EIGHTH JOINT TRANSNATIONAL CALL FOR NETWORKS WITHIN THE JOINT PROGRAMMING INITIATIVE ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

"Building the Foundation of the JPIAMR Virtual Research Institute"

The JPIAMR member countries contributing funding are:

1. **Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR)** – Canada
2. **Academy of Scientific Research & Technology (ASRT)** - Egypt
3. **French National Research Agency (ANR)** - France
4. **Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)** - Germany
5. **Ministry of Health (It-MOH)** – Italy
6. **The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMW)** - The Netherlands
7. **The Research Council of Norway (RCN)** - Norway
8. **National Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII)** – Spain[1]
9. **Swedish Research Council (SRC)** – Sweden
10. **Medical Research Council, a Council of UK Research and Innovation (MRC)** – United Kingdom

JPIAMR NETWORK JOINT CALL SECRETARIAT (JCS)
is hosted by Italy, Ministry of Health
VRINetwork2018@sanita.it

DEADLINES
May 14th, 2018, 14.00 CET – CALL FOR PROPOSALS OPEN
July 4th, 2018, 17.00 CET – DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

For further information on JPIAMR, please visit our website: http://www.jpiamr.eu/

[1] Participation of funder is pending formal decision

Table 1. Summary of the call

Type of funding	Network
Area	Virtual Research Institute
Focus	The intent of the call is to help develop a platform that will identify research community needs in AMR and develop ideas to form the foundation of the JPIAMR-VRI. The funded Networks are expected to generate catalytic ideas and strategic plans to help JPIAMR bring the JPIAMR-VRI to life!
Applicant	The main applicant is the Network coordinator from research performing organisations.
Network partners	A Network needs to be composed of at least fifteen (15) representatives from organisations from ten (10) different countries with at least three (3) of the organisations (including coordinator) must be from three (3) different countries participating in the call. The Network is encouraged to include participants representing organisations from LMIC.
Funding period	6-12 months (plus 2 months for report writing)[2]
Funding	€50,000 per coordinator
Opening of the call	May 14 2018, 14.00 CET
Closing of the call	July 4 2018, 17.00 CET
Evaluation	September 2018
Decision	September – October 2018
Start of the Network	End of 2018/early 2019

[2] The duration of the projects may be different according to the funding organisation, please check Annex A

The Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance (JPIAMR) is an international collaborative platform, engaging 27 member nations, that coordinate national research funding to advancements in AMR knowledge in areas such as discovery of new therapies, antibiotics, transmission dynamics and interventions. It coordinates multidimensional AMR research and funding on a global scale and supports collaborative action for filling knowledge gaps on AMR with a One Health perspective. The JPIAMR Strategic Research Agenda (SRA)[3] outlines the key areas to address and provides guidance for countries to align their AMR research agendas nationally and internationally. Since its inception, in 2011, JPIAMR has funded more than 50 research projects and networks, encompassing more than 300 partners, with joint funds exceeding 65M€ to date in its joint calls. The outcomes of the JPIAMR's research will be translated into new therapeutic, prevention, and intervention strategies improving economic and social benefits, and improve public health and the well-being of populations.

1. Introduction

The growing resistance of microbes to previously effective therapeutic interventions is rapidly becoming a public health crisis. Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) has now escalated to the point where some of the bacteria causing infections are resistant to most, if not all, available antibiotics. This global crisis has garnered the attention of world leaders and spurred efforts to find effective solutions.

JPIAMR recognises a need to reinforce alignment of research; to address this need the JPIAMR will **establish a Virtual Research Institute in AMR ("the JPIAMR-VRI"), a Global Network connecting research performing organisations[4] including institutes, centres, and infrastructures to each other across sectorial and geographic boundaries in a larger global network.** It will provide a platform to increase coordination, improve visibility of the AMR researcher base and facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity development across the globe, covering the full One Health spectrum. It is anticipated that the knowledge gathered and shared by these Networks will be truly global and will contribute to the further development of the JPIAMR-VRI.

2. Aim of the Call

2.1 Focus of the Call

The intent of the call is to help develop a platform that will identify research community needs in AMR and develop ideas to form the foundation of the JPIAMR-VRI. The funded Network Working Groups are expected to generate catalytic ideas and strategic plans to help JPIAMR bring the JPIAMR-VRI to life!

These ideas could include how to:

[3] https://www.jpiamr.eu/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/SRA1_JPIAMR.pdf

[4] Public organisations performing basic and applied research, national and international non-governmental organisations (including community organisations and regional health authorities) with a research or knowledge translation mandate or learned societies, federations and national scientific organisations. Applications will not be accepted from natural persons and individual research groups. Organisations must comply with national funding eligibility rules.

- connect AMR researchers across the JPIAMR priority topics in a One Health approach
- build capacity and strengthen capability in AMR research
- facilitate access to scientific information and infrastructures
- bridge geographic borders in the research community through global reach
- break practical barriers between geographies and fields of research
- increase awareness and visibility of the issue of AMR
- encourage the use of scientific evidence to inform policy and guideline makers

2.2 Focal areas of the network

Networks should develop new global collaborations/partnerships that involve representatives from as many JPIAMR member countries as possible (see section 3.2 and Annex A/Table 3 for further eligibility criteria). The Networks will focus on AMR strategic areas within the domains of Human health, Animal health and the Environment. The Networks are encouraged to bridge multiple One Health areas as needed.

Examples of Network focal areas could include, but are not limited to:

- Develop blueprints on: strategic focus, governance, funding/sustainability, infrastructure, engagement, implementation, the unique selling point of the JPIAMR-VRI, and/or addressing innovative "out of the box" ideas.
- Develop a Communication and Knowledge Translation Strategy.
- Develop a Partnerships Strategy to ensure key stakeholders, including industry and policy makers, and other networks are engaged and coordinate the alignment of other funded Networks.
- Develop a Strategic Action Plan on Training to identify opportunities for capacity building and strengthen capability, with a focus on young investigators.
- Develop a plan for a Global Platform for data sharing (e.g. clinical samples/data, scientific information and infrastructures including libraries or catalogues)
- Develop a Map of other funded Networks (e.g. current information on expertise, fields of interest, demographics, available technologies and resources)

One or two successful Networks will be allocated additional funding of up to €50,000 to organise the start-up meeting (early 2019) to align the Networks and the final and common review workshop (April 2020). To receive funding for these activities applicants must complete section VII of the application for: Organisation of Joint Network Seminars. Meetings will be organised with support from the JPIAMR Secretariat and JPIAMR-VRI taskforce. These Networks, the JPIAMR Secretariat and the JPIAMR-Task force will be responsible for writing the final report based on the discussions and outcomes at the workshop. Each funded Network must be represented (by either the coordinator or another member) at both the start-up meeting and the common review workshop to present their plans, results and recommendations. All Networks will work together with the JPIAMR Secretariat and the JPIAMR-VRI taskforce, when necessary, to realise the JPIAMR-VRI.

2.3 Characteristics and mode of operation

The funded Networks must bring together/align research performing organisations from as many disciplines and sectors as needed to develop plans for the JPIAMR-VRI. The Network

must complete their work over a maximum period of twelve (12) months after the funding start date. The final report must be submitted, at the latest, fourteen (14) months after the funding start date.

The JPIAMR Secretariat will play a coordinating role with the JPIAMR-VRI taskforce to ensure funded Network Working Groups are well coordinated and to ensure knowledge sharing.

2.4 Eligibility

The funded Networks must bring together/align organisations from as many disciplines and sectors as needed to develop plans for the JPIAMR-VRI. The Networks must develop national and international collaborations and partnerships that involve representatives from as many JPIAMR member countries as possible.

For an application to be eligible:

1. Networks must involve fifteen (15) representatives from organisations from ten (10) different countries, of which at least three (3) must be from JPIAMR countries contributing funding to this call.
2. Network Coordinators must be internationally recognised experts with a competitive track record in AMR research and policy.
3. Network must be led by an individual from an eligible organisation within one of the JPIAMR participating countries (in accordance with the terms and conditions of the relevant national funding organisations, see Table 3/Annex A). This individual should have the energy and commitment to drive a collaborative and output-directed process.
4. Networks are encouraged to include at least one (1) partner from a Lower Middle Income Country (LMIC).
5. Network are encouraged to consider facilitation of the upbringing of young generation of researchers (PhD and postdocs) and new investigators.
6. Individuals cannot act as Network coordinator for more than one (1) funded JPIAMR Network at any given time, but are allowed to be members of multiple JPIAMR funded Networks.
7. Individuals may only submit one (1) application as Coordinator to the JPIAMR-VRI Network call.
8. Members can be added to the Network as it develops further if additional expertise/knowledge is of benefit to the Network.
9. In the course of the JPIAMR peer review process, merging of related Networks applying on similar and complimentary topics may be suggested.[5] Additional synergies will be explored at the start-up meeting.

For additional eligibility requirements refer to rules of the national funding agencies (Annex A/Table 3) and for queries contact the individuals listed in Table 2.

[5] Negotiations regarding merging of Networks will involve the Network Coordinators and their respective national funding organisations.

2.5 Expected outputs and evaluation

The Networks should be guided by a clear project plan and conclude work in a 6 to 12-month period (plus 2 months to deliver the final report) starting end of 2018/beginning of 2019.

Networks are required to produce outcomes in the form of a standard report as well as additional supporting documents, including, for example but not limited to plans, prospective views, guidelines, and/or best practice frameworks. Reports should be submitted no later than 2 months after the end of the funding period. The reports are expected to act as a reference point for the development of the JPIAMR-VRI and will be used by the JPIAMR-VRI taskforce and the JPIAMR secretariat. The reports should be submitted to: VRINetwork2018@sanita.it

Networks will work together with the JPIAMR-VRI taskforce and the JPIAMR secretariat where appropriate over the course of the funded and reporting periods.

Beneficiaries of the grant commit to submit the following:

- An outline for inclusion in the start-up Network meeting
- An abstract and outcomes summary for inclusion in the final workshop report
- A final evaluation for JPIAMR monitoring, in the form of a survey for evaluation of the Network at the conclusion of the funding period, and within a follow up period (within three (3) years of the conclusion of the funding period).
- Dissemination of results (in any form, including electronic) must include the following text: "*This Network has been supported under the framework of the Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance".*
  JPIAMR quick guide for dissemination.

It is recommended that Networks invite at least three (3) JPIAMR members to their organised workshops or meetings (at least once during the Network funded period) as observers at the JPIAMR member's expenses and not the expense of the Network.

3. Application

3.1 Funds available and form of support

Approximately €1,100,000 will be available to fund Networks under this call (see Annex A). Funding decisions will be based on the quality of the applications received and the best fit to the call.

Each Network selected for funding will be funded by the funding agency where the institution of the coordinator is located according to its national rules. If for some reason this is not possible, funding will be allocated to an alternative partner of the Network, who will then act as administrative coordinator for the Network.

The Network would need to initiate work at the end of 2018/start of 2019 for a time period of 6 to 12 months (plus 2 months to deliver the final report).

Each Network coordinator can apply for a **maximum of €50,000** for support of its activities[6] (see Annex A for equivalent amounts in foreign currencies).

[6] Funding of Networks through this call does not support future funding.

Additional funding will be available for Networks offering to organise the start-up and/or the final common review seminars.

Funding will cover the costs of meetings and travel required to deliver the Network's objectives:

- Funding is expected to cover two (2) small workshops, with further work to be undertaken through email, tele-, video- or web-conferencing.

This funding will not provide support for:

- direct research activities or equipment;
- the salaries of tenured investigators, although funds to support an administrative co-coordinator for the activity will be permitted;
- Student grants.

For more information on the application please see the JPIAMR Guideline for Applicants.

3.2 Submission of proposals

The application form for this call is available on the JPIAMR website, and on the online submission tool.

Applicants will be required to complete the following:

- Network and Applicant Summary
- Rationale for the Proposed Network
- Objectives and Mode of Operation
- Composition of Network
- Outcomes and Deliverables
- Justification of Budget
- Organisation of Joint Network Seminars
- Applicant and Organisation Outline

Submission of proposals will be done using the Application Form provided. Application forms must be submitted by the Network's coordinator on the online submission website no later than **17.00h (CET) on July 4th, 2018**. The server will not accept proposals after this time. The system will be opened by **May 14th, 2018**. The general timeline of the call can be seen in Table 1.

3.3 Contact persons

The only official communication line of the proposal is between the Joint Call Secretariat and the Network coordinator. The Network coordinator will be the person contacted by the Joint Call Secretariat during the application procedure, so the coordinator must forward the information to the other partners. Each funding organisation has national contact persons who can be contacted for information about the specific national requirements (see Table 2).

Table 2. Funding Agencies and National Contacts

Country	Funding organisation	Contact person	National Contacts Email (phone number)
Canada	CIHR	CIHR Contact Center Édith Brochu	support@cihr-irsc.gc.ca Edith.Brochu@crchudequebec.ulaval.ca
Egypt	ASRT	Amr Radwan	radwan.amro@gmail.com
France	ANR	Martine Batoux Virginie Mouchel	JPI-AMRCalls@agencerecherche.fr
Germany	DLR-PT	Barbara Junker Akin Akkoyun	Barbara.Junker@dlr.de Akin.Akkoyun@dlr.de
Italy (Joint Call Secretariat)	It-MOH	Maria Josè Ruiz Alvarez Giselda Scalera	mj.ruizalvarez-esterno@sanita.it research.EU.dgric@sanita.it
The Netherlands	ZonMw	Linda van Gaalen	lgaalen@zonmw.nl
Norway	RCN	Sonja Prehn Dyveke Hetland	sp@rcn.no dhe@rcn.no
Spain	ISCIII	Rafael De Andrés Medina	rdandres@isciii.es
Sweden	VR	Laura Plant Patriq Fagerstedt Maria Starborg	Laura.Plant@vr.se Patriq.Fagerstedt@vr.se Maria.Starborg@vr.se
UK	MRC	Jessica Boname	Jessica.Boname@mrc.ukri.org

4. Evaluation

4.1 Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by a PRP composed of internationally recognised AMR experts. A scoring system from 0 to 5 will be used to evaluate the proposal's performance with respect to the different evaluation criteria.

Three (3) different criteria are used for evaluation of proposals:

1. Excellence
    a. Importance of network aims, including the question it seeks to address, and appropriateness of activities in meeting these aims.
    b. Competence and experience of key experts/organisations in the field(s) of the proposal (previous work in the field, expertise).

2. Impact
    a. Added-value of Network: Potential of the expected output to guide and/or support the development and impact of the JPIAMR-VRI.
    b. Feasibility and sustainability of the expected output considering the innovative catalytic ideas and strategic plans presented, with regards to the development of the JPIAMR-VRI.
    c. Extent to which the Network clearly demonstrates the potential for members to achieve greater impact through collaboration.

3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation
    a. Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including detailed process description, well-defined output, milestones and time plan, appropriateness of the allocation of roles of participants, tasks, resources and governance.
    b. Appropriateness of the collaboration plan including Network communication and coordination.
    c. Budget and cost-effectiveness of the Network (rational distribution of resources in relation to Network activities, coordinator responsibilities and time frame).
    d. If applicable: Clarity of rationale for integration of collaborators within the Network, including:
        i. LMIC representatives.
        ii. Multiple areas of One Health

4.2 Scoring system of Networks

A scoring system from 0 to 5 will be used to evaluate the proposal's performance with respect to each of the different evaluation criteria:

0: Failure. The proposal fails to address the criterion in question, or cannot be judged because of missing or incomplete information.

1: Poor. The proposal shows serious weaknesses in relation to the criterion in question.

2: Fair. The proposal generally addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses that need correction.

3: Good. The proposal addresses the criterion in question well but certain improvements are necessary.

4: Very good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but small improvements are possible.

5: Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all aspects of the criterion in question.

Evaluation scores will be awarded for the three (3) main criteria, and not singularly for the different aspects listed under the criteria. The threshold for individual criteria will be three (3). The maximum score that can be reached from all three (3) criteria together is fifteen (15) points.

The evaluation of the proposals will be made based on the quality of the applications received and the best fit to the call. The review panel will consider high quality/fundable Network proposals and will provide a ranked list of Network proposals taking into account the quality of proposals. Given these conditions, it is possible, for a given topic, that none or several Networks will be funded, depending on the quality of the proposals received.

4.3 Finding partners for preparing a Networks

If you are working on developing a Working Group and would be interested in finding partners, please use the JPIAMR partner search tool.

ANNEX A: Summary of JPIAMR Working Group call participants' indicative funding commitments and eligibility.

Table 3. Participating Organisations, National Rules and Requirements, and Funding Commitments.

Please note that this is only a summary. Refer to the national websites and contact the respective national contact persons for full details.

Participant Organisation name	**Country/ region**	**Specific National/ Regional rules**	**Eligible costs**	**Additional documents required**	**Funding commitments**
CIHR	Canada	The Canadian Applicant must be a: • Canadian and international non-governmental organizations (including community organizations and regional health authorities) with a research or knowledge translation mandate or • Learned societies, federations and national scientific organizations. The Canadian grantee will administer its own funds through a grant agreement with CIHR. Industry and individuals are not eligible to apply.		Recipients should review the Use of Grant Funds section of the Tri-Agency (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC) Financial Administration Guide for a complete listing and description of allowable costs and activities. Canadian applicants must complete a CIHR application and submit it using ResearchNet. The deadline for submission of this application is the same as the Full Application deadline to Joint Action Secretariat. The purpose of this additional application to CIHR is to provide CIHR with an Operating Budget for the project, with the amounts quoted in Canadian dollars.	75,000 CAD$
ASRT	Egypt				€50,000
ANR	France	**Duration of the project:** 12 months **Eligible institutions** (PI of the research Group must belong to an eligible institution): - Public research institutes such as EPST, EPIC, universities, university hospitals, non-university research institutes - Enterprises: large and SMEs	See call requirements	No	€150,000

		Please see additional participant modalities: http://anr.fr/JPI-AMR-WG-InstutRechercheVirtuel-2018			
It-MOH	Italy	Only scientific institutes for research, hospitalisation and healthcare (istituti di ricovero e cura a carattere scientifico pubblicie privati, IRCCS) are eligible.	See call requirements	No industrial partners are eligible. In order to expedite the eligibility-check process, the Ministry of Health will grarant an eligibility clearance to the applicants prior to the submission of the pre-proposals. To this end, it is mandatory that the applicants fill out and return a pre-eligibility (Italy_MOH_form_NETWORKCALL_eligibility_2018) check form trough IRCCS scientific Directorate or Regional Office Health Research using WFR System 10 days before submitting their pre-proposals to the Joint Call Secretariat.	€50,000
DLR-PT	Germany	See national guidelines.	See national guidelines.	Scanned signatures of all PIs on a full proposal.	€100,000
ZonMw	The Netherlands	Eligibility of the experts; see General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants of ZonMw	See call requirements, no overhead is funded.	No	€100,000 - €150,000
RCN	Norway	Eligibility of the experts - See guidelines: http://www.forskningsradet.no/en/General_application_requirements/1184159007037	See call requirements	No	€50,000
ISCIII	Spain	**Eligible institutions** (PIs and members of the research Group must belong to the eligible institution): - Hospitals, primary health care or public health settings of the Spanish - National Health System	See call requirements Overheads: up to 21% of the direct cost.	No	€100,000 - €200,000

		- Accredited Health - Research Institutes - CIBER or CIBERNED - Intramural ISCIII **NOTE:** Only one partner per beneficiary institution may be funded within the same proposal. Only one proposal per partner is allowed. Researchers with ongoing JPIAMR projects in 2017 cannot apply to the current call. **National phase:** National application will be required from applicants officially invited by ISCIII. Any publication resulting from the granted projects must acknowledge *"Award no. XX by ISCIII thorough AES 2016 and within the JPI-AMR framework"* even after the end of the project.			
SRC	Sweden	See national guidelines. http://www.vr.se/inenglish/researchfunding/applyforgrants/conditionsforapplicationsandgrants.4.5adac704126af4b4be280007743.html	The same as for applications for SRC project grants	Swedish project leaders participating in the call for support from the Swedish Research Council shall also submit an application using the Swedish Research Council's application system Prisma. See www.vr.se for more information	€150 000
MRC UKRI	UK	Eligibility of the experts - See guidelines: http://www.mrc.ac.uk/funding/guidance-for-applicants/	See call requirements (UK coordinator will be paid in Pounds (£) and the exchange rate on the date of submission will be used [July 4th 2018])"	No	€100,000