ESCG – Purina Institute trainee research grant

Call for research grant proposals

Field of research
Gastrointestinal research clinically applicable for veterinary species, such as but not limited to: (oro)pharynx, swallowing, esophagus, gastrointestinal tract (e.g., small and/or large intestines), pancreas, (gastrointestinal related) nutrition, microbiome, and liver.

Who can apply?
Members-in-training under an (institutional) principal investigator (e.g., a board-certified diplomate or post-doctoral scientist, who can be in academia or private practice), who are active members of the ESCG and in good standing.
(Both the member-in-training and the principal investigator should be members of the ESCG at time of application)

Funding budget   max € 5000 per proposal
(Indirect costs are not covered by this grant; ≤ 10% of the total budget can be accounted for by travel expenses to present the results of this research at conferences)

Funding of multiple research grant proposals
Proposals with a smaller budget are considered. If multiple research grant proposals get selected that together remain within the total budget of one grant (€ 5000), then multiple research grant proposals could get funded.

Submission deadline   **Funding decision**
21 Jan 2024, midnight (CET)   Early April 2024

Total study duration   Research should be conducted within 12 months
(Start date: April 2024. Extension request of up to 6 months upon timely request possible. Extension requests should be made 3-4 months prior to end of grant)

Content of grant proposal application
Below is an overview of the required contents of the research grant application:

1) **Cover page** *(containing title, names of researchers and collaborators, total requested budget, total study duration)*
2) **Abstract** *(max 250 words)*
3) Introduction/Background of proposed research
4) Aims and Hypotheses
5) Research strategy: experimental methods and design
6) Anticipated problems
7) Expected outcome, significance, and application of findings
8) Facilities and resources *(for example, not limited to collaborators, other institutions, accessible materials and services)*
9) Timeline *(Typically up to one year from start date (April 2024), possibly 18 months. Timely requested extension up to 6 months is open for consideration)*
10) Budget justification *(Up to € 5000 per proposal)*
11) Supplementals: CVs/Resumes/Biosketches of the researchers and collaborators *(max 2 pages per person, reverse chronological order, provide most recent achievements and publications relevant to research proposal)* + Ethical approval if applicable

> ***Grant proposal application style guidelines:***
> *max page limit 8 pages for points 1-9; points 1-2 should fit onto one single page; single spaced text; Arial font, font size 10 pnt; submit in .doc or .pdf format as a single file*

Additional funding sources
Additional funding sources for the proposed study should be clearly stated in the grant proposal application as these might influence funding (agencies) and could create a potential conflict of interest with and for the funding agencies.

Presentation of research
Presentation of the research results at conferences such as ECVIM-ca congress (and EuroGut) is highly encouraged.
(Presentation should ideally follow directly upon completion of the study term: Spring 2025 – Fall 2025)

Final research report
A final report of the research (≤ 5 pages, single space, Arial, 10 pnt) should be submitted to the secretary of the ESCG (escg.info@gmail.com) by the end of the term of the grant. *(Final report should follow directly upon completion and with requested extension can be submitted up to 6 months after end of term of the grant. Exceptions to this can be awarded on an individual bases if for example patent or embargo is present or under review. Presentation of the research results at conferences such as ECVIM-ca congress and EuroGut are encouraged. Presentation should ideally follow completion of the study term and can done up to 12 months after end of term of the grant. At presentation and publication of the research, both the ESCG and Purina Institute should be acknowledged for their sponsorship. Publication of research in a scientific journal is highly encouraged. Prior to abstract submission for conference presentation and/or publication in a journal, please share with both the ESCG and Purina Institute the abstract and/or manuscript for review if Purina products have been used in this research)*

Review or comments on research grant proposals
Official written comments or full review are not provided on submitted research grant proposals.

Conflict of interest

Applications of ESCG members that might have any potential conflict of interest related to the grant review process (for example, principal investigator is an ESCG board member or grant reviewer) will not be considered for this research grant. Applications with any co-researchers, co-investigators, or mentors who are employed by, or contracted with Purina Institute are not eligible. If an ESCG member-in-training submits a proposal with an ESCG board member or grant reviewer as principal investigator, that ESCG board member or grant reviewer would thereby knowingly resign their review position for that year. Please state any potential, perceived, or real conflict of interest clearly in your application.

Ethical approval

All prospective research grant proposals must be executed under an Animal Use Protocol by a (locally accredited) institutional animal care and use committee (IACUC) or local/national equivalent, or Ethics and Animal Welfare Committee if they plan to use live vertebrate animals or recombinant DNA.

Proof of approval of the Animal Use Protocol must be provided with the grant application by providing an Informed Owner Consent form and/or outcome letter confirming research is ethically approved. (Please provide an English translation of the outcome letter signed by an IACUC or local/national equivalent or EAWC if the outcome letter is not in English. These documents fall outside of the page limit for the grant proposal and can be attached separately) Grant monies will not be paid until proof of ethical research is provided.

Informed owner consent must be acquired for all participants in a clinical trial.

All research must be performed according to the ethical standards of the Purina Institute (see below).

Grant review scoring

Below is the maximum score a research grant proposal can receive and in which categories points are awarded.

Scored section of grant proposal	Max points to be awarded
Cover page *(containing title, researchers and collaborators, total requested budget, total time)*	10
Abstract *(max 250 words)*	30
Introduction/Background of proposed research	50
Aims and Hypotheses	60
Research strategy: experimental methods and design	80
Anticipated problems	10
Expected outcome, significance, and application of findings	20
Facilities and resources	
Timeline *(Typically up to 12 months from start date. Extension up to 6 months is open for consideration)*	20
Budget justification *(Up to € 5000 per proposal)*	20
CVs/Resumes/Biosketches of the researchers and collaborators *(max 2 page/person)*	
OVERALL TOTAL POINTS	*200*

Example rubric of a section of the research grant proposal   **Cover page (10 pnt max)**

	5	4	3	2	1	0
Title	Title clear, succinct, captures research well, and inspires reviewer to read proposal	Title clear, succinct, captures research well	Title kind of clear, captures research reasonably well	Title vague, research not completely clear	Title present	Title missing
Requested amount + total time (max 2 pnt)	x	x	x	Total requested amount present & within budget, total duration present & within 12-18 months	Total requested amount or total time missing	Both total requested amount and total time missing
Length + Organization (max 3 pnt)	x	x	Cover page is well organized and provides clear brief overview of research grant proposal	Cover page is reasonably organized and provides some overview of research grant proposal	Cover page + abstract within 1 page	Cover page + abstract > 1 page

Questions   For questions regarding the research grant, email the secretary of the ESCG (escg.info@gmail.com).