

Call for Applications

Osteoarthritis Foundation Congress Grant

Article 1 – Purpose and objectives

The Osteoarthritis Foundation Congress Grant aims to support a researcher or physician residing in Belgium in participating 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 Congress Grant”.

The Grant, with a maximum amount of 3,000 euros (three thousand euros), is awarded by the Osteoarthritis Foundation and is indivisible. It may be used to cover all or part of the costs related to travel, congress registration, and accommodation.

The Grant is awarded annually, subject to the decision of the Foundation’s Board of Administrators, which may also decide to award it at different intervals.

Article 3 – Eligibility and evaluation criteria

The Grant is open to individuals residing in Belgium and working in an academic or research institution.

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 summarising three to five key messages or insights gained during the congress.
- acknowledge the “Osteoarthritis Foundation Congress 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.

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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 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 simple majority through a 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 electronic form (with acknowledgment of receipt) no later than 30 June 2026, 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.

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The Grant will be paid to the laureate by bank transfer. Travel (economy class) 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 reimbursement rules of the Osteoarthritis Foundation.

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.

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