La FIRE, Fondazione istituita dall’AICE e partecipata dalla SIN per sviluppare adeguate risorse a sostegno della ricerca sull’epilessia, intende, con questo contributo, **sostenere le attività di ricerca scientifica sperimentale sulle cause della farmaco resistenza**, e sui possibili approcci terapeutici per sconfiggerla. Lo scopo é migliorare le conoscenze nell’ambito farmaco resistenza nelle epilessie. Con tale contributo s’intende offrire la possibilità di ampliare progetti di ricerca scientifica già in corso o sostenere l’avvio di proposte innovative.

Il bando FIRE 2010 é esclusivamente aperto a progetti di ricerca sperimentale; La partecipazione al bando prevede due fasi successive:

1. la presentazione di una lettera di intenti (LOI) che deve pervenire alla FIRE **entro il 21 dicembre 2010**.  
   La FIRE comunicherà ai proponenti prescelti il **14 febbraio 2011**, l’invito a presentare il progetto nella sua interezza.

2. La presentazione del progetto di ricerca completo in tutte le sue parti deve avvenire **entro il 1 aprile 2011**. 
   L’assegnazione del contributo alla ricerca verrà **notificata entro il 31 ottobre 2011** e **devoluta a partire da detta data** per progetti della durata di 12 mesi.
Il progetto di ricerca deve essere svolto da un gruppo di ricerca operante in Istituzioni di Ricerca Pubbliche o Private in Italia, e supervisionato da un coordinatore (il proponente) che svolga la sua attività di ricerca sul territorio nazionale.

Le LOI e i progetti di ricerca dovranno essere inoltrati alla FIRE via posta elettronica all’indirizzo: fire-aice@libero.it con oggetto: FIRE-AICE Bando 2010

La Commissione Scientifica – nelle seguenti linee guida indicato quale Scientific Committee – incaricata di selezionare, con giudizio insindacabile, le LOI pervenute per il Bando FIRE 2010 sarà presieduta dal Professor Raffaele Canger e composta da altri 2 esperti internazionali di sua insindacabile scelta. La Commissione, che dovrà attestare alla FIRE la propria non conflittualità di interesse in merito al bando, potrà avvalersi come referees del supporto di altri specialisti dell’area di ricerca in oggetto, nel caso tenuti a pari obblighi.

Le linee guida per la presentazione delle LOI ed eventualmente il progetto di ricerca per coloro che verranno prescelti dalla Commissione, vengono sotto riportate alla fine del bando. I proponenti devono essere strettamente aderenti alle linee guida di seguito riportate in lingua inglese, condizione necessaria a che le proposte possano essere prese in considerazione. Sia le LOI sia il progetto di ricerca vanno redatti in lingua inglese.

Obblighi:
il Responsabile del progetto al momento della presentazione della domanda e quale parte integrante della stessa è tenuto a sottoscrivere a:

Dr. Giovanni Battista Pesce
Presidente FIRE
via Garavaglia 5
40127 Bologna BO

una dichiarazione a liberatoria in favore della FIRE circa l’uso della documentazione prodotta per la presentazione della domanda e di quella consegnata a termine del progetto. A completamento del progetto sarà necessario presentare una relazione finale redatta in lingua inglese e con adeguata documentazione scientifica relativa allo svolgimento della ricerca e al conseguimento dei risultati ottenuti, con puntuale riferimento agli obiettivi proposti, e con adeguata giustificazione delle possibili deviazioni dagli obiettivi iniziali. Sarà necessario presentare un bilancio conclusivo correlato dai relativi costi sostenuti per lo svolgimento della ricerca.

La FIRE verserà sul conto corrente bancario indicato dal proponente nel progetto di ricerca prescelto, il 50% del contributo entro il 31 ottobre 2011, il 40% entro il 7 maggio 2012 e il restante 10% a consegna della relazione finale.
Guidelines for LOI and project preparation

Read and follow the instructions carefully.
Use English language only. For terms not universally known, spell out the term the first time it is used, with the appropriate abbreviation in parentheses; the abbreviation should then be used thereafter.
The text must be single-spaced, not exceeding the character number limitations specified (which include spaces).
The Scientific Committee holds the responsibility and authority in making the final decision on the Application’s completeness and legibility.

LOI (max 3500 chars)
The Applicant (Principal Investigator/Coordinator) has to organise the LOI into separate sections:
• Background/Rationale
• Overall objectives
• Specific aims
• Description of the project
• Anticipated output
LOI should be correlated by a short Biosketch (NIH style) of the Principal Investigator, listing the publications of the last 5 years.

Only for invited projects selected on the basis of LOI

Project Description

Project Title (max 250 chars)

Abstract (max 2.000 chars)
At the end of Abstract Indicate a maximum of five appropriate key words that represent the contents of the research and be as specific as possible.

Relevance to FIRE (max 1000 chars) - Clearly specify how the goals of the project fit with the theme of this call as declared in the mission statement: to support experimental research activities on the causes of pharmaco-resistance in epilepsy, and on therapeutic approaches to overcome pharmaco-resistance.

Lay Summary (max 1000 chars) – This description is meant to serve as a succinct and accurate description of the proposed work when separated from the application.
If the application is funded, this description, as is, will become public information.
Therefore, do not include proprietary/confidential information.
The Applicant is asked to summarize the project (both in Italian and English) using a lay language, specifying the relevance to the mission of this call and any progress envisaged towards the cure of this condition.
Background (max 8,000 chars)
Describe the background of the proposed project, critically evaluate the existing knowledge and identify the specific gaps that the project is supposed to fill.

Overall Objectives, Specific Aims and Rationale
List the objectives of the study and what the specific research proposed in this application is intended to accomplish.

Overall objectives (max 1,000 chars): please describe the overall objectives in a few sentences.

Specific aims (max 2,000 chars): please provide a list of the specific aims and briefly describe them.

Rationale (max 15,000 chars): State the hypotheses to be tested. Provide clear and concise information about the specific aims of the proposed research and give a realistic description of any expected scientific, technical and economic benefits. The objectives of the study must be convincing and feasible, and must be innovative, i.e. they must represent a significant step forward beyond the current state of the art and include substantial original work.

Preliminary Results (max 16,000 chars)
Provide an account of preliminary studies performed in the Applicant's laboratory pertinent to the proposed research. Peer review committees generally view preliminary data as an essential part of a research grant application, as they often aid the assessment of the likelihood of success of the proposed project.

Experimental Plan, Timetable and Methods

Experimental plan (max 16,000 chars)
Describe the general experimental design required to accomplish the specific aims of the project. If new methodologies are developed or employed state their advantages over existing methods.

Planning of experiments should be based on an appropriate and accurate statistical design. State the potential difficulties and limitations of the proposed procedures and discuss alternative approaches to overcome them.

Discuss how data will be analyzed and interpreted, and describe in detail statistical methods.

Where experiments using animals are necessary, you are required to strictly adhere to the relevant Italian laws, rules and regulations; in particular, approval by your Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee is mandatory. In planning your experiments you should carefully estimate the number of animals needed. You should take into account the likely magnitude of the effect you will be studying and the frequency with which that effect will be achieved for given levels of statistical significance and power. Provide a detailed description of the proposed use of the animals in the work outlined and identify the species, strains, ages, and sex of animals to be used in the proposed work. Provide information on the veterinary care of the animals involved.

Indicate the sources of research material obtained from individually identifiable living human subjects in the form of specimens, records, or data. Please remember that the material or data must have been obtained specifically for research purposes.
Explain the need for collaboration (if any) to achieve the scientific aims of the proposed project. Indicate how the idea of collaborating originated, the different approaches, which each collaborator will bring to the overall study, and how the collaboration will be conducted. Include an explicit description of the collaborative elements that are essential for the project to be carried out. Collaborators are expected to have research experience and must have an established record for independent research.

Timetable (max 4.000 chars)
Provide a tentative sequence or timetable for the project.

Methods (max 8.000 chars)
Describe any new laboratory procedure or new methodology employed in the study and state the advantages over existing methods.

Cited Literature (max 16.000 chars)
List all references. The list must include the names of all authors, year of publication, title, book or journal, volume number and page numbers. If a bibliographic management software is being used, the format of the journal “Epilepsia” may be applied; superscript numbers for citing references in the text are allowed, if space limitation is a concern. Concise references are not allowed.

Personnel
Personnel (including Principal Investigator) are defined as, and should be limited to, key individuals who contribute in a substantial way to the scientific development or execution of the project. For each individual provide: name, birthdate, degree, role on the project, the type of contract at the Host Institution (active or not) and the annual percentage of effort in the project and whether a salary is being requested. Please note that personnel to be recruited (“to be named”) must be listed here and should be kept to a minimum. For each person the “role on the project” must be specified in detail.

Proposed Budget
The budget description must be accurate in all its parts and every item must be justified and clearly related to the execution of the project. Any omission, generic description, or miscalculation could lead to the project’s rejection. All amounts must be in Euro, please use whole numbers only. Budget requests must not exceed 20,000 Euro (twenty thousand). The following expenses associated with the proposed research are not allowed:
• Salaries for Principal Investigator/Coordinator;
• Salaries for members of staff who already receive a regular wage;
• Salaries, travel and/or housing related to sabbatical leaves;
• Scientific Society memberships;
• Organization of meetings and workshops;
• Construction, alteration, maintenance, lab furnishing, rental of buildings or building spaces and utilities, fax and telephone costs;
The following expenses associated with the proposed research are allowed:

**Equipment**: up to a total of **10,000 Euro** for minor essential equipment or a portion of a major equipment. Each item of equipment must be clearly listed in the specific section and must be highly justified for the conduction of the proposed research.

**Materials, Supplies, Services**: materials and supplies must be listed by category: glassware, chemicals, radioisotopes, etc. Services include items as *Animal Housing*, *Animal Production*, *Sequencing*, *Peptide Synthesis*, etc.

**Salaries**: salaries for the project’s staff (postgraduates, post-docs, technicians, etc.) holding a temporary position to be determined by the effort dedicated to the project. Although not encouraged, salaries for “to be named” people may be requested. Please note that the names must correspond to people listed in the Key Personnel section and also those “to be named” have to be indicated there.

**Travel costs**: in the description field please split travel costs into

- **Travel costs for meetings/congresses** (not more than **2,500 Euro** annually
- **Project-related travel costs** (which must be carefully justified: destination, purpose and travel frequency – and adequately described in the project plan).

Please note that the costs allowed are the following:
- Transportation Costs (train/plane/bus/taxi/car use...);
- Boarding and Lodging;
- Congress Registration Fee;
- Abstract Submission Fee.

**Other expenses** (each item should be detailed and justified):

- **Allowed items**: publication costs, reprints, journal subscriptions, books, sample and animal shipments. If software is requested, specify the necessity for the proposed research.

- **Allowed items if overheads are not requested**: Stationery (paper etc.), Computer consumables (Toner, CDs,...), Repairing & Maintenance of Instruments, Mailings.

**INDIRECT COSTS**

**Overheads**: should be indicated up to **10%** of the direct research cost per 1 year, and include: mailing, photocopying, office supplies, telephone and fax expenses, equipment maintenance.

*Please note that the percentage must not be calculated on the total budget request, but on the subtotal of the direct costs.*

**Applicant**

The Principal Investigator/Coordinator/Partner must input his/her data as requested.

**Personal Data and Curriculum Vitae**

*Personal data* - Input your personal data. Please provide your telephone, fax and email address of your Office/Laboratory.

*Financial interests disclosure* – FIRE invites applicants to highlight possible financial conflicts of interest that might be perceived as relevant. However, these financial interests will not
invalidate the application, nor do they automatically disqualify it from being evaluated.

**Education and training** (max 4000 chars) - Organise information specifying date, place, institution, type of degree/diploma, and research field.

**Employment and research experience** (max 4000 chars) - Organise information specifying period (from/to), place, institution/organization, type of employment, and field of interest.

**Publications** - *Include the names of all authors*, year of publication, title, book or journal, volume number and page numbers. If bibliographic management software is being used, the format of the journal “Epilepsia” may be applied. **Concise references are not allowed.**

Provide **three** separate lists of up to **5** publications each, corresponding to:
- your most recent peer-reviewed publications
- your top peer-reviewed publications in your career
- your most relevant peer-reviewed publications related to the proposed research project.

**NOTE:** the same publications may be included in more than one list.

**Host Institution**

Provide all the information requested clearly and in detail. **Please write the address in Italian.**

Please note that this address will be used for any postal deliveries addressed to you.

Please complete a Host Institution agreement document on the Institution's headed paper and have it signed by the Institution’s Director or Responsible Official. The document must then be scanned, saved in .PDF format and uploaded into the application.

**Facilities and resources**

List all the key facilities available for implementing the project.

**Other Financial Support**

It is absolutely mandatory that the Principal Investigator/Coordinator/Partner list in this section all financial resources available in direct support of his/her research endeavors, including, but not limited to, research grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and/or institutional awards.

Indicate:
- Title of the Project (max 250 chars)
- Status: Current/Pending. It is compulsory to indicate the relative period
- Gross amount
- Granting agency (max 250 chars)
- Brief description (max 2000 chars)
- If applicable, specify possible overlaps with the proposed project (max 500 chars)

**Collaborations**

The Principal Investigator should list all his/her national and/or international collaborations, specifying name, institution, whether the collaborator is related to the project and, if yes, the relative contribution.

**Please note that collaborations must be supported by collaboration letters written in English, which have to be sent as pdf together with the project.**

**Suggested Reviewers**

The Applicant may suggest external referees - **not currently working in Italian Institutions** - in his/her fields of research, who could competently review his/her application.
Please do not list individuals who have been associated with the Applicant within the last 3 years. Should you prefer to exclude direct competitors, please indicate their names in the NOTES. The Comitato reserves the right to choose external referees independently.

Notes (max 8,000 chars)
Write here any personal comments, details or additional information you wish to add to any specific sections of the application form. Please indicate which section you are referring to and the reasons for including more information.

A HARD COPY OF THE APPLICATION DOES NOT NEED TO BE SENT.