



BAILLET LATOUR BIOMEDICAL AWARD

Supporting Research Careers in Belgium

2027 Topic: "Infection and Immunity"

Regulations

Art. 1 On the initiative of the "Baillet Latour Fund", a Biomedical Award will be awarded to independent investigators of any nationality in the early phase of their career to conduct basic, translational or clinical biomedical research in Belgium and to consolidate their independent research team or program.

Art. 2 The research to be supported by these Biomedical Awards (BLBA) must pertain to the topic of the year of the Award. The following five topics will rotate on an annual basis: Infection and Immunity (2027), Neurosciences (2028), Cancer (2029), Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Systems (2030), Metabolism and Gastrointestinal System (2031).

The 2027 topic is "**Infection and Immunity**". However, applications pertaining to aspects of "Infection and Immunity" that fit within the topic of any of the four other calls have to be submitted during those calls exclusively. For example, research projects focusing on cancer immunotherapy, immunological aspects of multiple sclerosis or bronchial asthma, must be submitted to the call related to "Cancer", "Neurosciences", or "Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Systems", respectively.

Art. 3 The Award amounts to €1,000,000 over 5 years.

At the initiation of the funding period a first instalment of €400,000 will be credited by the Baillet Latour Fund to the host institution. A second instalment of €200,000 will be credited at the beginning of year 3. The third and fourth instalments of €200,000 each, to be made available at the beginning of years 4 and 5, will be subject to the positive evaluation of a mid-term report.

The laureate will also be requested to submit a similar final report at the end of the project.

Art. 4 Eligible expenses encompass personnel costs (excluding the salary of the PI), running costs and equipment.

Overheads costs are not eligible.

Art. 5 Portability of the Award: the holder can keep the Award when transferring their research activities to another eligible Belgian institution. However, the

holder will lose the Award if they transfer their research activities to a private company or abroad, or in case the holder relinquishes their research activities.

Art. 6 Eligibility rules pertaining to the applicant:

- The applicant, hereafter referred to as “Principal Investigator” (PI), must hold a PhD degree that has been awarded no more than 12 years prior to the deadline for applications (i.e., September 14th, 2014).
- This 12-year period can be extended by the duration of certain properly documented career breaks that have occurred after the PhD has been awarded. Only career breaks due to maternity/paternity leave(s), national services, long-term illness or specialty training of MD-PhD of which the duration has been officially documented will be considered (see Annex 2).
- The applicant must be affiliated to a Belgian University, a Belgian University Hospital, or an eligible Research Institute at the deadline of the call (see Annex 1).
- The applicant must provide the evidence of their affiliation to the host institution until at least June 30th, 2032.

Art. 7 The Award will be granted by the Baillet Latour Fund on the basis of the recommendation of an international and independent panel of five renowned scientists in the field of the actual call.

A representative of the Baillet Latour Fund will attend the panel meetings as an observer. The role of the observer is to ensure respect for the procedure and the philosophy of the Award. They will not interfere in the evaluation process and will have no vote in the decision making.

Art. 8 The Award cannot be divided amongst several laureates. If no suitable candidate can be identified, the Award will not be granted.

Art. 9 All publications on research supported by a BLBA must mention: “This work was supported (in part) by the Baillet Latour Fund”.

Art. 10 Applications must be submitted electronically by **September 14th, 2026** at the latest using the online application system available on the webpages www.blba.be.

Art. 11 Any problems or disputes arising from the eligibility of submitted applications or from granting the Award will be settled by the Baillet Latour Fund, whose decision in these respects will be final.

Art. 12 The scientific outlines, presentations and evaluation reports generated in the frame of the Baillet Latour Biomedical Award will be treated confidentially.



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Annex 1

Eligible Research Institutes

The Belgian Research Institutes that can act as host institutions in addition to Universities and University Hospitals are:

- Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp
- LABIRIS
- Flemish Institute for Biotechnology (VIB)
- Flemish Institute for Technological research (VITO)
- de Duve Institute
- Bordet Institute
- GIGA Institute
- Assimilated Federal Research Institutions:
 - ✓ Sciensano
 - ✓ Belgian Nuclear Research Center (SCK CEN)



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Annex 2

Eligible Career Breaks

The following properly documented circumstances can allow for an extension of the 12-year period since the award of the first PhD:

- For maternity, the documented period of maternity leave (up to a maximum of 18 months) for each child born or adopted after the PhD award.
- For paternity, the documented period of paternity leave (up to a maximum of 18 months) for each child born or adopted after the PhD award.
- For national service, the documented period of occupation after the PhD award.
- For long-term illness, the documented amount of leave actually taken by the principal investigator for each incident that occurred after the PhD award. Long-term illness is considered as a period of ≥ 90 days for the PI or a close family member (child, spouse, parent, or sibling).
- For specialty training of MD-PhD, the documented period of specialty training up to a maximum of 24 months after the PhD award.