

Call for proposals

“The *iMDS*Soft Patient Safety Award”

I. Goal

*iMDS*Soft and the ESICM call proposals for the “*iMDS*Soft Patient Safety Award”, which is part of the ESICM Industry Research Awards programme aimed at promoting excellence in Research activities related to Intensive Care Medicine in Europe. The purpose of this award is to support the development of new or future faculty-level investigators in the area of intensive care and emergency medicine. The Industry Research Awards provide financial support to young intensivists or to senior investigators, members of the ESICM, in order to develop an independent research project. These Awards grant investigators with peer recognition and great exposure.

II. Focus

The proposed research must focus on developing new knowledge related to patient safety. Approaches may vary from epidemiology to evaluation of practices and clinical outcomes. Proposals centred on the evaluation, implementation or development of novel information technologies likely to improve patient safety are encouraged. Translational research may be suitable if short-term clinical applications clearly relate to the field of patient safety. Proposed research must have intrinsic importance, but may also contain a component for permitting the applicant to learn the methodology, theory, and conceptualizations necessary for developing into an outstanding independent researcher.

III. Eligibility

- Only 2009 ESICM members are invited 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.
- The candidate must have a doctoral degree or its equivalent, such as but not limited to MD, PhD, DDS, DMD, DO, DC, OD, DVM, or Pharm D. Application from nurses and health-allied professionals are also possible, but they should be supported by a research supervisor that have one of the above mentioned degrees and is a member of the ESICM.
- Eligible candidates should hold a position at their home institutions or should provide a letter from the supervisor that describes career plans after the Award.
- The candidate must have an interest and/or experience in the area of patient safety.

- Candidates must be European (or originating from a country participating in the European Union 6th framework-programme of RTD or associated to the European Union¹). US or Canadian citizens are not eligible. The research project must be conducted in Europe and/or in a country participating in the 6th Framework programme of RTD (such as Israel)²
- For candidates that hold a doctoral degree or its equivalent, identification of a supervisor with extensive research experience in this area may add strength to the application, but is not strictly required.

IV. Selection

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

V. Announcement of winners

The Award will be presented at the Opening Ceremony of the ESICM Annual Congress. Award winner will be notified in advance of the meeting and will be asked to be present at the Opening Ceremony.

VI. Award

The award will be EUR 10.000, over a year. Funds will be available as of November 2009 (academic year) and granted in one payment at the beginning of the Award period.

¹ Citizens from ACP countries or from Mediterranean countries are also welcome to apply provided they are duly employed in an institution/a lab located in Europe and/or in a country participating in the 6th framework programme of RTD.

² See list of eligible countries available from our website

The deliverables include the submission of a research abstract to the Annual Congress of the ESICM. In addition, the Award requires an administrative end-of-project report³ in English within 3 months of the end of the project to the ESICM. The report will be forwarded to *iMDSOft*.

VII. Allowable costs

Allowable costs include salary support, equipment and supplies. Costs for secretarial services and administrative services (overheads) are not allowed. All costs must be directly related to the proposed research. Travel associated with research training is permitted to a maximum of € 1500.

VIII. Legal aspects

Neither the ESICM nor *iMDSOft* 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.

In addition, the awardees are not insured by the ESICM or *iMDSOft* against medical expenses for themselves or their families; neither are they insured for accidents during their travel to and from the host institution. Neither the ESICM nor *iMDSOft* 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.

Inclusion of women, minorities, and children in research involving human subjects. If applicable, these inclusions must be in accordance with current NIH/EC FP6 policy, and must be clearly described in the application.

Vertebrate animals. Appropriate institutional approval is needed.

Biohazards. Appropriate institutional approval is needed.

³ In case of failure in reporting, the ESICM may decide to exclude from the Industry Research Awards programme further application from the institution, which provided support to the defaulting award winner.