017 (1:00 p.m. Italian time)
Final results of selection	July 31, 2017

### Technical assistance

For all the information about compilation and submission of forms, please contact AIOM secretariat Cecilia Bettinelli ([ceilia.bettinelli@aiom.it](mailto:ceilia.bettinelli@aiom.it); +39 0270630279).

### Publication of selection results and modality of funding

The results of first stage of selection will be published on AIOM website and each applicant will receive an e-mail notification from AIOM President.

At the second stage selection the financing will be granted after AIOM receives a letter of acceptance signed by the institution recipient of the grant with the information necessary to make the payment.

For winning projects, the grant should be utilized and accounted coherently with the budget details declared, within the indicated deadlines.

The reports must be written in a clear and complete way and must be accompanied by a copy of the supporting documents for the whole reported amount. In case AIOM thinks it’s necessary, the institution will be asked to give further specific information or send further documents. The financing will not be granted in case of incomplete or lacking documents. In case the reported costs will be lower than the budget, the grant will be decreased in the same proportion. The timing and the procedures (communication of the beginning of the activities, halfway reports and final report) of the grant distribution will be decided by AIOM once the grant is obtained.