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**2025 HEARING INNOVATION CHAIRS**

**LETTER OF INTENT**

**EXECUTIVE RY**

# TITLE of the PROJECT:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *The persons below have reviewed the present application, certify the statements herein are true, complete and accurate, have read the policies of FONDATION POUR L’AUDITION concerning research support and accept to comply with such policies if the present application is awarded.* | | |
| **APPLICANT** | **Name:** | **Degree(s):** |
| **Position:** | **Institution:** | **Department:** |
| **Address:** | | |
| **Phone:** | **E-mail:** | |
| **Head of the HOST LABORATORY/INSTITUTE** | **Name:** | |
| **Phone:** | **E-mail:** | |
| **LEGAL GRANT OFFICER** | **Name:** | |
| **Institution:** | | **Department:** |
| **Address:** | | |
| **Phone:** | **E-mail:** | |

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

*Do not exceed 1 page. Use Arial font size 11 with line spacing of 1.15. No appendices allowed.*

**CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

*One page max*

**Name & Degree:**

**Position:**

**ORCID iD number:**

**A. Education, Training, Positions & Honors**

**B. Scientific contributions**

*List up to 10 of your most significant contributions (articles, patents, books…) in chronological order with the most recent first.*

2025 FPA POLICIES & GUIDELINES

Fondation Pour l’Audition, hereinafter referred to as “FPA”, supports scientific research in Hearing with the ultimate goal of improving hearing health and discovering solutions for people with hearing disorders. The aim is to support new approaches, to promote multidisciplinary research and, more broadly, to implement innovations and outcomes in order to improve hearing health in the short or long term.

**Article I. Objective of the call**

By stimulating new approaches and supporting excellent pioneering research, FPA Hearing Innovation Chair grants aim to promote innovations that will improve our hearing health and contribute to France’s influence in Hearing Sciences.

**Article II. Eligibility**

FPA Hearing Innovation Chair grants are awarded to **new** teams wishing to establish or individualize themselves within French laboratories or research centers in academic, clinical and public research institutions with a head that does not have a track record of team leader in the Hearing field in France. **Applications from researchers outside the hearing field are encouraged.**

If still eligible, applicants who applied to the 2024 call for Hearing Innovation Chairs can resubmit their application taking into account the reviewers’ comments.

The chairholder candidate **must hold or will seek a full-time faculty appointment** (position equivalent to assistant professor or higher) **at the host institution**. The chairholder candidate is expected to be PhD, MD or MD/PhD **+ 3 years minimum**.

Applications must support FPA’s mission to improve hearing health and promote translational research.

Candidates are ineligible for funding if they hold an active FPA award at the launch of the call. Research teams from IHU reConnect/Institut de l’Audition[[1]](#footnote-2) and from the Centres de Recherche en Audiologie are ineligible for funding. Also, projects involving a member of the FPA Scientific Committee or Board of Directors and his/her laboratory are not eligible for an FPA research grant.

Host laboratories or research centers can submit only one candidate per call.

**Article III. Scope of research**

FPA wishes to support specific and important research topics underrepresented in France and only research projects with relevance to the list below will be considered for funding.

**Identification of biomarkers for hearing Loss** ; **Network medicine applied to hearing**; **Communication / Acoustics** (*Neuro-ethological approaches, Non-conventional animal models, Artificial intelligence applied to inclusive communication technology, Virtual reality, Building acoustics*); **Deafness linked to occupational exposure other than noise**; **New experimental models to facilitate research in hearing loss**; **Biomimetics**; **Innovative signal processing**; **Human cochlear organoids as a model to understand hearing loss**; **Cell regeneration and reprogramming**; **Imaging** (*Improved inner ear, Auditory processing, Functional brain imaging*); **Inflammatory, infectious, auto-immune diseases** **of the ear**; **Middle-ear pathologies and/or malformations** (*Chronic ear diseases*); **Neural coding & processing / brain function** **& stimulation** (*Development of auditory circuits, Impact of early vs. late hearing loss in brain function, Experience-dependent effects on auditory circuit maturation/function, Descending pathways and their effects on hearing sensitivity and perception, Development of normal auditory function/neurodevelopmental disorders*); **Social sciences and Epidemiology**  (*Social and psychosocial impacts of hearing loss, Health behaviour change, Stigma and hearing loss, Impacts of hearing loss on others or in the work place, Expert patient, Epidemiology studies, Role of social environment*); **Inclusion** (*Pedagogical training; Game design; Therapeutic education in deafness*); **Surgical innovations** (*except robotic surgery and cochlear implantation*).

The topics awarded in the frame of the 2024 call for Hearing Innovation Chairs are available on the FPA website @ <https://www.fondationpourlaudition.org/laureates-339-en>.

**Article Iv. Preparing your letter of intent**

Prepare the application using the 2025 Word form available at <https://www.fondationpourlaudition.org/hearing-innovation-chairs-1192>

No other form will be accepted.

**Read and follow the instructions carefully.**

The document must be filled out in English *ONLY* and must comply with the format specifications and page limits detailed in this document. Do not reformat the forms or exceed the space provided in the different sections of the application. **Failure to comply will result in administrative withdrawal.** Decisions of administrative withdrawal are final and not subject to appeal.

4.1 Privileged Communication

Material and information provided by the applicant in the application are considered privileged communication.

4.2 General instructions

Most of the sections in the application form are self-explanatory. The page numbering is set automatically.

**The legal grant officer must be the head of the department of sponsored projects from the host institution. Failure to comply at the time of submission will result in administrative withdrawal.**

4.3 Specific instructions

*Title of the project*

The title should not exceed 20 words.

*Project description* Do not exceed 1 page.

* Font: Use Arial font size 11 point with line spacing of 1.15.
* Page format: Use A4 page format with margins of 1.5 x 1.5 x 1.5 x 1.5 cm.

Adherence to font and margin requirements is necessary. If terms are not universally known, spell out the term for the first time it is used and note the appropriate abbreviation in brackets. The abbreviation may be used thereafter.

*Candidate BioSketch Form (1 page max)*

Your CV will be used to confirm eligibility and to assess your ability to carry out the proposed work.

* *Education, Training, Positions and Honors*

List in chronological order your education, training, current and previous positions, beginning with your present position. Include start/end dates, position title, name of organization and department. In case of non-permanent/non-tenure or fixed term position, state the term of the current contract.

Select and list professional memberships and academic/professional honors received.

* *Scientific contributions*

List your most significant contributions **in chronological order beginning from the most recent ones (limited to 10 per applicant)**.

**Article V. Submitting your letter of intent**

5.1 Electronic submission

The application (2 MB max) must be submitted electronically as a single PDF file through the e-submission portal at <https://www.fondationpourlaudition.org/hearing-innovation-chairs-1192> by **January 31, 2025** **midnight** (Central European Time). At this stage, no signatures are required.

5.2 General considerations

Incomplete applications, applications not complying with the FPA policies or applications with false statements will be administratively withdrawn. **Late applications will not be accepted.**

5.3 Acknowledgment of receipt

Upon receipt of the electronic copy of the pre-proposal by FPA, the candidate and their legal grant officers will receive an acknowledgment of receipt to the e-mail addresses listed in the application.

5.4 Maximum submissions

Only one letter of intent application is allowed per host institution. The same application cannot be resubmitted more than 2 times.

**Article Vi. Peer review process**

The FPA policies are intended to ensure that applications are evaluated on a fair and timely process, free of bias.

6.1 Admissibility

FPA verifies the admissibility of the letters of intent and compliance with the present FPA policies.

Compliant letters of intent are then submitted for review to the FPA Scientific Committee, composed of international scientists chosen for their expertise related to Hearing Sciences. To view the list of the FPA Scientific Committee members, visit: <https://www.fondationpourlaudition.org/fondation-pour-laudition-778-en>.

6.2 Evaluation criteria

*Letter of intent evaluation*

The FPA Scientific Committee will review the letters of intent using the following evaluation criteria:

* The relevance to FPA’s mission to improve hearing health and promote translational research
* The novelty and feasibility of the research project

The academic excellence, strong track record, achievements, expertise, and leadership skills of the applicant.

Based on these criteria, the FPA Scientific Committee will select the applicants invited to submit a full proposal during a meeting.

The FPA Scientific Committee is sovereign in its deliberations, which are confidential and not subject to any appeal in any way by the applicants or representatives of their prospective institution.

If the quality of the letters of intent does not meet the FPA requirements, the FPA Scientific Committee is free to dismiss all the applications and not award any grant in the framework of the 2025 call for Hearing Innovation Chairs.

Approval of the letter of intent is mandatory in order to submit a full proposal.

6.3 Breach of review

Applicants, as well as their prospective institution’s representatives, may not contact any member of the FPA Scientific Committee regarding their application during the review process.

Failure to comply with this policy will create serious breaches of confidentiality and conflicts of interest in the peer review process that will lead to the administrative rejection of the application.

Members of the FPA Scientific Committee are required to notify FPA if they are contacted by an applicant.

**Article Vii. Award considerations**

7.1 Award amount

The grant can amount **up to €800,000** and is awarded for **a period of 4 years** (all taxes included). The grant will be paid in yearly installments (up to 200 000 € maximum per year).

Host institutions will be expected to participate in the chair’s general funding through studentships, post-doctoral support and material resources related to the research program. The Institution is responsible for providing details of this support in the full application.

The chairholder candidate is expected to spend their full time in the host Institution, and their publications will be issued in the name of the host institution during the chair duration.

7.2 Award activation

The date for the award activation will be decided by the applicant in agreement with their host institution but cannot be set prior to January 1, 2026.

**Article Viii. Suspension, cancellation or adjournment of the call**

If circumstances require it or for reasons beyond its control, FPA reserves the right to modify the present policies or to suspend, cancel or adjourn the organization of the 2025 call for Hearing Innovation Chair grants without affecting its liability.

**Article Ix. Key dates**

Launch of the 2025 call for letter of intents December 2024

Electronic application deadline for letters of intent January 31, 2025

Invitation to submit full proposals March 2025

Electronic application deadline for full proposals May 5, 2025

Deadline for reception of the original printed application May 20, 2025

Award notification December 2025

Award activation January 1, 2026

Deadline for grant agreement signature June 1, 2026

**Article X. Support**

For assistance, contact FPA at FONDATION POUR L’AUDITION – 13, rue Moreau – 75012 Paris, France.

*e*-mail: [research@pourlaudition.org](mailto:research@pourlaudition.org)

1. Paris Hearing Institute, Center of Institut Pasteur [↑](#footnote-ref-2)