



The Intensive Connection

The ESICM Awards -2024

The ESICM Awards Programme actively supports research initiatives in the field of intensive care medicine by providing direct funding. The primary goals of this programme are:

- a. 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 researchers;
- c. to increase collaborative research in the field of intensive care medicine across international borders in Europe.
- d. to increase the visibility of the ESICM in the international community;

ESICM promotes high-quality research through its rigorous selection procedure. Physicians and scientists with ideas for new research are invited to apply. 14 awards are available. Details of the different award categories and application procedures are provided below.

If you wish to apply, you must be a member of ESICM. All awards are for research activities undertaken with the active contribution of the applicant.

1. ESICM Awards Programme 2024

- a. The following grants are available in 2024:
 - The *ESICM Young Investigator Award* supports young and talented physicians/scientists who have the potential to become outstanding independent investigators in the field of intensive care medicine. Research proposals may focus on approaches ranging from basic cellular responses to outcome research and may include clinical applications as well as translational science. Applicants must be younger than 40 years at the time of application.
 - The *ESICM Established Investigator Award* supports the research activities of a senior researcher. The specific intent is to provide support for investigators who have already established their independent research programme in the field of intensive care and who also demonstrate a commitment to the training of colleagues. The research proposal may focus on areas ranging from basic cellular responses to outcome research and may include clinical applications as well as translational science.
 - The *ESICM Clinical Research Award* supports research performed 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 and therapeutic interventions to epidemiologic studies and evaluation of practices.

- The *ESICM Basic Science Award* supports basic research across the field of intensive care medicine. Topics may range from basic cellular and molecular physiology, cell biology, molecular biology, and genetics to animal physiology.
- The *Fundamental Research Award* has been created to further encourage the exploratory research that is essential to pushing the boundaries of knowledge. Proposals for research investigations in any branch of intensive care medicine are welcomed.
- The *Translational Research Award* is intended for projects in the field of translational science.
- The *ESICM Levi-Montalcini Biomedical Science Award* has been established to encourage women to join the research community. Female researchers who are 40 years old or younger at the time of application are invited to apply. The research proposal may focus on areas ranging from basic cellular responses to outcome research and may include clinical applications as well as translational science.
- The *Next Start-Up Grant* supports the professional development of talented intensivists who already have a background in research and who wish to develop independent research programmes. Applicants who are working in Europe and are 37 years old or younger at the time of application will qualify for this grant.
- The *Global ICU Award* is the only ESICM award that supports research conducted in Low- & Middle-Income Countries (as defined by the 2023 Low & Middle Income Countries list compiled by the World Bank [LMIC](#)). The project should have an educational element focusing on improving patient care.
- The *Family Partnership Award* aims to support research projects focused on patients' needs, priorities and expectations as well as their caregivers. Other elements, such as patient-caregiver interactions and long-term outcomes in ICU survivors, are relevant.
- The *Professor Burkhard Lachmann Award for Experimental Research* is funded by the IFCOR (International Foundation for Clinically-oriented Research). Candidates who are considered for the Basic and Fundamental Awards will be considered for the Professor Burkhard Lachmann Award.
- The *ESICM Jordi Mancebo Fisher&Paykel Healthcare Award* is fully funded by Fisher&Paykel Healthcare SAS. Projects must focus on the physiology and outcomes of less invasive respiratory support in acute respiratory failure.
- The *ESICM Fresenius Kabi Award on Clinical Nutrition* is fully funded by Fresenius Kabi.
- The *Multi-Disciplinary Care Award* has been created to support allied healthcare professionals who have perhaps never before considered entering the field of research and who have identified areas of intensive care treatment where research is required. Applications are welcome from all disciplines.

2. General Conditions

- a. ESICM accepts applications from anyone who is a member of the Society (with the exception of members of the ESICM Executive Committee and ESICM Research Committee). If you are not yet a member, or if you need to renew your membership, you can go to ESICM membership registration [here](#).

- b. Awardees must submit their results for presentation at LIVES. The main analysis must be submitted to Intensive Care Medicine or ICMx for publication in all cases except if the work could potentially be of interest to one of the top 5 general journals (i.e. NEJM, Lancet, JAMA, Nature Science). A formal undertaking will be signed by the awardees.
- c. The 14 awards available in 2024 are listed in the table below, along with the sum offered.

Programme	Amount
The Young Investigator Award	€20,000
The Established Investigator Award	€20,000
The Clinical Research Award	€20,000
The Basic Science Award	€20,000
The Fundamental Research Award	€20,000
The Translational Research Award	€20,000
The Levi-Montalcini Biomedical Science Award	€20,000
The Next Start-up Grant: €25,000 per year for 2 years	€50,000
The Global ICU Award	€20,000
The Family Partnership Award	€20,000
The Professor Burkhard Lachmann Award	€5,000
The ESICM – Jordi Mancebo FISHER&PAYKEL HEALTHCARE SAS Award	€20,000
The ESICM - FRESENIUS KABI Clinical Nutrition Award	€20,000
The Multi-Disciplinary Research Award	€20,000

All projects should be designed for completion within 2 years, except the Next Start-up Grant within 3 years.

The Next Start-Up Grant is supplied in 2 instalments. The awardee will be asked to provide a progress report after the first 12 months of investigation, whereupon the second instalment is given.

- d. The primary aim of ESICM, as a European society, is to encourage research in Europe. Except for applications for the *Global ICU Award* and the FRESENIUS KABI Clinical Nutrition Award, the society only accepts applications for projects **to be conducted in Europe**. You can find a full list of European countries from the Council of Europe [here](#).
- e. Applications for the *Global ICU Award* must be proposals for research to be conducted in a Low or Middle Income Country, as defined by the 2022 Low & Middle Income Countries list compiled by the World Bank [LMIC](#)
- f. ESICM wishes to promote investigations that are conducted across national borders. The Jury considers that international collaboration is highly desirable in research. Proposals for projects conducted **in two or more countries are strongly encouraged**.
- g. Awards are not intended to run concurrently with other awards greater than €15,000, even those funded by other agencies or sponsors. Funding for salaries for the investigator or trainee / fellow conducting the research will not be considered in this **€15,000 limit**, i.e., co-funding for the investigator or trainee / fellow conducting the research is allowed but must be declared. It is possible to pay salary costs up to 50% FTE (full-time equivalent) as per the country's local salary scales for applicants up to 40 years old out of the ESICM award. Proof of these standard local salary costs must be enclosed with the application as a link or attachment to research@esicm.org.
- h. Funding requests to secure ethics approval, insurance, or permission to perform animal research **will not** be allowed from the ESICM award. Furthermore, support **is not** granted for basic

training, courses, lectures, travel costs for meetings, conferences, congresses, accommodation or for visiting other institutions. Applications with such costs to be paid by the ESICM award will be rejected. Requests for funding to complete or extend an ongoing project will not be approved.

- i. 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 them by the appropriate national authority.
- j. 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 recognise recipients of its awards as agents or employees of ESICM and accepts no liability with respect to any of their actions or activities or with 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 insurance.

3. Applicants

- a. Physicians, scientists, nurses, and allied health professionals are eligible to apply for these Awards. Applicants who do not hold a doctorate should be supported by a research supervisor (M.D. or PhD).
- b. Applicants must be professionally engaged in the field of intensive care medicine or in intensive care research, with appropriate scientific or medical qualifications.
- c. Applicants must be members of ESICM at the time that they submit their award application. Award winners should remain members of the society until completion of their project.
- d. Applicants who have already received an ESICM Award are welcome to apply for further ESICM Awards, provided they have duly submitted their report to research@esicm.org and have published it. They will not receive the same award twice.

4. Applications

- a. The link to the online application platform will be available from end January / early February. Please consult the Research Awards [webpage](#) for more information.
- b. No applicant may submit more than two project proposals.

Please be aware that unlike in past years, it is the Jury who will choose the award category that it deems most suitable for your project, except for the NEXT start-up grant and the Global ICU award.

- c. Any application that was submitted for review in past years may not be resubmitted for consideration without modification. If you wish to modify and re-submit your project proposal, you can request the past review report by writing to research@esicm.org

5. Selection

Selections will be made based on scientific evaluation of the application as set out by the applicant. Members of the Research Committee and reviewers of the highest international standing in their respective fields will carry out the evaluation task.

The selection process is organised as follows:

1. Pre-selection: The Jury, which is comprised of members of the Research Committee, selects projects based on general feasibility, budget, timeline, methodology, research design and statistical and qualitative data analysis plan. This information is to be outlined in the **short application**. The description of the short application summary must be completely anonymous; if a name (of applicant, supervisor or collaborators) or an institution is named outside the dedicated fields of the application for such information, the application will be rejected. For the deadline for submission of short applications, please consult our [webpage](#)
2. Full application: Selected applicants will then be invited to submit a full project description or **full application**. These applicants will have a period of 3 to 4 weeks to submit their full applications. For the deadline for submission of full applications: please consult our [webpage](#)
3. Independent review: All full applications are reviewed by a minimum of 2 independent expert assessors.
4. Jury selection: The full applications and expert assessments are discussed thoroughly by members of the Research Committee at the Awards Jury Meeting, and the Jury makes their final selection.
5. Results are announced before the annual congress.

The independent assessors are asked to make their assessments based on the significance and originality of the research project, the proposed approach, the investigator's profile, and the environment in which the project will be conducted.

To avoid any potential conflict of interest applications connected with the institution of any Research Committee member will be discussed in the absence of that member.

Members of the Research Committee or Executive Committee are not allowed to apply during their mandate.

Assessments are anonymous and confidential and cannot be circulated. The Society does not have resources to provide personalized feedback of the funding decision; such requests will not be answered.

No distinction will be made between applicants based on their sex, gender, ethnic origin, religious or political beliefs.

The Jury's decisions are final, and appeals will not be considered.

6. Communication

- a. Awardees are required to mention that funding was received from ESICM on any communication or publication connected to their project.
- b. Awardees will be announced on the [ESICM Awards webpage](#).

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