



*The Intensive Connection*

## **The ESICM Awards 2021**

ESICM actively supports launching efforts to fund European research initiatives led by young investigators. The primary goals of this programme are:

- a. To develop an attractive programme of awards to support research 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 increase the visibility of the ESICM in the international community;
- d. To increase collaborative research in intensive care medicine across borders in Europe.

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

### **1. ESICM Awards programmes for 2021**

- a. The ESICM Awards are funded by ESICM with the objective of enabling both young and established investigators and clinicians, to carry out basic or clinical research projects and further, to develop, acquire, and apply advanced research procedures and techniques in the area of intensive care medicine within a 12-24-month work period in a European country\* or in a Low- & Middle-Income Country (LMIC)\*\* for Global ICU Award. The following grants are available for 2021:
  - 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. Research proposals may rely on approaches ranging from basic cellular responses to outcome research, and may include clinical applications as well as translational science. The age limit is 40 at the time of the application. The proposal has to include at least one country contributing to the design and/or conduct of the project.
  - The *ESICM Established Investigator Award* will support multinational research activities of a senior physician/scientist active in clinical or basic research. The specific intent is to provide support for investigators who have already established their independent research program in the field of intensive care, and who can demonstrate a commitment to facilitate research training of young colleagues. The research proposal may rely on approaches on topics ranging from basic cellular responses to outcome research, and may include clinical

applications as well as translational science. The proposal has to include at least three different countries contributing to the design and/or conduct of the project.

- The *ESICM Clinical Research Award* will support a multinational 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 topically from physiology, diagnostic procedures, therapeutic interventions, to epidemiologic studies and evaluation of practices. The proposal has to include at least three different countries contributing to the design and/or conduct of the project.
- The *ESICM Basic Science Award* will support a multinational research project to be performed in a research laboratory. Topics may range from basic cellular and molecular physiology, cell biology, molecular biology and genetics to animal physiology and translational science. The proposal has to include at least two different countries contributing to the design and/or conduct of the project.
- 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 (max. 40 years at the time of the application) that have the potential to become outstanding independent investigators in the field of intensive care 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. Multinational proposals where at least two different countries contribute to the design and/or conduct of the project will be preferred.
- The *Next Start-Up Grant Award* will support the professional development of talented intensivists who already have a background in research and are willing to develop independent research programs. The specific intent is to provide support for young and talented researchers/scientists who have the potential to become established independent investigators in the field of intensive care. The award targets board-certified intensive care physicians 42 years old or less with a solid background in research. The proposal has to include at least three different countries contributing to the design and/or conduct of the project.
- The *Global ICU Award* aims at project conducted in a Low- & Middle-Income Country. The projects should have an educational element focusing on improving patient care. Multinational proposals where at least two different countries contribute to the design and/or conduct of the project will be preferred.
- The *Family Partnership Award* aims at multinational research projects conducted in Europe focusing on families' needs and expectations, carers & patient interaction, long-term outcomes in ICU. The proposal has to include at least three different countries contributing to the design and/or conduct of the project.
- The Professor Burkhard Lachmann Award for Experimental Research is funded by the IFCOR (International Foundation for Clinically-oriented Research). This award is not available on the online application platform. It is the Jury who selects the winning project amongst those which will have been competing for full applications in the Basic Research Award. The grant money is of €5,000.

- b. The deliverables include the submission of a research abstract to the Annual Congress of 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 three months of the end of the project.

- c. Applications for projects relevant to developing central and eastern European countries are particularly encouraged.

<i>Applicant's Work</i>	<i>Country of</i>	<i>Country where the project is conducted</i>	<i>Eligible Awards</i>
<i>Europe*</i>		<i>Europe*</i>	<i>All Awards (provided their specific conditions are met), <b>aside from Global ICU Award</b></i>
<i>Europe*</i>		<i>LMIC**</i>	<i>Global ICU Award</i>
<i>LMIC**</i>		<i>LMIC</i>	<i>Global ICU Award</i>
<i>LMIC**</i>		<i>Europe*</i>	<i>All Awards (provided their specific conditions are met), <b>aside from Global ICU Award</b></i>
<i>Outside Europe and outside LMIC</i>		<i>LMIC**</i>	<i>Global ICU Award</i>
<i>Outside Europe and outside LMIC</i>		<i>Europe*</i>	<i>All Awards (provided their specific conditions are met), <b>aside from Global ICU Award</b></i>

## 2. General Conditions

- a. Only 2021 ESICM members are allowed to submit an application. If you are not yet a member, please proceed before submitting your project. If you were a member in the previous year, please make sure to renew your membership for the applying year.
- b. For 2021, the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM) offers several research awards for professionals actively engaged in clinical and basic research in intensive care medicine:

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Approx. Duration</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>The Young Investigator Award</b>	12-24 months	€20,000
<b>The Clinical Research Award</b>	12-24 months	€20,000
<b>The Basic Science Award</b>	12-24 months	€20,000
<b>The Established Investigator Award</b>	12-24 months	€20,000
<b>The Levi-Montalcini Biomedical Science Award</b>	12-24 months	€20,000
<b>The Next Start-up Grant: €25,000 per year for 2 years</b>	24 months	€50,000
<b>The Global ICU Award</b>	12-24 months	€15,000
<b>The Family Partnership Award</b>	12-24 months	€15,000

- c. The ESICM research awards are funded by ESICM, to 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, ESICM will encourage applications that foster scientific exchanges between European research centres.

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

- d. ESICM Clinical Research Award, Established Investigator Award, Next Grant: the proposal has to include **at least three different countries** contributing to the design and/or conduct of the project.

ESICM Basic Science Award, ESICM Levi-Montalcini Biomedical Science Award and Global ICU Award should include a minimum of two countries.

ESICM Young Award should include a minimum of one country.

- e. Awards are not intended to run concurrently with other awards greater than €15,000, even those funded by other agencies or sponsors. Funds used to secure ethics approval, insurance or permission to perform animal research as well as funds for the applying investigator's salary will not be taken into account in the €15,000 limit. For the Established Investigator Award funds for a trainee / fellow / young investigator conducting the research will not be considered in the €15,000 limit. Awards are not granted for basic training, courses, lectures, meetings, conferences, congresses, etc. or for visiting institutions.
- f. ESICM does not cover any tax issue that may arise either in the home or host country and any applicable taxes must come out of the initial Award. ESICM is a non-governmental international organisation 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.
- g. In addition, ESICM awardees are not insured by ESICM against medical expenses for themselves or their families; neither are they insured for accidents during their travel to and from the host institution. ESICM does not recognize recipients of its awards as agents or employees of 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 necessary insurances.

### **3. Applicants**

- a. Applicants must possess appropriate professional qualifications and experience according to the specific Award applied for. Physicians, scientists, nurses or health-allied professionals are eligible for the Awards. Applications from nurses and health-allied professionals not holding a PhD should be supported by a research supervisor (M.D. or Ph.D).
- b. Applicants must be actively engaged in intensive care or in intensive care research, with appropriate scientific or medical qualifications.
- c. Applicants applying for the Next Start-Up Grant should be board-certified intensive care physicians, have to be  $\leq 42$  years at the time of the application and to demonstrate a solid background in research. The application for the Next Start-Up Grant can be submitted to another award in the same year but the budget should be adapted accordingly.
- d. If there is an age limit, it is stated above. Applicants should hold a position at their home institutions or should provide a letter from the supervisor that describes career plans after the Award.
- e. Applicants must be members of 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** (except for the Global ICU Award). When applicable, the proposal should elaborate on how the partnership between the host and the applicant would take full advantage of the unique facilities, resources, and materials available in their (respective) countries. Applicants must have adequate fluency in a language that permits effective communication at the host institution.
- g. Applicants who have already received an ESICM Award in the past may apply for a further ESICM Award. The Young Investigator Award, the ESICM Levi-Montalcini Biomedical Science Award and the Next Start-Up Grant can be only received once each by a person.
- h. Applicants can only reapply after a previous award project was finished and the final report was sent to ESICM.

#### **4. Applications**

- a. The link to the online application platform will be available from the Research Awards web pages on the ESICM website as of **February, 2021** (date shall be specified on the [webpage](#)).
- b. One individual can only apply with up to two different project applications. One application can be submitted for up to three Awards.
- c. Applications that have undergone a review and selection process and were not approved for funding cannot be resubmitted in the following year(s) without further modification. The applicant can request the review report at [research@esicm.org](mailto:research@esicm.org) to help him to improve his application for the next year.
- d. Applications should normally specify only one institution as a hosting unit.
- e. The proposal has to include at least three different countries contributing to the design and/or conduct of the project.  
ESICM Basic Science Award, ESICM Levi-Montalcini Biomedical Science Award and Global ICU Award should include a minimum of two countries.  
ESICM Young Award should include a minimum of one country.

#### **5. Selection**

- a. Selections will be made on the basis of scientific and expert evaluation of the application and the proposed work as set out by the applicants 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 selection process is organised in three steps:
  - Pre-selection step: the Jury (Research Committee and potentially external experts) will select projects based on feasibility (budget, timeline), methodology, research design and statistical and/or qualitative data analysis plan presented on a short outline proposal. Deadline to submit the short application: **1 May 2021** (the exact date shall be specified on the [webpage](#)).
  - Pre-selected applicants will be invited to complete the full application after a pre-selection process and will have between 3 to 4 weeks to submit their full applications (the exact deadline shall be specified on the webpage).
  - Review step: the full project applications will be reviewed by external experts; each proposal is reviewed by 2 to 4 reviewers.
  - Jury selection step: the Jury will select awardees according to the reviewers' marking, comments and discussion among the Jury members.

- Results will be given during or after the summer
- c. 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.
- d. To guarantee a fair selection process and to avoid any potential conflicts of interest, applications involving a member (or the institution) of the Research Committee will be discussed in the absence of this member.
- e. Members of the Research Committee/Executive Committee are not allowed to apply during their mandate.
- f. The assessments are strictly confidential and cannot be circulated, except to the applicant upon his/her request.
- g. No distinction will be made between applicants on the basis of gender, ethnic origin, religious or political beliefs.
- h. The decisions are final and appeals will not be considered.

**\*European countries as defined by ESICM:** Albania - Andorra - Armenia - Austria - Azerbaijan - Belgium - Bosnia and Herzegovina - Bulgaria - Croatia - Cyprus - Czech Republic - Denmark - Estonia - Finland - France - Georgia - Germany - Greece - Hungary - Iceland - Ireland - Israel - Italy - Latvia - Liechtenstein - Lithuania - Luxembourg - Malta - Moldova - Monaco - Montenegro - Netherlands - Norway - Poland - Portugal - Republic of Macedonia - Romania - Russia - San Marino - Serbia - Slovakia - Slovenia - Spain - Sweden - Switzerland - Turkey - Ukraine - United Kingdom

**\*\* Low & Middle Income Country as defined by World Bank, List [here](#)**

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

## **5. Communication**

- a. Awardees are requested to mention the funding received for the project on abstracts and manuscripts that result from the received Award.
- b. Awardees will be announced in the [ESICM Awards page](#).
- c. Publication(s) from awarded projects will be promoted in [Topics pages](#) and/or news.

## **6. Governance**

- a. Awardees have to provide a status [report](#) each year and a final report within 3 months of finalizing the project.
- b. The final report can be deferred until after the publication in a peer reviewed journal as long as an abstract of the project is sent to the following Annual Congress of ESICM or any other major congress and the ESICM office is informed. After publication in the peer reviewed journal, the report has to be sent to the ESICM office within 4 weeks.

- c. Applicants who have already received an ESICM Award in the past may apply for a further ESICM Award. The Young Investigator Award, the ESICM Levi-Montalcini Biomedical Science Award and the Next Start-Up Grant can be only received once each by a person.
- d. Applicants can only reapply after a previous award project was finished and the final report was sent to ESICM.
- e. The Awardee is banned from any further ESICM funding (awards, fellowships) if any of the following occurs:
  - If the work is not conducted within 3 years (Next Start-Up grant within 6 years) and the Awardee did not provide annual reports and explanation for the delay
  - If there is no mention of the ESICM Award funding the application