

The application procedures of the following call are available at:
<https://grant.fondazioneveronesi.it/>

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE UMBERTO VERONESI CLINICAL RESEARCH GRANT

FONDAZIONE VERONESI

YEAR 2026

Innovation in imaging techniques and therapeutic strategies is revolutionizing cancer diagnosis and treatment, opening new perspectives for increasingly **precise and personalized medicine**. The **integration of advanced methodologies** allows for the early detection of tumors, more accurate characterization, and the development of targeted therapies that enhance treatment efficacy while minimizing side effects.

In this context, clinical research plays a crucial role in **translating the latest scientific discoveries into everyday medical practice**, ensuring a rapid impact on patient health. The advancement of **molecular and functional imaging techniques**, along with the implementation of innovative therapeutic approaches, including **immuno-oncology**, is transforming the natural history of many cancer types.

This call is aimed at **physician-scientists** dedicated to developing **cutting-edge** diagnostic and therapeutic tools, with the goal of improving cancer prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment strategies through a **translational approach**.

For 2026, FUV offers up to 10 one-year fellowships to young top-level clinicians to promote original clinical research in leading Italian institutions. **Each fellowship provides a gross sum of € 33.000 (before tax) per year.**

1. RESEARCH AREA

Fighting cancer is the major interest of FUV. The Foundation aims at sustaining cutting-edge clinical research projects for the **prevention, early detection, diagnosis, and treatment** of cancer with special attention to the following broad research fields:

- Clinical and surgical oncology and trials;
- Development of novel therapeutics to overcome drug resistance and improve patient prognosis
- Development of innovative diagnostic procedures

Primary FUV interests are:

- **Female tumors** (breast, uterus and ovarian cancers);
- **Male tumors** (prostate, testicle, bladder);
- **Paediatric and adolescents' tumors;**
- **High impact, still difficult to treat tumors** including brain, lung, pancreatic and gastric tumors.
- **Metastatic diseases;**
- **Cellular therapies** as a mean to treat cancer (i.e.: CAR-T, CAR-NK);

However, applications on **other cancer types** will be evaluated and granted based on excellence.

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The call is open to **Italian and foreign medical doctors holding a degree in Medicine**, with clinical research experience and **post-graduate qualification** (i.e., specialization or PhD). Selected candidates must carry out their work in leading Italian Research-Hospitals and shall – based on their expertise – become members of specialized clinical teams, led by top-level referents. Please make sure that all qualifications held by foreign candidates are equivalent to their Italian counterparts, in order for them to be able to visit and treat patients in Italy. Candidates who do not fulfil the legal requirements to work as clinicians in Italy will be excluded from the evaluation procedure. Please be explicit in the Letter of Acceptance by the Hosting Institute that the candidate meets the legal criteria to work as a clinician.

The fellowships will only be awarded to candidates (Italian or foreigners) for research work at Italian institutions. There are **no fellowships available** for research **outside of Italy**.

- All candidates must have **officially** obtained a PhD or specialization degree **no later than 31st December 2025**.
- All candidates (except women with children, see below) must be **under the age of 43 on the 1st of January 2026**.
- Women with children are allowed to count one extra year per child. If awarded, the candidate will be asked to provide a “family certificate”.
- All proposals must be associated to a **PI belonging to the same institution where the candidate will develop his/her research project**.
- **Only ONE application for each PI will be accepted**. The same PI cannot propose more than one candidate. No limitations are set for applications from the same institution.
- It is **not allowed** to apply to both the **experimental and the clinical** grant by Fondazione Umberto Veronesi.

3. EVALUATION PROCEDURES

All applications sent by the deadline and meeting the eligibility criteria will be evaluated by a **Scientific Committee** that will establish a ranking list.

Candidates will be awarded funding based on:

- **Quality of the applicant’s CV.**
Please note that academic and professional achievements, studying/working experience abroad and publications in peer-reviewed journals will be a part of the selection criteria. The **seniority and the “academic age”** of the applicant will be considered during the evaluation of CV and publications.
- **Quality of the proposed research project.**
Compliance with the call and field of application, **feasibility, innovation**, and **translational** basis of the project, as well as the potential of the outlined research to make a substantial contribution to the field, will be evaluated.
- **Quality of the Hosting Institution.**
Institution/Hospital providing comprehensive care together with research activities will be highly valued.

4. GUIDE TO PROPOSAL APPLICATION

To start application submission, please enter your name, surname, email address, fiscal code. You will then be directed to the application form.

In the submission form, you will be asked to provide, in separate files, the following documents:

- **candidate's CV** (max 4000 characters including spaces). Candidates who have had a period of justified absence from work (e. **maternity leave**), may state it in the CV. Date of PhD/Specialization degree must be clearly indicated.
- **list of scientific peer-reviewed publications** (no character limits). It is mandatory to clearly indicate the IF of every single publication mentioned in the application. Please report the last IF available. For journal that have no more IF (i.e.: *Oncotarget*) please refer to the last IF available indicating the year. Only original papers and reviews will be evaluated for the publication record. Paper 'in press' are eligible only if an Editor 'letter of acceptance' is provided to borse@fondazioneveronesi.it **no later than 18th July 2025 at 17.59 CET (official grant applications closing date)**. Papers accepted for publication after the closing of the call and during the process of evaluation will NOT be taken into account. Papers published on new journals with no IF are accepted, on condition that they are published on international and peer-reviewed journals. Posters/abstracts at conferences, meeting proceedings, and book chapters **will not** be considered for evaluation but can be included in the CV.
- a **short abstract** of the proposed project (max 2000 characters including spaces).
- a **description of the proposed research project**– background, experimental plan, description of expected results and future applications to health – (max 9000 characters including spaces).
- **Bibliography is NOT included** in the 9000 characters of the project description and must be inserted in a separate field of the form with no space limits.
- **PI's CV** (max 2000 characters including spaces) including the field of investigation, up to five selected publication of the last ten years, and list of up to **5 grants active** in the period of the fellowship, including their amounts in euros.
- **Ethical approval for patients enrollment.** the approval of the local Ethics Committee or Institutional Review Board (IRB) is mandatory. If not included in the application, it **MUST** be provided upon grant acceptance or at most one month before the start of the

grant. Failure to provide the requested documentation will result in fellowship loss. In case human samples are from other laboratory provide the authorization released to the collaborator together with a justification/collaboration letter.

- **Research on animals**, if required, must conform to regulations protecting animals used for research purposes. Animal protocol(s) must be authorized by the Italian Ministry of Health (D.Lgs.26/2014). Ministry authorization must be valid for the period of the grant. When available a copy of the authorization should be provided during the application process. This is advantageous for the candidate because authorization presence/absence will be taken into account by the evaluating committee in terms of project feasibility. If not included in the application, animal authorization **MUST** be provided upon grant acceptance or at most one month before the start of the grant. Failure to provide the requested documentations will result in fellowship loss. In case animal studies will be carried out in another lab, provide the authorization released to the collaborator together with a justification/collaboration letter.

Please note that during the application process you will be also asked to upload the following documentation:

- **Two letters of recommendation** not dated before 1st January 2024 (mandatory). One letter can be written by the hosting PI.
- **A letter of acceptance by the hosting institute**, signed by the legal representative of the institute (mandatory). This letter must include the declaration that, if the candidate is awarded with a FUV fellowship, he/she will be able to carry out his/her research in that institution; it should also include the name of the laboratory, the name of the PI/Professor/Group leader who will supervise the candidate, the department and the Institution where the research will take place. In the acceptance letter please state clearly that all expenses covered by the **DGL 81/2008 (*Attuazione dell'articolo 1 della legge 3 agosto 2007, n. 123, in materia di tutela della salute e della sicurezza nei luoghi di lavoro*)** are under the responsibility of the hosting institute (cfr chapter "5. Funding regulations").
- A report on any previous projects undertaken with a grant from FUV (if any) (max three pages).
- Preliminary results of the project (if available) (max two pages).

OTHER INFORMATION

- All application materials must be written in English.
- All files must be in PDF or Word format.
- Each candidate is allowed to enter only one application. Candidates who enter more than one application will be excluded from the evaluation process.
- After submitting your application, it will **NOT** be possible under any circumstances to ask for amendments or corrections.

5. FUNDING REGULATIONS

The total amount of each 12-month fellowship grant is € **33,000** (before tax). The fellowship is only meant to pay the fellow's salary and **CANNOT** be used to cover other expenses (lab reagents and supplies, etc.). The fellowship will be paid directly to the awarded candidate on her/his personal bank account. Part of the gross salary will be directed to tax coverage (IRPEF, Italian regional and municipal taxes). Please note that FUV fellowships do NOT provide any payment for retirement contributions, such as INPS, due to the current fiscal law.

- Our Fellowship guarantees an insurance to each researcher, covering permanent disabilities resulting from a workplace-related accident or disease, fatal accidents and a partial reimbursement of medical expenses. Please note that all expenses covered by the **DGL 81/2008 (*Attuazione dell'articolo 1 della legge 3 agosto 2007, n. 123, in materia di tutela della salute e della sicurezza nei luoghi di lavoro*)** are under the responsibility of the hosting institute. Please **state clearly** in the acceptance letter that **the hosting institute agrees to this clause**.
- In case of **maternity leave** (provided the leave started at least 1 month after the beginning of the fellowship), FUV will **freeze the fellowship** and will then restore the payments once the researcher will be back in the lab, extending the period of fellowship in order to deliver all the payments. To help cover the period of maternity and abstention to work, upon presentation of a certificate of pregnancy and in absence of other forms of social security, FUV will provide a total of € **6,500 (gross amount) for a 5-months leave**. Abstention from work exceeding the 5 months will not be covered by FUV.
- The fellowship can be terminated at any time by giving advanced notice (at least 15 days before interruption) to FUV by email at: borse@fondazioneveronesi.it. Each fellowship is **strictly personal**: since it is assigned by evaluating both the applicant's cv and project proposal, in case of withdrawal **the fellowship CANNOT be transferred to a colleague**, even if working on the same project, and will be instead transferred to the next best-ranked candidate.

- The fellowship **CANNOT** be combined with any other form of bursary; similarly, the fellowship is not compatible with either temporary or permanent employment by any other Institution; the fellowship is compatible with forms of funding other than the above, provided that they do not exceed a total of € 10,000 (before tax) per year.

6. REPORTING

Awardees of FUV fellowships will be required to produce reports on their research activity, describing their progress and results obtained. A one **mid-term report** after 6 months, a **short update** on September 2026 and one **final report** at the end of the 12 months are required.

The **6 and 12 months reports** are required within the first 10 days of the sixth and twelfth month of the fellowship, respectively.

In the month of **September 2026** all FUV fellows will be asked to produce a short, non-technical update of the project to be presented to private sponsors, regardless of the starting date of the fellowship. This report is mandatory and does not substitute the 6 months or the 12 months report.

All reports must be uploaded online through a personalized link that will be sent by email a few weeks before the deadline. Reports sent via mail will not be accepted. Please note that if FUV does not receive the reports by their deadlines, **payment will be immediately suspended** until each report is submitted.

7. DURATION

Grants awarded by FUV will have a duration of 12 months and will **start on 1st January 2026**: the starting date can be postponed until **no later than 1st April 2026**. It will not be possible, under any circumstances, to further postpone the starting date.

Fellowships are NOT automatically renewed after the natural expiration. **Candidates who have previously been granted FUV fellowships are encouraged to apply again.** However, they are required to follow the standard application procedure and upload a short description of the projects already funded by FUV, indicating key findings and results.

8. AWARD OBLIGATIONS

It is mandatory for all successful applicants **to acknowledge FUV in any publications**, including those related to the granted proposal and those generated from any other research activities carried out during the period supported by FUV. Furthermore, a **pdf version of all published manuscripts** acknowledging FUV must be sent to the address borse@fondazioneveronesi.it as soon as possible and **no later than 2 weeks** after upload on Pubmed. Please note that every year FUV awards a personal donation of **€ 5,000 (gross amount)** to the FUV fellows that authored the **three best publications** during the past year, provided that FUV is clearly acknowledged in the paper and that the fellow is first or last author.

Once a candidate has been granted a FUV fellowship, by accepting it he/she agrees to cooperate with FUV in its dissemination activities and promotion of its scientific research, whenever required. The candidate must therefore be **available to be interviewed** for articles in printed and online journals and **participate in promotional events** (such as press conferences, and events with the general public) or other scientific dissemination activities organized by FUV.

9. DEADLINE

All applications must be sent no later than 18th July 2025 at 17.59 (Central European Time, CET). After completing the online form, you will receive a confirmation email at the email address supplied. The list of awarded candidates will be published on our website www.fondazioneveronesi.it on the **18h November 2025**. We strongly recommend to **AVOID sending your final application at the last minute**, because this could cause overloading of the system and some applications could be lost without being registered within the deadline. The deadline is strict and we will not, under any circumstances, accept applications sent afterwards.

For any further information, feel free to contact Fondazione Umberto Veronesi at the following e-mail address: borse@fondazioneveronesi.it.

Please DO NOT call by telephone for information on applications, funding and administrative matters.

