

Opening of the MarMaRa Institute to new teams

In the European Union, a rare disease is defined as one affecting fewer than 5 out of 10,000 members of the general population. To date, about seven thousand rare diseases have been discovered, approximately 80% of those diseases are of genetic origin and their majority are chronic and life-threatening. Recognized as a public health priority by the French government since 2005, rare diseases affect about 3 million individuals in France and 30 million in Europe. However, despite recent successes in diagnosis, care or therapeutic development, 50% of patients are still without any molecular diagnosis and effective treatment exists for only 5% of cases. The objective of the MarMaRa institute is to gather research laboratories, medical teams, educational teams and industrial partners around cross-cutting actions to develop cutting-edge research for the benefit of patients. By federating new stakeholders, the MarMaRa institute aims at promoting, at the local, national and international levels, multidisciplinary research and training in connection with the socio-economic and cultural environment in the field of rare diseases.

To extend the field of competence of teams that are already part of the Institute and to promote interdisciplinary approaches and the emergence of innovative research projects, **MarMaRa Institute offers the opportunity to new teams of the Aix-Marseille University to join the Institute.**

Applicants should send a pdf file containing:

- 1) a CV including the list of the 10 most important achievements since 2015 (publications, grants, awards and patents;
- 2) the description of the team composition and
- 3) a 3 pages document describing their scientific achievements and research program. This latter part should in particular explain **how the research program is linked to the rare disease field, including potential collaborations with MarMaRa's teams**, and highlight the added value the team would provide to the Institute.

Candidates will be invited to give a seminar before the review of their application by our steering committee. The institute's steering committee will give a recommendation based on the usual international quality criteria, as well as Institute's thematic areas and specific strategic priorities. The applicant will be notified regarding this recommendation. **Final decisions regarding potential affiliation to MarMaRa will be communicated after validation by our Institute Council** (yearly meetings).