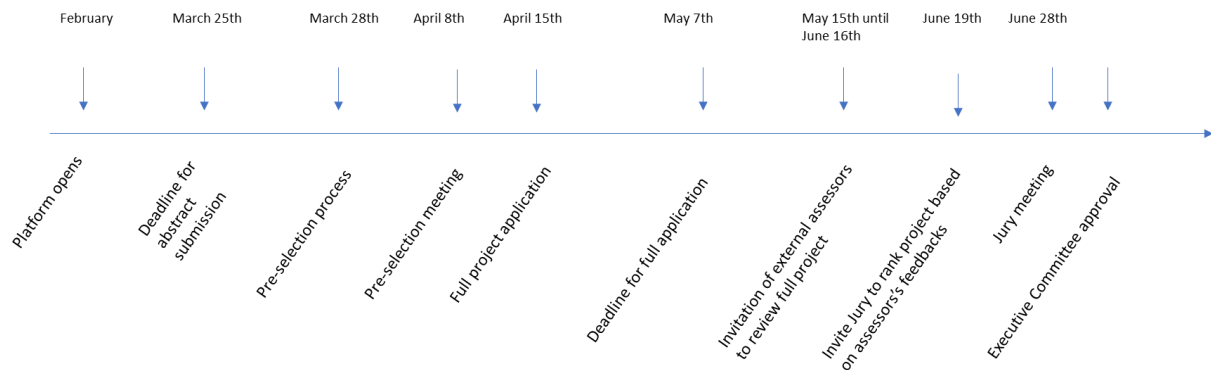

ESICM Award 2019 – procedure

From 2018, the ESICM Award procedure is done in three steps: Pre-selection, external reviewing, Jury selection.



Timeline for 2019

Step 1 : Pre-selection

We opened the platform first week of February. Applicants could apply for up to 3 categories per project (two projects are a maximum per applicant and the projects have to be different).

The members of the Research Committee (RC) are invited to assess the abstract, short application based on feasibility, relevance and methodology divided in several items: Objectives, Intervention(s), Inclusion/Exclusion and Methods, Statistical methods, Sample size, Trial duration, Budget, Overall scoring.

The applicants have to state if they have conflict of interest with one member of the RC, and each member have to specify if they are aware of applications of colleagues. The members will review a sub-set of Awards applications avoiding the categories where there is a conflict of interest (COI). E.g. if an applicant with COI applied for Global ICU, the member of RC will not score any project within the category (this rule will be applied for step 3 as well).

The forms reviewed by the RC are anonymized, there is no mention of name, promotor, institution. Some projects were dismissed from some categories but could be invited to the full application for a sub-selection of categories.

Pre-selected applicants received an invitation to complete the application, including an extensive project proposal, CV and letter of recommendation. Candidates that are not selected received an e-

mail with their scores and comments to improve their application for the next year.

Objectives	Perfect description and understandable	3
	Good description, some improvement can be made	2
	Diffuse or unclear	1
	Not appropriate	0
Intervention(s)	Perfect description and understandable	3
	Good description, some improvement can be made	2
	Diffuse or unclear	1
	Not appropriate	0
Inclusion/Exclusion and Methods	Perfect description and understandable	3
	Good description, some improvement can be made	2
	Diffuse or unclear	1
	Not appropriate	0
Statistical methods	Perfect description and understandable	3
	Good description, some improvement can be made	2
	Diffuse or unclear	1
	Not appropriate	0
Sample Size	Perfect description and understandable	3
	Good description, some improvement can be made	2
	Diffuse or unclear	1
	Not appropriate	0
Trial duration	Feasible timetable	2
	Might be challenging	1
	Unrealistic	0
Budget	Appropriate	2
	Some concerns	1
	Over budget or too high without further acquired money	0
Overall scoring	Exceptional idea and application. This study should be allowed to be invited for a full application	5 (one member of the research committee can give this once for every 10 applications reviewed)
	Highly interesting study in the field of intensive care medicine that will advance our field	3
	Clear knowledge gap in the field of intensive care medicine which should be investigated	2
	The impact for the intensive care field seems to be low	1
	Not an intensive care study or I do not expect any advancement for our field from this study	0

Scoring for step 1: /22

Step 2 : External reviewers

Criteria to be reviewers:

1. If NOT specialized in intensive Care, only if H-Index ≥ 15 AND Award Body Yes AND Funding > 0
2. For all following: Specialized in intensive care = YES
 - a. If H-Index ≥ 8 & Award Body = Yes & Reviewer = Yes & Funding > 5.000 €
 - b. If H-Index ≥ 10 & Funding > 20.000
 - c. If H-Index ≥ 15 & Funding > 5000 €
 - d. If H-Index ≥ 20 & Funding = No & Reviewer = Yes

RC members are excluded from the Step 2, they can't assess projects.

Assessors are matched according to their topic of interest and area of expertise with the application. In pubmed and desk search, there has been a verification to avoid conflict of interest with the applicant, i.e. assessors and reviewers should not have been co-authors in the last 9 years and do not work in the same hospital/department.

A minimum of 2 assessors, the majority got between 3 to 4 reviewers that actually accepted the invitation and assessed. Each assessor has to score per item, give a general comment and could include their concerns in a different field. The coefficient for each item in the scoring is the result of a survey.

Category	Description (everything 0-2 as scores)
Applicants expertise (coeff 1,5)	Excellent
	Good
	Average
Objectives (coeff 2,5)	Excellent
	Appropriate
	Needs improvement
Methods (coeff 2)	Excellent
	Appropriate
	Needs improvement
Justification for sample size (Coeff 1,5)	Appropriate
	Concerns
	Inappropriate
Trial duration (Coeff 1)	Feasible
	Challenging
	Unrealistic
Budget (Coeff 1)	Appropriate
	Concerns
	Unrealistic
Originality (Coeff 1,5)	High
	Medium
	Low
Need for the project (Coeff 1,25)	High
	Medium
	Low
Impact on Intensive Care (Coeff 2)	High
	Medium
	Low
Your final recommendation (1,25)	Definitely to be supported
	Should be supported maybe
	Should not be supported
Any other concerns: Text field	
General comments: Text field	
Please confirm you do not have a conflict of interest with the application:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I confirm, that I have no conflict with this review. • I have a conflict of interest with this review 	

Scoring for step 3: /31 with coefficient reported to /20

Step 3: Jury

The jury is composed by the RC and potentially external experts if necessary. The members have to rank projects for all categories except categories with COI. As a jury, they have access to the marks and comments of the assessors from step 2 and reviews are anonymised.

In each category they have to select the Top 6 and Top 10 for categories with two awardees. The ranking gives a decreasing score, i.e. if one project is ranked first he will have the highest score 12/12 and a project ranked last will have 0/12. The final jury score is the average of all rankings.

The jury discuss the projects according to the overall ranking and the marks given by the assessors. As a crosscheck, the Jury also look at the pre-selection scores. If an RC member is applicant, he/she will

be excluded of the discussion and selection of the category he/she applied for and must leave the premises.

The ranking of each Award category is independent, i.e. one project can be first in one category and last in another.

The jury can also access the assessors' comments and scoring to discuss the project.