

## **The ESICM / ECCRN Research awards 2009**

The ESICM is launching an effort to fund European research initiatives led by young investigators. The primary goals of this programme are:

- a. To develop an attractive programme of fellowships to support research and training in intensive care medicine in Europe;
- b. To contribute to the implementation of new techniques in Europe, through the support and training of fellows in research;
- c. To raise the image of the ESICM in the international community;

Through its Research Committee, the ESICM is committed to enforce strict rules for the management of the fellowships and aims to ensure the high quality of the work supported. To promote the development of European research programmes, the Research Committee and the Jury members will be asked to give priority to applications conducted under the supervision of ESICM members.

### **1. ESICM / ECCRN Awards programmes for 2009**

- a. The ESICM/ECCRN awards are funded by the ESICM with the objectives of enabling young investigators and clinicians, who are in the early stages of their careers to carry out basic or clinical research projects and to develop, acquire, and apply advanced research procedures and techniques in the area of intensive care medicine through a 12-month work period in a European country. Seven grants of 20,000 € are available for 2009:
  - The *ESICM Young Investigator Award* will support the development of research activities undertaken with the active contribution of the applicant. The specific intent is to provide support for young and talented physicians-scientists that have the potential to become outstanding independent investigators in the field of intensive care medicine and emergency medicine. The research proposal may rely on approaches ranging from basic cellular responses to outcome research, and may include clinical applications as well as translational science.
  - The *ESICM Established Investigator Award* will support the research activities of a senior physician-scientist active in clinical or basic research. The specific intent is to provide support for investigators who already established their independent research program in the field of intensive care medicine and emergency medicine, and who can demonstrate a commitment to facilitate research training of young colleagues. The research proposal may rely on approaches ranging from basic cellular responses to outcome research, and may include clinical applications as well as translational science.

- The *ECCRN Clinical Research Award* will support a research project to be performed by an investigator in a clinical environment. Some aspects of the proposal may involve collaboration with research laboratories. However, applications that lack a clinical component will not be considered. Approaches may vary from physiology, diagnostic procedures, therapeutic interventions, to epidemiologic studies and evaluation of practices.
  - The *ECCRN Basic Science Award* will support a research project to be performed by an investigator in a research laboratory. Approaches may vary from basic cellular and molecular physiology, cell biology, molecular biology and genetics to animal physiology and translational science.
  - In order to foster progression of women in academic careers, the *ESICM Levi-Montalcini Biomedical Science Award* will support the development of research activities undertaken with the active contribution of a female applicant. The specific intent is to provide support for young and talented female physicians-scientists that have the potential to become outstanding independent investigators in the field of intensive care medicine and emergency medicine. The research proposal may rely on approaches ranging from basic cellular responses to outcome research, and may include clinical applications as well as translational science.
- b. The deliverables include the submission of a research abstract to the Annual Congress of the ESICM. Submission for publication of the final results to *Intensive Care Medicine* is strongly encouraged. In addition, each Award requires an administrative end-of-project report<sup>1</sup> in English within 3 months of the end of the project.
- c. Applications for projects relevant to developing central and eastern European countries are particularly encouraged.

## 2. General Conditions

- a. Only 2009 ESICM are allowed to submit an application. If you are not yet a member, please do so as soon as possible as it can take several weeks to process.
- b. The European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM) offers for the year 2009 seven research awards for professionals actively engaged in clinical and basic research in intensive care medicine:

Programme	Duration	Amount
The ESICM Young Investigator Award	12 months	20,000 €
The ECCRN Clinical Research Award (2 prizes)	12 months	20,000 €
The ECCRN Basic Science Award (2 prizes)	12 months	20,000 €
The ESICM Established Investigator Award	12 months	20,000 €
The Levi-Montalcini Biomedical Science Award	12 months	20,000 €

<sup>1</sup> In case of failure in reporting, the ESICM may decide to exclude from the ECCRN Award programme future applications coming from the institution where the defaulting award winner came from.

- c. The awards are funded by the ESICM. They enable qualified investigators to carry out specific basic and clinical research projects in a European country as defined by the ESICM statutes. Although investigations can be performed in the country of origin of the applicant, the ESICM will encourage applications that foster scientific exchanges between European research centres.
- d. The Awards are not intended to run concurrently with other awards greater than €10,000, even those funded by other agencies. Funds used to secure ethics approval, insurance or permission to perform animal research will not be taken into account in the €10,000 limit. The Awards are not granted for basic training, courses, lectures, meetings, conferences, congresses, etc. or for visiting institutions.
- e. The ESICM does not guarantee any tax issue that may arise either in the home or in the host country and any taxes have to come out of the Award. The ESICM is a non-governmental international organization whose awards are not automatically endowed with any particular tax privileges. It is the sole responsibility of the recipient of an award to pay any tax which may be levied upon him/her by the appropriate national authority.
- f. In addition, ESICM awardees are not insured by the ESICM against medical expenses for themselves or their families; neither are they insured for accidents during their travel to and from the host institution. The ESICM does not recognize recipients of its awards as agents or employees of the ESICM and accepts no liability in respect of any of their actions or activities or in respect to the health or safety of their persons. In their own interest, recipients of the fellowships are, therefore, urged to make sure that they, their families and the institutions which receive them are fully covered by the necessary insurances.

### **3. Candidates**

- a. Candidates must possess appropriate professional qualifications and experience according to the specific Award applied for. Physicians, scientists, nurses or health-allied professionals are eligible candidates for the Awards. Applications from nurses and health-allied professionals should be supported by a research supervisor (M.D. or Ph.D).
- b. Candidates must be actively engaged in intensive care and emergency medicine or in intensive care research, with appropriate scientific or medical qualifications.
- c. Candidates qualifying for the Young Investigator Award should be under the age of 40 at the time of Award application. Applicants should hold a position at their home institutions or should provide a letter from the supervisor that describes career plans after the Award. Awards are conditional on the availability of appropriate facilities and resources to apply the newly acquired skills. In case the Young Investigator Award is used to fund a research fellowship abroad, the return of the Fellow to the home institution at the end of the fellowship is encouraged.
- d. For all other awards, there is no age limit. Applicants should hold a position at their home institutions or should provide a letter from the supervisor that describes career plans after the Award. In case the Award is used to fund a research fellowship/ visiting

research fellowship abroad, the return of the Fellow to the home institution at the end of the fellowship/ a visiting research fellowship is encouraged

- e. Candidates must be member of the ESICM or submit an application to become a member of ESICM prior to submission of their Award application.
- f. The research programme must be conducted in a host institution in Europe. When applicable, the proposal should elaborate on how the partnership between the host and the candidate would take full advantage of the unique facilities, resources, and materials available in their (respective) countries. Candidates must have adequate fluency in a language that permits effective communication at the host institution.
- g. Candidates who have already obtained an ESICM award in the past may apply for any further ESICM Award with the exclusion of the ESICM Young Investigator Award.<sup>2</sup>

#### **4. Applications**

- a. An online application form is available from the ECCRN Research Awards web pages of the ESICM website.
- b. Application deadline is 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009.
- c. Applications can be submitted to up to 3 Award proposals, including the Industry Research Award programme.
- d. Applications that have undergone a review and selection process and were not approved for funding cannot be resubmitted the following year(s) without further modification.
- e. Applications should normally specify only one institution as hosting unit.

#### **5. Selection**

- a. Selection will be made on the basis of scientific and expert evaluation of the application and the proposed work as set out by the candidates in the project description. Members of the Research Committee and reviewers of the highest international standing in their respective fields will carry out this task.
- b. The review process will involve appreciation of the significance and the originality of the research project, the proposed approach, the investigators profile and the research environment in which the project will be conducted. A quantitative evaluation grid will be used to help members of the Selection Committees in the decision process.

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<sup>2</sup> Previous Young Investigator Award winners cannot submit further applications for this specific award but of course are welcome to apply for the other awards.

- c. To guarantee a fair selection process and to avoid any potential conflict of interest, applications involving a member (or the institution) of the Award Selection Committee will be discussed in the absence of this member.
- d. The assessments are strictly confidential and cannot be divulged outside the ESICM, or to the candidates themselves.
- e. No distinction will be made between candidates on the basis of gender, ethnic origin, religious or political beliefs.
- f. The decisions are final and appeals will not be considered.

**Any infringement of these conditions will result in the withdrawal of an application from the selection process or the cancellation of an award already made.**