A new international alliance has been established by AFM-Téléthon, the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign, Muscular Dystrophy Ireland, Cure CMD and the Swiss Foundation for Research on Muscle Disease to fund research into collagen VI deficiencies that will further the development of therapeutic approaches and/or demonstrate a strong translational impact in this research field.

Background
In recent years great progress has been made in the development of treatments for a number of muscular dystrophies and related neuromuscular conditions and as a result the number of clinical trials is steadily growing. Collagen VI deficiencies form a group of conditions designated as ultra-rare. However, investment into research for these conditions seems to lag behind other areas even if in some countries the prevalence is relatively high.

In order to drive the development of treatments for these conditions forward, AFM- Téléthon and, the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign have joined forces in launching a Call for Projects dedicated to collagen VI deficiencies with a particular focus on Ullrich muscular dystrophy and Bethlem myopathy. The Call is aimed at funding research that has a focus on developing therapeutic approaches and/or can demonstrate a strong translational aspect.

The research will be funded by the members of the Collagen VI Alliance, The call will be coordinated by the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign.

About the call
- the call is open to all international researchers working on collagen VI deficiencies; proposals relating to Ullrich muscular dystrophy or Bethlem myopathy are particularly welcome
- the deadline for applications is 5pm (GMT) on Thursday 20 November 2014
- project grants of up to 3 years’ duration will be funded
- funding will be available for salaries and consumables
- fundable projects will be selected though the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign’s rigorous peer review process with input from representatives from AFM- Téléthon and a decision will be made in May 2015
- members of the Collagen VI Alliance will jointly decide with AFM- Téléthon and the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign which of the fundable projects will be awarded in July 2015

How to apply
If you are interested in applying for a grant, please contact Alison Stevenson, Senior Grants Manager at the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign at a.stevenson@muscular-dystrophy.org for an application pack.

If you have any queries regarding the call or the application process, please contact Alison at a.stevenson@muscular-dystrophy.org or on +44 (0) 207 803 4812.