

GENERAL

Thermo Fisher Scientific acknowledges the value of supporting educational programs and independent research projects in order to promote EXCELLENCE IN MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS and REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, with the aim of increasing high quality molecular profiling for health care providers serving cancer patients and improving clinical outcomes.

Thermo Fisher Scientific, in addition to investing in R&D and supporting research collaborations, has established the **ONCOMINE CLINICAL RESEARCH GRANT** program to provide financial support for Investigator Initiated Research and Education Projects, designed and carried out by external researchers. Oncomine Grants are available for clinical research projects focusing on molecular testing in oncology and reproductive health.

Thermo Fisher Scientific will consider such proposals based on scientific merit and strategic alignment with the company's areas of scientific interest. Proposal reviews are conducted by a committee comprised of independent and internationally recognized experts and Thermo Fisher Scientific medical and scientific leadership.

The application process is administered by the Oncomine Clinical Research Grant Office managed by Clinical Sequencing Division (CSD) Medical Affairs team. Detailed information about how to register and apply, including documentation requirements, review process, and decision notification, is available at Oncomine.com and its associated grant management portal.

The company intends to award Oncomine Grants four times a year on specific topics aligned with the company areas of interest. The annual deadline for the **2020 submission** is:

- **Submission:** Open: September 15 - Close: October 31
Proposals for research grants

Submission of grant proposals will be confirmed by Thermo Fisher Oncomine Grant Office via an official confirmation email. Upon review for compliance and alignment with company areas of interest, suitable proposals will be submitted for external evaluation. Notification of selection is expected to be provided within 8 weeks after the closing date.

APPLICATION

Proposal form

Grant applications should be submitted electronically in English language according to the following guidelines:

Proposals should be submitted using the specific “Clinical study proposal form” available at Oncomine.com. The form should not exceed 10 pages, single-spaced, font size 12.

Proposals should outline the planned activities to be performed for a one-year period. If your project exceeds a one-year period, please enclose information about how you intend to fund the remaining timeframe.

Research project grant application should include the following:

1. PI identification and affiliation (including a CV)
2. Title (short and descriptive of the work)
3. Study type (retrospective or prospective)
4. Background (max. 2 pages)
5. Objectives and scope (max. 1 page)
6. Material and methods, including sample cohort when applicable (max. 2 pages)
7. Timeline with milestones and deliverables (max. 1 page)
8. Team members and affiliation
9. Budget, including budget justifications and requested materials/resources (max. 1 page)
10. References (max. 10 references)

Budget

A budget is required for every grant request and should detail the proposed use of requested funds. The budget must illustrate a reasonable cost for the program activities being supported. The maximum budget request for each project is set at \$200 000.00. Up to 50% of the grant can be used to support facilities and administrative costs. The remaining amount, and any case not less than 50% of the overall budget, will have to be utilized to cover cost of Oncomine™ and Ion Torrent™ sequencing products.

Thermo Fisher **will not** fund items such as, but not limited to, the following:

- Entertainment
- Gifts for faculty or organizers
- First class airfare
- Salaries and benefits
- Direct sponsorship of identified individual participant expenses
- Recipients receiving grants may be required to complete post-program budget reconciliation, submit any data required for state/federal/country reporting purposes such as Open Payments (Sunshine Act), and provide program outcomes.

Ethics issues

Ethics issues and how they are addressed in the research process should be clearly stated in the proposal. It is the responsibility of the researcher to assess the legal Framework applying to the studies and to take the required measures. In particular, research on humans, studies based on human tissue samples or individual medical data must be approved by an official ethics committee and comply with the Declaration of Helsinki regulating research on humans.

SELECTION PROCESS

All submitted proposals will be reviewed by the Oncomine Clinical Research Grant Office for compliance and alignment with company areas of interest. Eligible proposals then will be evaluated by internal experts as well as external and independent reviewers. External review will be performed by an expert Oncologist and an expert Pathologist invited by Thermo Fisher to rank proposals solely based on scientific merit.

Applicants will be informed within 8 weeks after submission deadline if their proposal has been selected or not for a grant. An agreement with clearly identified milestones, deliverables, and support commitments will be executed by the parties before the project can initiate.

The Grant Office will design a plan to regularly follow-up on the progress of the project and its alignment with milestones.

Grant recipients will be required to submit a report to the Grant Office upon completion of the project.

Evaluation Criteria

Scoring of the project proposals for ranking and selection, is based on the Merit of the Project (MP), to be calculated according to the following formula:

$$\text{MP} = 0.30 \text{ A} + 0.45 \text{ B} + 0.25 \text{ C}$$

The three evaluation criteria are:

- A.** Scientific merit of the research team
- B.** Scientific merit and innovative nature of the project;
- C.** Nature of the requested resources;

The three criteria are scored using a 4-point scale system (1–minimum; 4–maximum) and each of the criteria is rated using this scale with whole numbers only. The final score of MP is rounded to two decimal places. Application of these criteria shall consider the following:

For criterion A:

- i.) Scientific productivity of the applicant / research team (ranging from references to publications and citations in published works);
- ii.) Abilities and skills to adequately execute the proposed project (team configuration, PI's qualifications);
- iii.) Degree of success in previous projects of the PI (this requirement must be assessed based on the PIs curriculum vitae);

For criterion B:

- i.) Originality, significance and potential impact of the project;
- ii.) Methodology adopted for carrying out the project;
- iii.) Expected results and their contribution to scientific and technological knowledge;
- iv.) Resulting publications and other communications;
- v.) Feasibility of the work plan;
- vi.) Production of knowledge that can contribute to benefits to society or to the business sector.

For criterion C:

- i.) Suitability of staff and/or students to be funded by the project;
- ii.) Suitability of budget for salaries, equipment, consumables, travel, etc.
- iii.) Description of the type of collaboration with medical/clinical teams

CONFIDENTIALITY AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The confidentiality of written applications is important and will be protected. All reviewers involved in evaluation will be expected to sign a statement of confidentiality for the contents of the project applications and to the results of the evaluation.

Reviewers are not allowed to submit applications, both as PI or team member, to the call they are enrolled to evaluate. Otherwise, they must decline participating in the evaluation process.

If an Evaluator has a conflict of interest in respect of a proposal, he/she must declare such fact as soon as he/she becomes aware of this and agrees to stop all work on evaluating the proposal if asked to do.

Evaluators are obliged to follow the Code of Conduct for Evaluators.

DATA OWNERSHIP POLICY AND AUTHORSHIP FOR PUBLICATION

The PI will own data produced during sponsored research. Publication authorship is the sole responsibility of the PI and research team. Thermo Fisher reserves the right to review publications prior to submission, correct factual mistakes about our products and protect proprietary information.

Any publication/communication resulting from the project must acknowledge Oncomine Clinical Research Grants and must be under open access.