

Council for Development of Bio Technology

Title of the funding opportunity:

Advanced therapeutic strategies based on nucleic acids

Introduction:

In conjunction with the Biotechnology Development Council (BIODC) and the Mustafa Prize Investment and Endowment Fund (MPIEF), the Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology (ISTI) of Iran is pleased to offer a new research grant, aiming to encourage and enable joint projects between Muslim researchers from Iran and other countries. The opportunity is available to Iranian scientists and professors and prolific Muslim scientists from prestigious universities around the world. The main aim is to develop novel technologies to treat various diseases using nucleic-acid tools.

Goals and research themes:

This call intends to foster valuable collaborations between Muslim scientists from Iran and other countries, with a main focus on innovative technologies based on nucleic acids to treat disease. In particular, we invite carefully prepared proposals on gene editing, oligonucleotide therapeutics, genetic engineering, and other nucleic acid-based therapeutic approaches.

Major themes include:

- Latest genome editing technologies, *e.g.* CRISPR/Cas and prime editing systems
- RNAi therapeutics
- Splicing modulation for treating genetic diseases
- Antisense-oligonucleotide therapeutics
- Therapies based on genetically-engineered cells and stem cells
- Enzymatic DNA synthesis
- Enzymatic synthesis of short therapeutic RNAs
- RNA editing and therapeutics

Funding details:

- ISTI and BIODC will jointly provide 10,000 USD to accepted proposals.
- MPIEF will offer an additional 10,000 USD for each accepted proposal.
- The funding period for projects is two years.

Further details will be announced shortly.