

The ESICM Grants -2026

NEW version December 2025

The ESICM Grants 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 and beyond.
- 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. 7 grants are available. Details of the different grant categories and application procedures are provided below.

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

Starting in 2026, ESICM is implementing a transition to larger grants. The general eligibility criteria are simplified and harmonized. That will be helpful to improve clarity and tracking of outputs.

Changes to Applicant Eligibility Criteria

- Eligibility confined to members under 40 or in their first 5 years in a permanent academic faculty position (letter from Head of Department required to confirm Eligibility) for the full application stage
- Requirement of proposals to be multi-centre and multi-national in participation and focus. LMIC involvement an advantage

Number of grants available in 2026:

- Three x €50K ESICM funded grants (incl NEXT Grant)
- One x €25K ESICM funded grant
- Two x €20K Industry grants (no change)
- 1 x €5K Lachmann Grants (retain—will end soon)

These changes are being implemented as part of a broader drive by ESICM to enhance its overall support for research activities, and to enhance its internal capacity for research by e.g. its Methodology group.

So the names of the 2026 grants are as follows:

We will have

- 2 “ESICM Research Grants” (of €50K)
- 1 “ESICM Start-Up NEXT Grant” (of €50K)
- 1 “ESICM Research Grant” (of €25K)
- 1 “ESICM Fresenius Kabi Clinical nutrition Grant” (of €20K)
- 1 “ESICM Jordi Mancebo Fisher&Paykel Healthcare Grant” (of €20K)
- 1 Prof Burkhard Lachmann Grant for Experimental Research” (of €5K)

1. ESICM Grants Programme 2026

a. The following grants are available in 2026:

- There will be 3 ESICM Research Grants of €50K. Members under 40 or in their first 5 years in a permanent academic faculty position are eligible. One of these is dedicated to NEXT members.
- There will be 1 ESICM Research Grant of €25K. Members under 40 and/or in their first 5 years in a permanent academic faculty position are eligible.
- The *ESICM Jordi Mancebo Fisher&Paykel Healthcare Grant* 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. Applications from Europe and beyond are welcome. The amount of this grant is €20K
- The *ESICM Fresenius Kabi Grant on Clinical Nutrition* is fully funded by Fresenius Kabi. Applications from European and beyond are welcome. The amount of this grant is €20K
- The *Professor Burkhard Lachmann Grant for Experimental Research* is funded by the IFCOR (International Foundation for Clinically-oriented Research). The amount of this grant is €5K

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. Grantees 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 grant winners.
- c. All projects should be designed for completion within 3 years.

- d. The grantee will be asked to provide a progress report after the first 12 months of investigation, whereupon the second instalment is given.
- e. We encourage research projects with an LMIC component: at least one centre should be European-based if the project is conducted outside Europe to promote collaborative work.
- 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. Grants are not intended to run concurrently with other grants 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 grant. 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 grant. 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 grant 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 Grant. ESICM is a non-governmental international organisation whose grants are not automatically endowed with any particular tax privileges. It is the sole responsibility of the recipient of a grant to pay any tax which may be levied upon them by the appropriate national authority.
- j. ESICM grantees 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 grants 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 under 40 and/or in their first 5 years in a permanent academic faculty position are eligible to apply for these Grants. 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 grant application. Grant winners should remain members of the society until completion of their project.

- d. Applicants who have already received an ESICM Grant are welcome to apply for further ESICM Grants, provided they have duly submitted their report to research@esicm.org and have published it. They will not receive the same grant twice.

4. Applications

- a. The link to the online application platform will be available early January 2026. Please consult the Research Grants [webpage](#) for more information.
- b. No applicant may submit more than one project proposal.
- 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 Grants 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

Grant winners are required to mention that funding was received from ESICM on any communication or publication connected to their project.

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