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## ECCO Grants Fact Sheet

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The European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation (ECCO) offers Research Grants to promote innovative scientific research in the area of Inflammatory Bowel Diseases (IBD) in Europe.

ECCO Grants are designed to support IBD Research within the country of affiliation. Typically, research for ECCO Grant projects is undertaken in the own institution of the applicant. Target audience are **young basic and/or clinical scientists below the level of associate professor**. Up to twelve ECCO Grants may be given each year.

In order to be eligible, the candidate must:

1. Submit an original research project using the "ECCO Fellowships and Grants Online Submission Pages". Incomplete applications will not be evaluated.
2. The principal investigator of the ECCO Grant application needs to be ECCO Member (at the time of application).
3. ECCO Grant applicants are not limited to the ECCO Member Countries and can apply from non-European countries; however, the impact of the project for the IBD Community has to be clearly stated.
4. If your institute holds a current ECCO Grant, then another application for this period is not possible. Therefore, an institute cannot apply for two ECCO Grants in consecutive years.

Terms of submission

1. A total amount of **EUR 50.000** will be awarded per ECCO Grant. Grants are not intended to provide a part of the salary for the candidate. If the ECCO Grant candidates succeed in receiving additional funding for the project, this is likely to be regarded as an "add-on" and not a conflict with ECCO, although ECCO will expect to be informed.
2. The duration of the Grant is one year.
3. Only one proposal may be submitted per applicant by the submission date.
4. All applicants should submit a proposal for a research project using the "ECCO Fellowships and Grants Online Submission Pages" and should contain the following information:
  - Project title and PI
  - Name, full address, affiliations, ECCO Member ID number of the applicant
  - Summary of the proposal (300 words)
  - Introduction (900 words)
  - Objectives (450 words)
  - Methodology and working plan (including chronogram) (1350 words)
  - Significance and impact (225 words)
  - Background of the group (450 words)
  - Budget

As well as the following documents:

- CV of the Grant candidate
  - Approval of the institution (e.g. necessary equipment will be made available; confirming the employment of the applicant; scientific and administrative support)
  - IRB (clinical/experimental) approval of the project
  - Disclosure of additional funding that will be taken into consideration in the final selection
5. The annual deadline for submission for an ECCO Grant is **June 3**.
  6. Evaluation of applications is made according to six criteria (see review process, below) by European IBD Specialists. Applications will be discussed by the Scientific Committee in autumn and applicants informed in **October**.
  7. Payment is processed before **December 31**, contingent upon the ECCO Grant Agreement signed between the Grant applicant, the research institution and ECCO.
  8. Successful applicants will receive the Grant at the Annual Congress of ECCO and are expected to be present.
  9. A 300 word synopsis of the project for ECCO News should be submitted within 4 months of receiving the award. The final report (a synopsis of 300 words) is due within 6 months of the project end and should be submitted to ECCO for publication on the ECCO Website and/or ECCO News. Please get in touch with ECCO Office for report templates at [ecco@ecco-ibd.eu](mailto:ecco@ecco-ibd.eu).
  10. ECCO Grant holders are required to inform SciCom of all abstracts and publications of the project. In case this is not paid attention to, ECCO reserves the right to not review further Grant applications of the principal investigator.
  11. When presenting or publishing results of the project, ECCO shall be acknowledged on all printed matter as contributing to their funding. Please contact the ECCO Office at [ecco@ecco-ibd.eu](mailto:ecco@ecco-ibd.eu) to request the ECCO logo for slide presentations. In case this is not paid attention to, ECCO reserves the right to not review further Grant applications of the principal investigator.
  12. ECCO encourages Grant awardees to offer the paper to JCC for publication.

#### Review Process

1. All projects will be reviewed and scored by the members of ECCO Committees with external review requested and expected, based on the following criteria:
  - Originality and innovative nature of the proposal
  - Methodology
  - Feasibility of research project and budget
  - International scientific level of the research team
  - Importance of the project in the field of IBD
  - Formal criteria (no indication of copy/paste application, compliance with word/page limits, justified budget, IRB approval)
2. The ECCO Scientific Committee makes the selection and seeks approval from the ECCO Governing Board.
3. The award of the ECCO Grants will be handed over during the next ECCO Congress.

## Scoring System

The following procedure for the scoring system for Grants will apply:

1. *Review by ECCO Officers & external reviewers:* Each Grant application will be reviewed by 1 member of ECCO Committees and minimum 2 external reviewers. They will score their assigned applications according to the six evaluation criteria and comment on each application.
2. *Ranking:* Applications are ranked according to their overall average scores.
3. *Final approval:* by the Governing Board of ECCO
4. *Acceptance/rejection letters:* Candidates will be informed of their application outcome by ECCO

## Reviewers

Reviews for the Grants will be requested according to individual expertise and selected from the following candidates:

- ECCO Officers
- Former speakers at the ECCO Congress
- Acknowledged experts
- Successful candidates of Grants