

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNING COUNCIL SPECIAL FUND

1. The Director presented the request for an allocation of €500 000 from the Governing Council Special Fund (GCSF) for the purchase of scientific equipment (€285 000) and for the replenishment of the EPIC Biobank (€215 000) to the Scientific Council for its consideration in February 2018 (see Document [SC/54/7](#)).

2. The Scientific Council strongly supported this request and, given the uncertainty of the costs for the replenishment of the EPIC Biobank, recommended that the Governing Council approves the allocation of **€535 000** from the GCSF, an amount higher than that initially requested by the Director, for the purchase of the equipment listed below (€285 000) and for the replenishment of the EPIC Biobank (€250 000) (see pages 13–14 of Document [GC/60/4](#)).

Requested budget following Scientific Council consideration

	Approximate price (€)	Annual maintenance costs (€)
a) Automated immunostainer	120 000	4000
b) Automated device for nucleic acid quality control	50 000	3000
c) Automated system for plasma phospholipid fatty acid profiling	115 000	Nil
Replenishment of the EPIC biobank		Nil
- Retrieval and shipment from EPIC Centres	130 000	
- Liquid nitrogen tank	30 000	
- Other materials and reagents	30 000	
- Staff costs – Biobank	<u>60 000</u>	
Total	250 000	
Grand total	535 000	

3. The annual maintenance costs of the requested equipment will be covered by the regular budget as well as by collaborative programmes through grant applications.

4. The Governing Council is requested to approve at its 60th Session in May 2018 the use of €535 000 from the GCSF. For the information of the Council, as at 1 January 2018, the GCSF account had an opening fund balance of €11.2 million, of which over 60% have been committed. Details on the projection of the GCSF account from 2018 to 2019 are provided in Document GC/60/Inf.Doc. No.2.