

Call for Applications “Osteoarthritis Foundation Educational Grant”

Article 1 – Purpose and objectives

The “Osteoarthritis Foundation Educational Grant” aims to support a researcher or a physician residing in European Union in participating in presential in an international scientific congress on osteoarthritis, cartilage repair, or joint preservation held outside their country of residence.

Established by the Osteoarthritis Foundation, a private foundation created in 2015, this Grant seeks to promote both basic and clinical research in osteoarthritis and to enhance the international visibility of the Osteoarthritis Foundation.

Article 2 – Name, amount, and frequency

The name of the Grant is the “Osteoarthritis Foundation Educational Grant”.

The Grant, with a maximum amount of 3,500 euros (three thousand and five hundred euros), is awarded by the Osteoarthritis Foundation and is indivisible. It shall be used to cover all or part of the costs related to travel, congress registration, and accommodation.

This grant is offered in 2026, with future editions subject to the availability of funding and to decisions made by the Foundation’s Board of Directors, which may also determine the frequency of its allocation.

Article 3 – Eligibility and evaluation criteria

The Grant is open to individuals residing in the European Union and working in an academic or research institution who have submitted or plan to submit a scientific abstract related to osteoarthritis, cartilage repair, or joint preservation, with a particular emphasis on systems biology or computational modeling approaches.

Applications will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- Quality of the curriculum vitae (25%)
- Quality of the research to be presented at the congress (50%)
- Quality and relevance of the motivation letter (25%)

The laureate undertakes to:

- Prepare a brief report (min 200 words, max 1000 words) summarizing three to five key messages or insights gained during the congress and submit this report to OA Foundation.
- Acknowledge the “Osteoarthritis Foundation Educational Grant” in any communication related to the congress (e.g. press release, presentation, institutional website, and/or social media posts).



Article 4 – Selection of the laureate

The laureate will be selected by a jury composed of members of the Osteoarthritis Foundation.

For the 2026 edition, Professor Bernard Rentier, Rector Emeritus of the University of Liège and former chair of the F.R.S.-FNRS, will chair the Scientific Committee responsible for the scientific evaluation of the applications.

Article 5 – Jury

The jury includes members of the Osteoarthritis Foundation's Board of Directors and at least one international scientific expert selected by the Osteoarthritis Foundation.

The members of the jury shall not receive any remuneration. They may, however, be granted reimbursement by the Osteoarthritis Foundation of travel and accommodation expenses if their in-person participation is required. A quorum of three members is required for the jury to deliberate validly. The jury may deliberate by videoconference.

The jury shall conduct its proceedings and deliberations in accordance with these Regulations. Decisions shall be taken preferably by consensus and, failing this, by a simple majority by secret ballot.

The jury shall evaluate the applications in a written report and submit its recommendations to the Osteoarthritis Foundation.

Article 6 – Submission of applications

Applications must be submitted as a complete application file.

The application file must be sent to the Chair of the jury in paper or electronic form (with acknowledgment of receipt) no later than **June 30th 2026 at 1 pm**, by email to the following address: admin@fondationarthrose.org.

The application file must contain the following documents:

- Curriculum vitae (maximum two pages);
- Letter of support from the scientific supervisor (unless the applicant is the director of the research center);
- Motivation letter explaining the reasons for attending the selected congress and its relevance to the applicant's research;
- Copy of the abstract(s) submitted and/or accepted by the congress scientific committee, if available (otherwise, an abstract of preliminary results intended for submission).

Only complete applications received before the deadline will be considered.



Article 7 – Awarding and payment of the Grant

The Osteoarthritis Foundation will announce the laureate during a designated event. The laureate must be present on the day of the ceremony or, if unable to attend, provide a pre-recorded video message to be shown at the event.

The Grant will be paid to the laureate by bank transfer. Travel (economy class), registration fee and accommodation (standard room) expenses related to the congress may be reimbursed within the limits of the Grant amount, upon presentation of supporting documents, in accordance with the Osteoarthritis Foundation's reimbursement rules.

The laureate will also receive an official certificate issued by the Osteoarthritis Foundation.

The Osteoarthritis Foundation reserves the right not to award the Grant if none of the applications meet the expected quality standards.

Article 8 – Final nature of decisions

Decisions of the Osteoarthritis Foundation regarding the awarding of the Grant are final and not subject to appeal.

The Grant applications and the jury's deliberations will remain confidential and will not be made public.

Article 9 – Amendments to the Regulations

Any amendment to these Regulations shall be submitted to the Osteoarthritis Foundation for approval.

