

ESGE RESEARCH PROJECTS POLICY

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INTRODUCTION

One of the missions of ESGE is to promote research in the field of GI Endoscopy. Promotion of research may occur in the form of financial grants or endorsement of research projects.

ESGE endorsement may enhance the chances of funding research by other grant sources and thus ensure rapid dissemination of research ideas. In 2020, ESGE introduced the concept of ESGE Research Champions Den, a live and thrilling competition at ESGE Days, to promote research in GI endoscopy and to improve visibility and support for meritorious research ideas. The best studies are awarded a grant and selected applications receive endorsement of their studies.

1. ESGE RESEARCH GRANTS

ESGE research grants are channelled through a common application process via the ESGE Research Champions Den, which is held at the ESGE Days on an annual basis (Figure 1). Applicants who want to stake a claim on the research grant are required to take part at the ESGE Research Champions Den at the annual ESGE Days congresses where the allocation of funding is decided. Up to ten highest rated research proposals are selected for oral presentation and the top applications will be awarded a ESGE research grant.

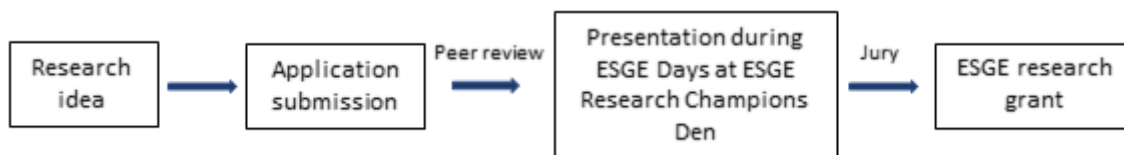


Figure 1. Procedure to ESGE research grant.

Application and conditions

- Applicants are required to be ESGE individual members.
- Applicants are required to work in a medical institution within the ESGE zone (Central and Western Europe, Mediterranean and North Africa).
- Young researchers/trainees are encouraged to apply.
- Applications must be submitted via the online application form in order to be considered for the award. Applications submitted via any other channel will not be considered.
- The application should include a clear rationale for the research idea, as well as the hypothesis, the study design, and the end points to be measured. It should also include the current status of the project and any other financial support already obtained or anticipated. Up to three additional supporting items (e.g. CVs) can be added.
- Applications must be in English.

- Call for applications opens once a year.

Evaluation

- The Research Committee (RC) chair assigns reviewers (the jury) to formally score the applications.
- The jury evaluates and attributes a score to each valid application based on the following criteria: a. scientific quality, b. novel contribution to field (imaging or research), c. strength of team to implement the proposed research idea, d. value for money, e. overall quality. (Maximum score item: 10, Maximum total: 50).
- The ESGE secretariat collates all scorings for final evaluation by the RC chair.
- The RC chair proposes the final evaluation of up to ten applications to the jury and informs the ESGE Governing Board.
- The RC chair invites the selected candidates for presentation at the ESGE Research Champions Den competition during the ESGE Days.
- At the ESGE Days, each selected applicant has 3-5 minutes to present their projects to the jury, who then quiz each applicant for up to 5 minutes. Each member of the jury has 10 “points” to distribute to each project.
- The jury then selects the winners, the “ESGE Research Champions”.
- The results are declared immediately after the ESGE Research Champion Den competition taking place during the ESGE Days.
- ESGE reserves the right to disqualify any application from further consideration at any point of the review process.
- ESGE reserves the right to request information in order to assure it is satisfied with the rigor and integrity of the work, as well as its compliance with international guidelines.
- ESGE reserves the right to amend the rules and regulations. If the rules and regulations are amended, ESGE will contact those who have already submitted applications and update them with regard to the alterations.

Benefits

- A maximum of 30000 € is reserved each year for ESGE research grants to cover direct costs and is awarded to those judged most worthy.
- ESGE research grants are awarded during ESGE Days congresses at the ESGE Research Champions Den. Applicants selected by the jury to present their research receive a waived registration fee.
- All studies that are presented at the ESGE Research Champions Den are eligible to receive ESGE research endorsement.

Research grant conditions

- Before starting recruitment into any research project that has been awarded an ESGE grant, the principal investigator must obtain all relevant official IRB/ethical approvals as applicable in their country and institution.
- The research grant is paid in two instalments:
 1. First instalment: ESGE pays the first instalment directly on receipt of official IRB/ethical approval from the principal investigator. Please note that the deadline for receipt of the first instalment is within 12 months of winning the award.
 2. Second instalment: ESGE pays the second instalment on receipt of the intermediate study report from the principal investigator. Failure to send the intermediate report will result in discontinuation of the Grant. Please note that the deadline for the grant recipient to request the second instalment is two years after receiving official IRB/ethical approval.
- The principal investigator commits to submitting the study results to the journal *Endoscopy*.
- The principal investigator commits to supplying the final study report to ESGE.
- Entry implies acceptance of these rules, and all applicants agree to be bound by them upon submitting an application.
- ESGE keeps personal details submitted with the application for a reasonable time in case a follow up is required.
- ESGE acknowledges that the topic submitted for review is the intellectual property of the applicant/s.
- ESGE will not pass on personal details to any other organization, with the sole exception of naming the winner(s) and publicizing the winner(s) in accordance with these rules and regulations.
- The winner(s) agree to have his/her/their name(s) published for promotion purposes along with a description of the winning project, and to be available for media purposes including photographs and interviews.
- All decisions made by the ESGE in relation to the contest are final and no correspondence concerning decisions will be entered into.
- ESGE is not liable for any damage, loss or disappointment suffered by any person taking part or not being able to take part.

Fees

- There is no application fee, however application is only available to ESGE individual members.

ESGE research grant timelines

- The timelines for ESGE research grant will be announced at the ESGE website:
<https://www.esge.com/grants/research-grants/>

2. ESGE RESEARCH ENDORSEMENT

Researchers applying for funding outside ESGE can apply for ESGE endorsement of their research protocol. This can potentially enhance the success rate of their grant application.

The endorsement application processes open throughout the year in order to avoid delays in grant applications. Researchers applying for grants from National or International funding bodies can apply to ESGE for endorsement of their research proposal. Endorsement may be given both to proposals addressing the existing ESGE research priority areas and proposals outside this range.

Application

- Applicants are required to be ESGE individual members.
- Applicants are required to work in a medical institution within the ESGE zone (Central and Western Europe, Mediterranean and North Africa).
- ESGE does not endorse pure commercial projects.
- The ESGE may support investigator-driven studies that are fully or partially funded by industry. Any commercial bias and commercial funding should be clarified in the application form. Applications must be submitted via the online application form in order to be considered for endorsement.
- The application should include: CV of the principal investigator, full protocol of the research project, information about planning to apply for funding, information about secured funding if applicable.
- Applications submitted via any other channel will not be considered.
- Applications must be in English.
- Application is possible throughout the year.

Evaluation

- Dedicated experts in the specific research area nominated by the Research Committee chair to evaluate and attribute a score to each valid application received. Selection for endorsement is based on the following criteria: a. scientific quality, b. novel contribution to field (imaging or research), c. strength of team to implement the proposed research idea, d. value for money, e. overall quality. (Maximum score item: 10, Maximum total: 50).
- The ESGE Governing Board is informed about the experts' approval for ESGE research endorsement.
- ESGE reserves the right to disqualify any application from further consideration at any point of the review proceedings.
- ESGE reserves the right to request information in order to assure it is satisfied with the rigor and integrity of the work, as well as its compliance with international guidelines.
- ESGE reserves the right to amend the rules and regulations. If the rules and regulations are amended, ESGE will contact those who have already submitted applications and update them with regard to the modifications.



Benefits

- ESGE endorsement letter and certificate.
- Endorsement includes the announcement in ESGE newsletter and/or ESGE website of a link prepared and developed by the research team with details about the project.

Conditions

- Application implies acceptance of the above-mentioned rules, and all applicants agree to be bound by them upon submitting any application.
- ESGE keeps personal details submitted with the application for a reasonable time in case a follow up is required.
- ESGE acknowledges that the topic submitted for endorsement is the intellectual property of the applicant/s.
- ESGE agrees to not pass on personal details to any other organization, with the sole exception of naming the winner(s) and publicising the winner(s) in accordance with these rules and regulations.
- All decisions made by ESGE in relation to the contest are final and no correspondence concerning decisions may occur.
- ESGE is not liable for any damage, loss or disappointment suffered by any person taking part or not being able to take part.
- If endorsed, applicants should acknowledge ESGE in any publication or presentation related to the project. Any publications using the ESGE endorsement logo must be reviewed by ESGE prior to printing and distribution.
- Before starting recruitment into any research project that has been endorsed by ESGE, the principal investigator must obtain all relevant official IRB/ethical approvals as applicable in their country and institution.

Fees

- There is no application fee, however application is only available to ESGE individual members.

3 ESGE RESEARCH SURVEYS

ESGE is currently not supporting online surveys from external sources.

Contact

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Addendum I

ESGE endorsement logo

- Any publications using the ESGE endorsement logo must be reviewed by ESGE prior to printing and distribution.