

Call for FOREUM career research grants

Introduction

FOREUM is committed to promote the best talents in the field of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMD). Consistent with these goals FOREUM issues a new call that aims to fund excellent young researchers promoting innovative ideas and supporting high quality research projects covering basic and clinical science projects related to RMDs. Scientific excellence is the key eligibility criterion for this career research grant initiative, which aims to foster independent science and intends to **develop new research leaders** in the field.

Scope

FOREUM career research grants are intended to fund excellent young scientists with an already existing track record in RMD research. The grant aims at supporting the initiation of an innovative independent research project for **a period of maximal 36 months** that allows sustained career development of the applicant to become a future group leader.

Eligibility and requirements

The applicant must be a talented early-career scientist who has already produced high-level supervised work. She/he must be an **MD or PhD**, who is appropriately **linked to RMD research in Europe**. It is anticipated that applicants can work independently and have the potential to become a research leader in the RMD research community. The applicant must be awarded her/his PhD or MD **no longer than 8 years ago**. Periods of maternity, paternity or careers leave during those years would not be counted as part of the 8 years. The researcher's **institution must declare how it intends to support the applicant** with respect to her/his position, protected research time, lab space or access the clinical data. Integrating knowledge, experiences and techniques from other European centers involved in RMD research is also stimulated. Participation of patient research partners is strongly encouraged to underline the importance of the project for the patients.

Budget

The applicant is eligible to apply for total funding of up to **200'000 Euro for a maximal period of 3 years**. Full financial support will depend on the successful evaluation of a written report at the end of the fellowship. Submitted publications can be used as part of the report.

How to apply

Applications should be made electronically (email to info@foreum.org). Necessary application forms can be downloaded at www.foreum.org.

Letter of intent

All applicants considering submission of a proposal are invited to send a short **letter of intent by 22 March 2020** accompanied by a 'lay (non-scientific language for the general public) summary', for review by patients. The structure and required content of the letter of intent are described in the 'Letter of intent template' available from www.foreum.org. Translational and clinical projects can be submitted. In the letter of intent, the applicant should indicate whether the content of the project is either clinical or translational. A **CV of the applicant** as well as a short statement of support from the head of the centre (integrated in the letter of intent) needs to be provided.

Letters of intent will be assessed by members of the FOREUM Scientific Committee and applications deemed meritorious of full application will be selected on a competitive basis. The Secretariat will respond by 27 April 2020 as to whether the proposal meets the scope, priority and requirements of the call such that a full application will be invited.

Full project proposal

Applicants selected will be invited to submit a full proposal; they will be sent the full project proposal template. Scientific excellence of the applicant as well as innovation potential, impact and feasibility of the planned project will be important aspects of the full application together with clear evidence of support and necessary infrastructure at the host center. To facilitate review by patients, additionally a lay (non-scientific language for the general public) summary must be completed at this stage. Both forms will be provided to applicants invited to submit a full proposal. Full research proposals must be submitted electronically **by 17 May 2020** to the FOREUM Secretariat.

Participation of patient research partners

Participation of patient research partners is strongly recommended and should be considered for all other research projects to provide experiential knowledge, with the aim of improving the relevance, quality and validity of the research process. Participation of patient research partners would be a strength in developing the proposal to underline the importance of patients providing experiential knowledge in the research process. For more information, please read the material on http://www.eular.org/pare_patient_research_partners.cfm.

Evaluation and decision

The proposals will be independently peer-reviewed for (i) their **scientific quality**, (ii) the applicant's **expertise** to conduct research in RMD, (iii) the **applicant's CV**, the (iv) **feasibility** of conducting the project, and (v) appropriate **involvement of patient-related research partners**. Based on this peer review, the FOREUM Scientific Committee will make a funding recommendation to the FOREUM Executive Committee, which will make its funding decision. Decisions will be communicated to the applicants **by July 2020**.

Ethical aspects

FOREUM expects a high standard in the conduct of research it funds. For researchers this includes scientific integrity and adherence to the principles of good research practice. Patients subjected to investigation shall be included with due adherence to the declaration of Helsinki.

Management of the call

The FOREUM call and approval process will be administered by the FOREUM Secretariat, together with the FOREUM Scientific Committee. The call schedule will be as follows:

Call issued:	28 January 2020
Closing date for Letter of intent:	22 March 2020
Decisions on Lol announced:	27 April 2020
Closing date for full proposals:	17 May 2020
Decisions on full proposals announced:	1 July 2020 (after EULAR Congress 2020)

Inquiries

For general inquiries please contact the FOREUM Secretariat at info@foreum.org.