



Call for R&I Flagship Project Proposals

Submission Deadline: 31.10.2026

Mission 1. Pediatric and Rare diseases

Mission 2. Cancer

Mission 3. Inflammation and Infection

Mission 4. Aging and Brain diseases

Mission 5. Cardiovascular diseases



Funded by
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Introduction

We are pleased to announce the second call for **Flagship research and innovation project proposals** in the context of the Gulbenkian Institute for Molecular Medicine (GIMM)'s Clinical and Translational research branch, GIMM CARE. GIMM CARE's major aim is to facilitate and expedite the early adoption of innovation in healthcare through ideas, technologies, products and services, serving as an independent platform for informed dialogue and collaboration between all stakeholders.

Objective

Flagship R&I projects are expected to **develop clinical and translational research towards implementing a specific healthcare solution**, with measurable outcomes, demonstrated critical mass, and within a tangible timeframe.

Scope

R&I Flagships must consider one or more of the following CARE missions..

- **Mission 1. Pediatric and Rare diseases.** *Address critical healthcare gaps for pediatric and rare diseases.*
- **Mission 2. Cancer.** *Transform cancer into a manageable or curable condition.*
- **Mission 3. Inflammation and Infection.** *Develop transformative solutions that prevent and combat infectious diseases and immune-related conditions.*
- **Mission 4. Aging and Brain diseases.** *Promote healthier, longer lives and preservation of brain function.*
- **Mission 5. Cardiovascular diseases.** *Reduce the global burden of cardiovascular disease.*

Projects may cover any of the following healthcare goals: Prevention and early detection; Diagnosis; Treatment; and/or Quality of Life. Previously funded projects can be found here: <https://care.gimm.pt/gimm-open-calls/>

Project Duration

Up to 30 months.

Project workplans must be completed and budget executed by 30 April 2029.

Funding

Successful proposals will be selected for financial support.

The total available funding for the call is 800,000 EUR, with a guide value of 50,000-200,000 EUR per flagship project. These funds are intended for allocation towards *Human Resources (GIMM), Missions (Travel), Equipment, Use of GIMM Facilities (costed as internal user), Other Goods and services, IP e.g. Patent registration, Demonstration, Promotion and Publication and/or Subcontracts* as required.

Apportionment of these funds will be contingent upon the merit and relevance of each project proposal, with express justification. Cost-effectiveness will be included in the evaluation.

Note: funds cannot be transferred directly to another entity. If a project requires personnel to be hired, they must be hired through GIMM and will be subject to GIMM's People and Culture policies (matrix reporting). Applicants should aim to make use of GIMM facilities.

Eligibility

Proposals are invited from teams either:

- **Led by a practicing clinician (MD with PhD)**
- **Co-led by a practicing clinician MD (with or without PhD) and a researcher from GIMM (with PhD).**

If you need assistance with identifying an appropriate collaborator at GIMM, please contact care@gimm.pt.

A named Project Lead (or Co-lead) may only have one active project within GIMM CARE at any given time.

To be eligible for funding, the project funds are to be managed and spent through GIMM. Team members not currently affiliated with GIMM will obtain temporary affiliation for the duration of the project.

Teams will be required to declare that the described project work is not already funded by another source.

Submission Guidelines

Interested individuals and teams are invited to submit their proposals for Flagships by **31 October 2026 by email to care@gimm.pt**, attaching the:

- **2 completed templates (1 pdf + 1 excel file)**
- **Letter of support from the Director of the Clinical Department(s) involved in the project activities.**

Evaluation Process

The evaluation process will include the following steps:

1. Proposal documents evaluation:
Submissions will be scored against the following criteria: Scientific Excellence & Rigor; Clinical Innovation & Translational Potential including IP potential; Methodology & Feasibility; Responsible Research & Innovation; Cost-effectiveness; Candidate(s) Merit and Roles.
The submissions will be analyzed by GIMM-CARE Direction plus a panel of invited biomedical and clinical experts selected based on the field. Projects submitted will be subjected to an internal pre-selection before being sent for **external evaluation**. You may find the evaluation panel composition here: <https://care.gimm.pt/gimm-open-calls/>
2. Pre-selection interview with field-specific experts, if requested.
3. **Provisional selection of projects for financing.**
4. Submission to Ethics Committee check.
5. Implementation Agreement signature.
6. Project start.

Important Dates

- Opening of 2026 CARE Flagships call: **1st September 2026**
- Closing of 2026 CARE Flagships call: **31st October 2026**
- Communication of results: TBC, predicted for **December 2026**
- Flagship project start dates: To be agreed with awardees. Latest start date for a 24 month project: 1st May 2027.

Intellectual Property

Projects funded under this call are expected to be developed in close collaboration with GIMM and with the use of GIMM resources, facilities, funding, support and/or know-how. Therefore, any potentially protectable or commercially valuable results, including inventions, discoveries, data, materials, methods, software and know-how, must be disclosed to GIMM's Funding & Innovation Office (FIO) before public disclosure or engagement with third parties. Dissemination will not be unreasonably delayed but may be temporarily postponed where protection measures, such as patent filing, are required.

Applicants must identify any relevant background IP, third-party rights, materials, data, software or institutional obligations needed for project implementation or future exploitation of results. Necessary access rights for project execution shall be granted by the relevant parties. Where background rights are required for the protection or exploitation of project results, appropriate access or licensing arrangements shall be agreed.

Intellectual property generated during funded projects (foreground IP) shall be owned by GIMM or jointly owned by GIMM and the participating healthcare institution, depending on the respective contributions, institutional policies and underlying rights. Where ownership is shared, GIMM shall hold the larger share in recognition of its funding and support role. Ownership and revenue-sharing arrangements will be defined in writing.

GIMM will lead the protection and exploitation strategy for project results, in coordination with partners where appropriate. Funding under this call does not grant any party rights to use, exploit or commercialize GIMM IP or project results unless expressly agreed in writing by GIMM.

FAQs

- **Can I submit two projects to this call?**
Yes, but only one can be awarded. In the case that two projects are deemed eligible for funding, the project with the highest overall score will be awarded.
- **Must ethics approval be obtained before funding is released?**
*Yes, if the project requires ethical approval (e.g. use of human samples...), the budget may only be executed once that approval is in place.
GIMM CARE makes available specific support with this process.*
- **Can the MD lead be from a private healthcare institution?**
Yes, private or public institution within Portugal.
- **If the MD works across multiple services, should a letter of support be provided from all services?**
A letter of support is required from the principal clinical department that will be involved in the project (e.g. where the samples are collected, where the patients are recruited from). It is possible to submit the project application including only one letter of support from the principal department involved, but the remaining letters from all departments involved will be required for the ethics submission process.
- **What should I declare regarding background IP?**
*Applicants should identify any existing know-how, data, materials, software, clinical resources, third-party rights or institutional obligations that may be needed to implement the project or exploit its results in the Part A of the Flagship Project Proposal form.
Background IP needed to implement the project must be made available for the execution of the project. If background IP is needed to exploit project results, the parties will negotiate in good faith a license to GIMM.*
- **Can I publish project results?**
Yes, but project results must first be reviewed and approved by GIMM's FIO before public disclosure.
- **Can external partners receive rights to project results?**
Yes, external partners may use project results for their internal non-commercial research. However, any licence, assignment, commercial right or exploitation right must be expressly agreed in writing by GIMM.

For any questions, please contact: care@gimm.pt