



## 2025 CALL FOR APPLICATION

### POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

#### General presentation

In order to support research on psychotrauma and resilience, the Cn2r is launching a call for applications to fund a **two-year postdoctoral research fellowship**.

Research projects may fall within any discipline and address both **fundamental** and **applied research**. Although the fellowship topic is not narrowly defined, allowing for any proposal addressing psychotrauma and/or resilience, particular attention will be given to projects involving a **social support dimension** and/or **participatory research**.

- **Social support**, which does not have a single definition, is broadly understood here as a multidimensional concept encompassing any type of support (emotional, informational, material, social belonging, etc.) that an individual may receive from various people or environments. We consider it as a protective factor for mental health that can promote coping strategies, self-esteem, belonging, and competence through the effective or anticipated exchange of various resources (Gottlieb, 1994; Gottlieb & Bergen, 2010). Social support is generally distinguished into perceived support, which refers to the perception of support availability; received support, which refers to the actual receipt and frequency of support; and satisfaction with support, which refers to the adequacy of support relative to the individual's needs. The importance of this theme is highlighted by the creation of a [new World Health Organization Commission on Social Connections \(2024-2026\)](#), which aims to establish social connections as a global public health priority.
- **Participatory research** aims to actively involve those affected by the issue under study in all stages of the project, from defining research questions to analyzing results. In accordance with [Article 6 of the latest revision of the Helsinki Declaration in 2024 \(World Medical Association, 2013\)](#), it promotes a sharing of power and responsibility between researchers and participants, with the goal of generating useful knowledge and fostering societal change. In practice, various levels of partnership can be mobilized, ranging from participant consultation (where they give input on a specific aspect of the project) to more advanced forms such as co-construction of research questions and data collection, or even shared decision-making throughout the process. These different levels of involvement allow the approach to be adapted to the project's objectives and the participants' expectations.

The quality of the proposed project, particularly the originality in addressing the research question and its alignment with the chosen methodology, as well as its feasibility, will remain the main evaluation criteria, regardless of the theme.

Applications can be submitted in both French and English.

Gottlieb, B. H. (1994). Social support. In A. L. Weber & J. H. Hanvey (Eds.), *Perspectives on close relationships* (pp. 307–324). Allyn et Bacon.

Gottlieb, B. H., & Bergen, A. E. (2010). Social support concepts and measures. *Journal of psychosomatic research*, 69(5), 511–520. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpsychores.2009.10.001>

World Medical Association. (2013). *Declaration of Helsinki: Ethical principles for medical research involving human subjects*. World Medical Association. <https://www.wma.net/what-we-do/medical-ethics/declaration-of-helsinki/>

## Conditions of the Call for Projects

Research projects must be primarily conducted in a French laboratory, regardless of the applicant's nationality. Collaborations with foreign laboratories are however fully permitted. The institution managing the fellowship must be a French higher education and research institution or a research organization. This institution will be the employer of the fellow.

This postdoctoral fellowship aims to support the implementation of a two-year research project. The postdoctoral candidate must join their host laboratory by the end of December 2025 at the latest. The maximum amount for the fellowship is set at €121,000 for a 24-month project. The fellow's salary must represent at least 90% of the requested budget. A maximum of 10% of the grant can be used for operational expenses and small equipment (missions, consumables, computer equipment capped at 1 computer) as long as these expenses are directly linked to the proper implementation of the project. Only expenses incurred after the project's start date and before the project's end date will be considered. Management fees are not eligible.

An initial payment of 60% of the funding will be made upon granting the fellowship after the funding agreement is signed. A second payment of 20% will be made halfway through the project after an interim report on the project's progress is submitted. The remaining balance of the fellowship will be paid after the final report is validated (completed project and signed financial statement).

### **Methodological Support :**

The selected project will benefit from support by Cn2r researchers. In this context, the candidate and their supervisor may sign a mutual commitment agreement. The candidate will also have the opportunity to be hosted occasionally at Cn2r facilities.

## Procedure and Timeline

Candidates must submit a letter of intent by filling out the provided document on the Cn2r website (Step 1). This letter of intent will undergo an internal selection process by Cn2r members (scientific leads, researchers, clinicians, and patient partners). Candidates whose letters of intent are selected will be required to submit a full application, which will be evaluated by a jury composed of the aforementioned Cn2r members as well as experts selected based on the themes and methodologies of the proposed projects (Step 2). This full application must include, among other things, a summary of the candidate's previous work, a detailed description of the research project and methodology, and a presentation of the scientific environment in which the project will take place.

TIMELINE	
Opening of the call for applications	Monday, March 3, 2025
Deadline for receipt of letters of intent	Sunday, April 13, 2025
Notification by email of selected letters of intent	Friday, April 25, 2025
Deadline for receipt of full applications	Sunday, June 22, 2025
Notification by email of full applications	Friday, July 11, 2025

## Jury and Evaluation Criteria

Cn2r will handle the review and selection of projects, ensuring that eligibility criteria are met.

The fellowship jury will consist of qualified Cn2r professionals, including patient partners, as well as experts selected for their knowledge of the proposed research themes and methodologies. These experts may be recruited from the Cn2r Scientific and Advisory Board or from other sources. Each member must declare in writing that they have no conflict of interest when participating in the jury and may not sit on the jury if they are associated with any of the applications.

As mentioned above, special attention will be given to projects that incorporate elements related to social support and/or participatory research. However, the methodological quality of the project, its innovative nature, as well as its feasibility and transdisciplinarity will be prioritized. The candidate's background, area of expertise, and publications will also be evaluated, along with those of the supervisor(s).

Cn2r is also sensitive to the potential societal impact of the project, whether clinical, social, economic, etc. How does the project contribute to shedding light on a particular issue and/or promoting prevention or improving the care pathway for victims? Fundamental research projects are also eligible. We encourage candidates to explain the long-term relevance of their project, regardless of its nature.

Any questions regarding this call for projects can be sent to: [contact@cn2r.fr](mailto:contact@cn2r.fr)

## PRESENTATION OF THE CN2R



The National Center for Resources and Resilience (Cn2r) is a public interest group created in 2019 and constituted between the State (represented by 6 ministries), the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), the National School of Magistrates, and two supporting hospital facilities (Lille University Hospital and the AP-HP in Paris).

The general mission of the Cn2r is to contribute to individual and/or collective resilience after the confrontation with one or several traumatic events and the possible development of psychotraumatic syndromes.

To achieve this mission, the CN2R relies on the experiential knowledge of people who have experienced psychotrauma and on several levers for action : the development of multidisciplinary scientific expertise on psychotrauma and resilience, the reinforcement of training and the promotion of good practices, as well as the dissemination of knowledge.

The CN2R also plays a role in coordinating the network of regional psychotrauma centers in conjunction with the national medical-psychological emergency network and other medical-psychological care and victim assistance providers.

For more information : <http://cn2r.fr/notre-organisation/>

**Contact :**

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