
ECCO Research Award Fact Sheet

The European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation (ECCO) offers one Research Award with Pfizer's support to promote innovative scientific research in the area of Inflammatory Bowel Diseases (IBD) in Europe, **with a focus on retrospective observational research projects using a registry tool**. Priority will be given to research projects which include the use of the United Registries for Clinical Assessment and REsearch (UR-CARE).

The ECCO Research Award is designed to support IBD research conducted by international multicentre study groups. One ECCO Research Award may be given in 2021.

In order to be eligible, the candidate must:

1. Apply on behalf of a multicentre study group
 1. Submit a broad research hypothesis using the "ECCO Research Award Technical Annex", not exceeding 5 pages and the indicated word count for each subtopic. Applications exceeding the word and page count will not be evaluated.
2. The principal investigator of the ECCO Research Award application needs to be ECCO Member (at the time of application).
3. ECCO Research Award applicants are not limited to the ECCO Member Countries and can apply from non-European countries; however, the impact of the project for the IBD Community has to be clearly stated and the project lead should remain in Europe. Applicants who plan to use UR-CARE as their project registry should take into account the European legal framework of the database (i.e. compliance with national regulations of non-European centres would need to be verified by the study group).
4. Candidate can apply for one specific ECCO Research Award only. Several applications with the same topic for different ECCO Research Awards will not be taken into account for review.

Terms of submission

1. A total amount of **EUR 40,000** will be awarded per ECCO Research Award. The Prize is intended for research costs incurred, most notably salary support; equipment; research consumables. It is not intended for institutional overheads. If the ECCO Research Award candidates succeed in receiving additional funding for the project, this is likely to be regarded as an "add-on" and not a conflict with ECCO, although ECCO will expect to be informed.
2. The duration of the Award is up to 36 months. An additional preliminary year can be granted for a preparatory phase to the study project (i.e. getting registry approved and patient data entered).
3. Only one proposal may be submitted per applicant by the submission date.
4. Members of ECCO Governing Board and SciCom are excluded from applying.
5. All applicants should submit a proposal for a broad research hypothesis using the "ECCO Research Award Technical Annex".

The following documents will also be needed:

- CVs of the ECCO Research Award applicants (Project Coordinator and Principal Investigators)
 - Approval of the institution (e.g. necessary equipment will be made available; confirming the employment of the applicant; scientific and administrative support)
 - IRB (clinical/experimental) approval of the project – if applicable
6. The annual deadline for submission for an ECCO Research Award is **July 31**.
 7. Evaluation of applications is made according to six criteria (see review process, below) by European IBD specialists. Applications will be discussed by the Scientific Committee in autumn and applicants informed in **October**.
 8. Payment is processed before **December 31**, contingent upon the ECCO Research Award Agreement signed between the participating institutions and ECCO.
 9. Successful applicants will receive the Award at the Annual Congress of ECCO and are expected to be present.
 10. After 12 months, an update of one page has to be submitted to ECCO. The final report (a synopsis of 300 words) is due within 6 months of the project end and should be submitted to ECCO for publication in ECCO News.
 11. ECCO Research Award holders are required to inform SciCom of all abstracts and publications of the project. In case this is not paid attention to, ECCO reserves the right to not review further Award applications of the principal investigator.
 12. When presenting or publishing results of the project, ECCO shall be acknowledged on all printed matter. Pfizer should be disclosed as contributing to the funding (no logo, no use of Pfizer in the project's title). Please contact the ECCO Office at ecco@ecco-ibd.eu to request the ECCO logo for slide presentations.
 13. ECCO encourages successful Award candidates to offer the paper to JCC for publication.
 14. Applications should be sent to the head of the Scientific Committee of ECCO at the following address*:

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION ONLY

ECCO Office
Att. Chair of SciCom
Ungargasse 6/13
1030 Vienna, Austria
ecco@ecco-ibd.eu

*Data processing consent and retention: By sending an application by email to ecco@ecco-ibd.eu in reply to this open call, you agree to the data processing for the above described project: ECCO Office stores applicants' personal data of this application for the project timeframe. ECCO Office will delete data securely after the end of this project. In addition, the scientific review process generates a review result for the applicants which will be stored with your data in line with the requirements of scientific review archiving. You have the right to object at any time at ecco@ecco-ibd.eu

Review Process

1. All projects will be reviewed and scored by the members of the ECCO Scientific Committee, with external review requested and expected, based on the following criteria:
 - Originality and innovative nature of the proposal
 - Methodology
 - Feasibility of research project and budget
 - International scientific level of the research team
 - Importance of the project in the field of IBD
 - Formal criteria (no indication of copy/paste application, compliance with word/page limits, justified budget, IRB approval)
2. The ECCO Scientific Committee makes the selection and seeks approval from the ECCO Governing Board.

Scoring System

The following procedure for the scoring system for Awards will apply:

1. *Review by SciCom & external reviewers:* Each Award application will be reviewed by 1 member of SciCom and minimum 2 external reviewers. They will score their assigned applications according to the six evaluation criteria and comment on each application.
2. *Ranking:* Applications are ranked according to their overall average scores.
3. *Final approval:* by the Governing Board of ECCO
4. *Acceptance/rejection letters:* Candidates will be informed of their application outcome by ECCO

Reviewers

Reviews for the Awards will be requested according to individual expertise and selected from the following candidates:

- ECCO Officers
- Former speakers at the ECCO Congress
- Acknowledged experts
- Successful candidates of Grants