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## ECCO Grants Fact Sheet

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The European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation (ECCO) offers Research Grants to promote innovative scientific research in the area of Inflammatory Bowel Diseases (IBD) in Europe.

ECCO Grants are designed to support IBD Research within the country of affiliation. Typically, research for ECCO Grant projects is undertaken in the home institution of the applicant. The **target audience** are **young basic/clinical scientists**

- a. **not older than 40 years, or**
- b. **if older than 40 years, who are within 5 years of the date of completion of their GI training or PhD graduation** (a certificate needs to be provided)

Up to eight ECCO Grants may be given each year.

Applicants should be aware that these awards are offered to young and enthusiastic basic and/or clinical scientists. Individuals with a well-established career in the field of IBD Research are not considered eligible for these ECCO Grants.

In order to be eligible, the applicant must:

1. Be within the target audience, as defined above.
2. Submit an original research project proposal using the [ECCO Fellowships and Grants Online Submission Pages](#). Incomplete applications will not be evaluated.
3. The applicant needs to be an ECCO Member at the time of application.
4. ECCO Grants are not limited to applicants from ECCO Member countries. Applicants from non-European countries have to clearly state the impact of the proposed project on the IBD Community.
5. If your institute holds a current ECCO Grant, then another application for this period is not possible. Therefore, an institute cannot apply for two ECCO Grants in consecutive years.
6. Applicants can apply for one ECCO Award category only per annual application round.
7. Recipients that have been awarded an ECCO Grant in the past cannot reapply.

Terms of submission

1. A total of **EUR 80.000** will be awarded per ECCO Grant. ECCO expects to be informed if ECCO Grant applicants succeed in receiving additional funding for their project; this is likely to be regarded as an "add-on" and to not conflict with ECCO. The prize can be spent on consumables and/or salary. A maximum EUR 40.000 of the prize can be spent on salary (up to 50 % of the prize).
2. The duration of the ECCO Grant is one year.
3. Only one proposal may be submitted per applicant/department by the submission date.
4. Members of the ECCO Governing Board and SciCom are excluded from applying.



5. Applications are to be submitted using the [ECCO Fellowships and Grants Online Submission Pages](#) and should contain the following information:
- Project title
  - Name, address, affiliation(s), ECCO Member ID of the applicant
  - Summary of the proposal (max. 300 words)
  - Introduction (max. 900 words)
  - Objectives (max. 450 words)
  - Methodology and working plan (including chronogram) (max. 1350 words)
  - Significance and impact (max. 225 words)
  - Background of the research group (max. 450 words)
  - Budget

As well as the following documents:

- CV of the applicant
  - Approval of the institution (e.g. confirming that the applicant is employed by the institution, and that the applicant will receive the necessary scientific and administrative support, and equipment)
  - IRB approval (clinical/experimental) of the project
  - Disclosure of additional funding
6. The annual deadline for submission of ECCO Grant applications is **August 1**.
7. Applications are scored by IBD Specialists according to six criteria (see review process below). The Scientific Committee of ECCO (SciCom) reviews applications in autumn, and applicants are notified of the results in **October**.
8. Payment is processed before **December 31**, contingent upon the ECCO Grant Agreement signed between the Grant applicant, the research institution, and ECCO.
9. Successful applicants receive the ECCO Grant certificate at the Annual Congress of ECCO and are expected to be present.
10. A synopsis of the project of max. 300 words is to be submitted within 4 months of receiving the award. Additionally, a final synopsis of max. 300 words is due within 6 months of the project end-date. Both synopses are to be submitted to the ECCO Office for publication in ECCO News. For report templates, please contact the ECCO Office at [ecco@ecco-ibd.eu](mailto:ecco@ecco-ibd.eu).
11. ECCO Grant holders are required to inform SciCom, via the ECCO Office ([ecco@ecco-ibd.eu](mailto:ecco@ecco-ibd.eu)) of any publications resulting from the project funded. If this is not withheld, ECCO reserves the right to not review further Grant applications of the Grant holder.
12. When presenting or publishing results of the project, ECCO is to be acknowledged on all printed matters as contributing to the funding. Please contact the ECCO Office at [ecco@ecco-ibd.eu](mailto:ecco@ecco-ibd.eu) to request the ECCO logo for slide presentations. In case this is not paid attention to, ECCO reserves the right to not review further Grant applications of the Grant holder.
13. The applicant is to be listed as first or last author of any publications arising from the project funded by the ECCO Grant.
14. ECCO encourages Grant awardees to submit a paper to *JCC* for publication.

#### Review Process

1. All applications are reviewed and scored by ECCO Committees Members and external IBD Specialists, based on the following criteria:
  - Originality and innovative nature of the proposal



- Methodology
  - Feasibility of the research project and budget
  - International scientific level of the research team
  - Importance of the project in the field of IBD
  - Justified budget, IRB approval
2. Applications need to fulfil the formal criteria: no indication of plagiarism, compliance with word limits.
  3. The ECCO Scientific Committee (SciCom) makes the final selection and seeks approval from the ECCO Governing Board.

### Scoring System

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

1. *Review by ECCO Officers & external reviewers:* Each Grant application will be reviewed by a minimum of one member of an ECCO Committee and two external reviewers. The applications will be scored according to the six evaluation criteria and will leave comments on each application.
2. *Ranking:* Applications are ranked according to their average scores.
3. *Final approval:* by the Governing Board of ECCO
4. *Acceptance/rejection letters:* the ECCO Office will inform all Grant applicants of the outcome of their applications

### Reviewers

Grants Reviewers are invited according to their area of expertise and are selected from the following:

- ECCO Officers
- Former ECCO Congress speakers
- Acknowledged experts
- Successful ECCO Grant candidates