

## ESGE research projects policy: Grants, endorsements and surveys

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 all selected applications receive endorsement of their studies.

The pathways below describe how to obtain:

1. ESGE Research Grants
2. ESGE Research Endorsements

### Pathway 1: ESGE Research Champions Den

This includes ESGE Research grants and ESGE endorsements for research proposals in GI endoscopy (Figure 1). These are channelled through a common application process via the ESGE research Champions Den, which is held at the ESGE Days on an annual basis.

Applicants who want to stake a claim on the research grant should apply for the Champions Den. The ten highest rated research proposals will be selected for oral presentation at the Den competition during the ESGE Days. Following presentation at ESGE Days, the top proposals will be awarded a research grant and the remaining ones will receive “ESGE endorsement”.



Figure 1. Pathway 1 Grant (Den)/ Endorsement (once a year).

## Application

- Call for applications opens once a year.
- Applicants should be ESGE individual members working in a medical institution within the ESGE zone (Central and Western Europe, Mediterranean and North Africa).
- Young researchers 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 planned. Up to three additional supporting items (e.g. CVs) can be added. The maximum file size is 200 MB.
- Applications must be in English.
- The deadline for applications is Monday, January 10, 2021 at 24:00 CEST, and the results will be announced in February 2021.

## Evaluation

- The research committee (RC) chair assigns five reviewers (the jury) to formally score the applications and return to the secretariat with peer review comments.
- 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, d. overall quality, e. value for money. (Maximum score item: 10, Maximum total: 50).
- The ESGE secretariat collates all scorings for the RC chair for final evaluation.
- The RC chair proposes his final evaluation of up to ten applications to the whole panellist group.
- The ESGE Governing board is informed of the grant selection.
- The Research chair invites the selected candidates for presentation at the Den competition.
- The Grant winners are notified and receive the official invitation to participate in the Champions Den.
- At ESGE Days, the selected applicants each have 3-5 minutes to present their projects to the jury, who then quiz each applicant for up to 5 minutes. The jury each have 2000€ (20 “points”) to distribute to the projects they judge to be most deserving of support.
- The jury then selects the ESGE Research Champions and decides how many points each should receive.
- Final score will be calculated by adding up the pre-Den score and the Den presentation score.
- ESGE reserves the right to disqualify any application from further consideration at any point of the review proceedings.
- ESGE reserves the right to oblige any potential winner to provide information such that ESGE might be satisfied with the rigor and integrity of the work, as well as 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

- The best proposals are awarded the ESGE research grant and ESGE endorsement.
- The remaining proposals receive ESGE endorsement and a certificate of presentation at the Champions Den competition.
- The applicants who do not get financial support for their research ideas get a free registration to the core programme of the following ESGE Days congress.
- The results are declared immediately after the Den competition taking place during the ESGE Days 2021.

## Conditions

- The grants are awarded in two payments 1) at the beginning of the study after approval of the ethical committee, 2) after receipt of the status of the study (approx. midway or upon demand).
- The award winners commit to submitting the study results to Endoscopy.
- The award winners commit to supplying study reports to ESGE.
- Entry implies acceptance of these rules, and all applicants agree to be bound by them upon submitting an application.
- ESGE will keep personal details submitted with the application for a reasonable time so that potential winners can be contacted.
- 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.
- Members of the ESGE Days 2021 Organizing/Scientific committee and the ESGE Research Champions Den jury are not eligible to apply.

## Fees

- Free.

## Timelines

- Submission portal opening: Sunday, December 1, 2020
- Submission deadline: Monday, January 10, 2021
- Evaluation of applications: January 15 - February 15, 2021

- Notification of selected applicants for Champions Den: Mid-February 2021
- ESGE Research Champions Den at ESGE Days 2021

## Pathway 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 process occurs on a every other month basis (6 times/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. The peer review process differs accordingly (see evaluation paragraph for details).

### Application

- Call for applications open every two months.
- Applications may come from any country.
- 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.
- The maximum file size is 200 MB.
- Applications submitted via any other channel will not be considered.
- Applications must be in English.

### Evaluation

- If the proposal is aiming to address one of the existing ESGE research priority areas, the chair of the research committee and a deputized member of the research committee can perform a peer review and endorse it. An open comments section is added to this form to allow for non-structured suggestions. The research chair informs the governing board about the final decision for endorsing the application and the applicant is informed.
- If the proposal is not aiming to address one of the existing ESGE research priority, the peer review process in place for currently existing research grants applies. The jury evaluates and attributes a score to each valid application received, and selection for endorsement is based on the criteria described in pathway 1. An open-comments section is added to this form to allow for non-structured suggestions. The research chair informs the governing board about the final decision for endorsing the application and the applicant is informed.
- ESGE reserves the right to disqualify any application from further consideration at any point of the review proceedings.
- ESGE reserves the right to oblige any potential application to provide information such that ESGE might be satisfied with the rigor and integrity of the work, as well as 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**

- Standard ESGE endorsement letter.
- Peer review comments to help improve the research proposal are also sent if applicable (“not aligned with priorities”).
- 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**

- ESGE secretariat keeps tabs every four months after the endorsement for one year to find out the outcome
- Application 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 so that potential winners can be contacted.
- 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 publicizing 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.

## **Fee**

- ESGE individual members being the PI: free.
- Non-members: 500 € on application.

## **Timelines for application 2020 - 2021**

- Beginning October 2020
- Beginning December 2020
- Beginning February 2021
- Beginning April 2021
- Beginning June 2021
- Beginning August 2021



## ESGE policy regarding online 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.