



COST Action CA18139

GEMSTONE

Genomics of Musculoskeletal
Traits Translational Network

2nd STSM call 2020/2021

STSM coordinator:

Kent Søe

(kent.soee@rsyd.dk)

STSM Committee:

Amina Valjevac (ITC manager)

Evangelia Ntzani (vice-chair of GEMSTONE)

Second Call for STSMs (2020-2021)



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Application deadline

31st of January 2021 at 11.59 pm

MULTIPLE

STSMs are available in Grant Period 2

PLEASE SEND **MANY** APPLICATIONS!

Second Call for STSMs (2020-2021)



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The applications will be evaluated by the STSM Coordinator
and supported by the STSM Committee members

A decision can be expected no later than the
19th of February 2021

What is a STSM?



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Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) are exchange visits aimed at

- supporting individual mobility
- strengthening existing networks
- fostering collaboration between COST Action participants

A STSM should specifically **contribute to the scientific objectives of GEMSTONE**, whilst at the same time allowing those partaking in the missions to

- to learn new techniques
- gain access to specific data, instruments, and/or methods not available in their own institutions / organizations



Eligibility Rules

Eligibility Rules: Who can apply?



STSM applicants shall be engaged in an official research program as

- a PhD Student
- postdoctoral fellow

or

- can be employed by, or affiliated to, an institution, organization or legal entity, which has within its remit a clear association with performing research

STSMs are particularly (**but not exclusively**) intended for

- Early Career Investigators (ECIs), an individual who is within a time span of up to 8 years from the date they obtained their PhD/doctorate (full-time equivalent)

Eligibility Rules



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Adherence to GEMSTONE's scientific objectives!

STSMs must contribute to the scientific objectives of one or more GEMSTONE working group:

- WG1: Study Populations and expertise groups
- WG2: Phenotyping
- WG3: Monogenic conditions – human KO models
- WG4: Functional investigations
- WG5: Bioinformatics
- WG6: Translational outreach

Eligibility Rules



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Please refer to the **COST Vademecum (Section 8)**

<https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Vademecum-V8-1-May-20202.pdf>

for more information on:

- Home vs Host Institution
- STSM financial contribution
- ...and other formalities

in brief:

- STSM must have a minimum duration of 5 days (incl. travel)
- STSM must be completed by the 30th of September 2021
- Max contribution per day: 160 € (accommodation + meals)
- Max 3,500 € in total to each STSM grantee



Application Process

How to apply?

A. Register to: <https://e-services.cost.eu>

B. Go to <https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm> and provide:

- **Support Letter** from senior researcher affiliated to Home Institution
- **Letter of Invitation** from a senior researcher affiliated to the Host Institution
- STSM application form
- **Motivation letter** including a work-plan detailing the proposed activities
- Applicant's **full CV** (incl. list of academic publications – if applicable)

NOTE: it is very important to specify in the work-plan and motivation why and how your mission **will contribute to the GEMSTONE objectives** and, in detail, **which WGs will benefit from your mission**

Selection and Evaluation criteria

- Relevance of STSM with action objectives
- Relevance of Host Institutions expertise with STSM objectives
- Results of direct interest for/exploitable by GEMSTONE

These evaluation criteria are primarily used if the number of applications exceeds the number of available grants:

- Applicants that are ECI or PhD candidates will be prioritized
- No previous STSM by same applicant
- Preferably no other STSMs from same institution / country
- Gender balance
- Geographical dispersion



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Please start to make arrangements **NOW**

