

Call for applications for the **Scientific Director** of the Telethon Institute of Genetics and Medicine (TIGEM)

The Fondazione Telethon seeks a Scientific Director for the Telethon Institute of Genetics and Medicine (TIGEM), located in Pozzuoli, Italy.

About Fondazione Telethon

Fondazione Telethon is one of the main Italian biomedical charities that was founded in 1990 on the initiative of a group of patients suffering from muscular dystrophy. Its mission is to cure rare genetic diseases through scientific research excellence according to internationally recognized best practices. Since its foundation, Telethon has invested 660,3million euros in research, has funded 2,960 projects with 1,720 researchers involved and 630 diseases studied. Telethon develops collaborations with public health institutions and pharmaceutical industries to translate research results into therapies accessible to patients.

About Telethon Institute of Genetics and Medicine (TIGEM)

TIGEM is a multidisciplinary research Institute devoted to the study of the mechanisms underlying rare genetic diseases and to the development of new therapies. The institute is one of the most important centers for fundamental life science research in Italy (<https://www.tigem.it/>). It is particularly renowned for its research on diseases such as lysosomal disorders, membrane trafficking defects, disorders of liver metabolism, and eye diseases. TIGEM is a fundamental part of Telethon Foundation's intramural research program. The Telethon Foundation has invested considerably in TIGEM by providing critical financial support and a platform for funding from other sources. The unique funding environment of TIGEM forges important critical mass and facilitates opportunities to conduct both **long-term and high-impact science** that would otherwise be difficult to undertake. TIGEM is a flagship program central for Telethon's **communication and fundraising activities**.

Within the framework of Telethon's mandate, **TIGEM's mission** is to:

- **conduct** distinctive fundamental, translational, and clinical **research** that breaks new ground and defines scientific excellence in rare genetic diseases
- **transform** excellent scientific results into **therapies** available to patients with rare genetic diseases through partnership with industry when necessary
- **train** the next generation of **biomedical researchers** to feed the "pipeline of researchers" on rare genetic diseases



TIGEM is located in a 5,000-square-meter complex in Pozzuoli, a small town on the Mediterranean coast adjacent to Naples. The campus is an historic architectural complex that used to host the old Olivetti factory. The new building sports large open-space laboratories, specialized facilities, and a large auditorium. The Institute employs 250 Italian and foreign researchers in twenty-seven independent research groups. Research at TIGEM is supported by 10 state-of-

the-art research core facilities. TIGEM investigators have been awarded 16 European Research Council grants (ERCs), have coordinated 14 European Union cooperation grants, and are funded by numerous national and international funding agencies.

<https://youtu.be/3gfl3JxSFbk>

Director duties

The Director will oversee all scientific and financial strategies, plans, and management. He/she will be fully supported by top management positions of the Telethon Foundation who provide expertise in administration, drug development, clinical operations, regulatory and CMC affairs. The Director is expected to provide intellectual leadership, expand on current success, and promote research on rare genetic diseases. He/she will be responsible of ensuring that TIGEM scientists have access to the technical and scientific expertise needed to advance their research. The Director will be expected to develop an ambitious strategic vision for the institute (2027-2031), fostering scientific excellence and enhancing international visibility. He/she will also be responsible for the recruitment of new scientists. A concrete translational focus is expected. The role includes promoting and fostering Institutional collaborations, establishing partnerships with local and regional organizations, and managing interactions with universities and clinical set-ups with significant support of senior TIGEM personnel.

Director characteristics

An active scientist in basic and/or clinical research with experience of and commitment to translation. An outstanding scientific track record and a demonstrated capability for funding and fund-raising activities. A commitment to and specific interest in rare genetic diseases. He/she should have demonstrated leadership and management skills (for example, head of department, research institution, clinical divisions, large research programs, etc.). An ability to engage productively with a diverse group of individuals at all levels. A proven track record in industrial alliances and commercialization. Experience in collaborating with diverse stakeholders is required, as well as excellent communication skills. The Director should hold an M.D. or Ph.D., be independently funded, and have a track record of leadership and the ability to inspire creativity across a range of disciplines.

Application process

To apply please send:

- curriculum vitae, NIH format
- a full list of publications (highlighting top 10)
- five referee contact names
- a description of research interests (max 1 page)
- meaningful concept for a general view of TIGEM taking into account the scientific environment (max. 2 pages).

The compensation granted will be internationally competitive and appropriate to the competence and experience of the appointed candidate. Tax benefits for Italian and foreign scientists moving to Italy from abroad for the position.

For informal inquiries and application submission please send email to:

Francesca Pasinelli

General Director Fondazione Telethon

direzione generale@Telethon.it

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION OCTOBER 31st 2023