



# Call for proposals: FIMM Associate Group Leaders and translational grants

FIMM - the Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland is a newly established international research institute for molecular medicine ([www.fimm.fi](http://www.fimm.fi)), and part of the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine (European Molecular Biology Laboratory, [www.embl.org](http://www.embl.org)). FIMM represents a unique national joint venture between the University of Helsinki, the Hospital District of Helsinki and Uusimaa (HUS), the National Public Health Institute (KTL) with the VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland joining in 2008. FIMM also collaborates with the Biocenter Finland organization.

■ The research areas of FIMM include: 1) Genetic epidemiology and genomics of cardiovascular, neuropsychiatric diseases and cancer, 2) Medical systems biology and medical bioinformatics of common diseases with focus on cancer, diabetes and obesity, 3) Leveraging the aforementioned research for translational applications, including health impact of genes, new diagnostic methods, biomarkers and therapeutics. FIMM also develops infrastructures for biobanking, medical bioinformatics, high-throughput sequencing, high-throughput screening, and other translational research platforms, including participation in the EU's ESFRI programs BBMRI and EATRIS.

■ Besides launching a major effort at recruiting international scientists to set up new groups in Finland, FIMM wants to develop its scientific and technological capabilities by establishing strong collaborative links with key scientists and research groups working in Finland. This call for proposals is directed towards the positions of associated group leaders in molecular medicine. The associate group leader category is meant for scientists who are currently based in Finland, whose expertise is compatible with the FIMM research areas and who are interested in a collaboration. Although the FIMM headquarters are located in Helsinki, any scientist in Finland meeting the above-mentioned criteria is eligible to apply. Unless otherwise agreed, the group leaders will continue working at their host institutions, and will enjoy an affiliation to FIMM.

■ There will be two categories: 1) Senior group leaders, such as internationally known top scientists with a track record and research focus in molecular medicine and 2) Junior group leaders with outstanding potential in this field. The group leaders will enjoy the following benefits: Status as an associated member in the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine, institutional affiliation with FIMM, impacting its planning, resources, and priorities, and eligibility to apply for FIMM translational grants (see below). The nominations will be made for 5 years and are renewable.

■ Applications for associate group leader positions will first be reviewed by a FIMM panel for relevance and value to its scientific, technological and translational mission. After the first review, the relevant applications will be reviewed and ranked by an international panel. Highly qualified, and scientifically already reviewed senior group leaders (such as Academy Professors) may be invited based on FIMM review only. Junior group leaders should be with less than 10 years of experience after obtaining a doctoral degree.

■ Applicants should submit an electronic application including CV, and a list of publications (with 5 most important ones indicated), plus a translational / molecular medicine research plan (max 2 pages). A web-based submission system will be available at the FIMM website in March at [www.fimm.fi](http://www.fimm.fi). The deadline for receipt of applications will be April 7, 2008.

■ A key part of the review process for group leader status is the FIMM molecular medicine/translational grant application. If the applicant is selected as a group leader, the grant application will be separately discussed and refined with FIMM in order to maximize mutual collaborative benefits. The following features are suggested for the translational grants:

- Translational and molecular medicine impact, relevance and collaboration potential with FIMM and its national and international mission and specific research areas.
- The relevance to the ESFRI efforts in biobanking (BBMRI) and translational research (EATRIS) is considered important. This could involve development and utilization of FIMM research resources and infrastructures. For example, in the EATRIS project, a pipeline for small molecule drug discovery will be developed from high-throughput screening to phase I trials.
- Clearly separate and complementary research compared to other funded activities of the group leader. Could also involve "not otherwise fundable research", particularly towards translational aims, methods development and a bridge to clinical and industrial applications
- Not a typical academic grant but a collaborative project, which will be refined in discussions with FIMM. The research funding from FIMM is considered as Contract Research as defined in invention act applied in institutions of higher education 19.5.2006/369. FIMM and the host institution may collaborate to develop innovations forward and/or file patents. Further information Taina.Saksa AT Helsinki.fi.
- Small grants: 30-50 k€/year, initially for 2 years (primarily for junior group leaders)
- Large grants 50-100 k€/year, initially for 2 years (primarily for senior group leaders)

Accepted FIMM group leaders are eligible for grants, but will not be guaranteed funding throughout their associate membership. In the first round, we plan to make up to 5-7 nominations for FIMM associated group leaders (2-3 senior, 3-4 junior) along with research grants. In addition, some associate memberships may be awarded without financing in this first round. We expect to select the first candidates by summer 2008 with the grant period starting in the fall of 2008.

■ For further information please contact Director, Professor Olli Kallioniemi (Olli.Kallioniemi AT Helsinki.fi) or visit our website [www.fimm.fi](http://www.fimm.fi).

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Administration Office



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