

FOREUM Support Level Guide from 2024 on

Use of financial support

FOREUM shall use the financial support for the purposes set out in its foundation charter and summarised in the mission statement: promotion of basic and applied research of highest quality - excellence- in rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs) as an independent research funding body in rheumatology, to reduce the burden of disease for people with RMDs.

FOREUM collects and combines financial support from a variety of industry partners. According to their contribution, supporters are categorized into Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze levels, as shown in table 1. The FOREUM Foundation's operating costs are entirely financed by the EULAR-European Alliance of Rheumatology Associations. This assures that all financial support is directed solely towards research projects.

The following calls will be launched each year, depending on the foundation's income and the approval of the Foundation governing bodies in accordance with the foundation's regulations. The contribution will be used to support the following:

FOREUM launches a call for **Career grants** for advanced Researchers every January. This is a three-year grant of about €200,000. Per call, up to four (4) projects can be funded. The **Fellowship grant** for early career researchers is launched in June. This is a one- or three-year grant of €50,000 per year. Per call, a maximum of three (3) projects can be funded. The **Topic call** is launched in September. FOREUM committee members and the platinum level industry partners jointly decide the specific topic of this call. The most important eligibility requirement is that three European centres apply together. This is a three-year grant of about €600,000. Per call, a maximum of three (3) projects can be funded.

The joint call with the **Rheumatology Research Foundation (RRF)** and **FOREUM** is new in 2023. This Partnership Award was introduced in May 2023. The aim is to support research collaboration among investigators who wish to pursue a focused, joint project in rheumatic disease research. This grant can cover a two-year joint project up to \$200,000 and €200,000.

New in 2024: FOREUM Academy

The academy is to be an exclusive place for our platinum and gold industry partners. The academy shall combine interest in the current research into RMD with social elements that make the academy attractive to individuals. The name "academy" has been chosen to highlight the inclusion of our supporters into research / academia.

Main activity of the FOREUM Academy is an annual boot-camp meeting. Objectives for those meetings include:

- A. working towards developing deeper understanding of the selected topics.
- B. initiating common academia-industry projects.
- C. networking opportunities for leaders in industry and academia.

New in 2024: Interdisciplinary projects

FOREUM supporters of any level are entitled to additionally invest in interdisciplinary projects. These are projects for one year over €50,000. The goal is to better connect research on RMDs with related fields like gastroenterology, pulmonology, and dermatology or others. These projects can have a clinical or basic-translational focus.

The subject of the call shall be proposed by the supporting industry partner or jointly by several industry partners. To safeguard FOREUM's interests, the FOREUM Board will ultimately make the final decision. The supporter(s) will take part in the FOREUM scientific committee's selection of the projects as well.

New in 2024: Platinum and Gold (+) projects

FOREUM supporters at the platinum level are able to associate the company's name with one project (with a budget of €100,000 or more per year). This is also possible for gold level supporters if on top of their usual support they add an additional contribution of €100,000.

The topic of the call may be collaboratively proposed by the supporting industry partner. To safeguard FOREUM's interests, the FOREUM Board will ultimately make the final decision. The supporter(s) will take part in the FOREUM scientific committee's selection of the projects as well.

Acknowledgment of the financial support

As acknowledgement of the support, FOREUM will publish the name and logo of the supporter together with the level according to the commitment to pay:

- on its website www.foreum.org
- in its annual project brochure
- in its annual report
- in an acknowledgment by FOREUM in the EULAR Congress newspaper
- on the FOREUM's exhibition booth.

Support level, communication, and recognition of support

FOREUM seeks to establish a partnership with its supporter which include the following aspects:

- FOREUM is very interested in an efficient and transparent relationship. Company names and logos with pronouncement according to support levels are displayed on the FOREUM website, in the Annual Report, and at the FOREUM booth at the annual EULAR Congress.
- Regular communication throughout the year (newsletter - twice a year) and the Annual Report/Brochure will ensure that projects progress reports and updates about our current calls for research proposals will be shared timely.
- FOREUM seeks broad input from various stakeholders and experts when defining the topic of a call for research proposals; upon careful consideration of topic suggestions, set priorities and research needs, the Executive Committee makes its recommendation to the Board of Trustees who take the final decision.

Funding levels from 2024 on

Supporters are	Bronze < 100k EUR	Silver ≥ 100k EUR	Gold ≥ 300k EUR	Platinum ≥ 500k EUR
recognized / mentioned on the website, annual report, brochure, congress booth and in congress news with level of support.	✓	✓	✓	✓
supportive of interdisciplinary projects in addition to the support level.	✓	✓	✓	✓
invited to bilateral meetings during the annual EULAR congress and the ACR congress.	✓	✓	✓	✓
invited to the EULAR/FOREUM Corporate member meeting on Tuesday evening preceding the EULAR congress.	✓	✓	✓	✓
invited with 1 attendee to the Funded Science meeting on Tuesday afternoon preceding the congress.	✓	✓	✓	✓
invited with 3 additional attendees to the Funded Science meeting on Tuesday afternoon preceding the congress.		✓	✓	✓
invited to attend on-line reporting of selected FOREUM fellows and/or researchers.		✓	✓	✓
members of the FOREUM Academy.			✓	✓
invited with 2 attendees at the annual FOREUM Academy dinner on Tuesday evening preceding the congress.			✓	✓
invited to participate in the selection of topics of FOREUM calls.			✓	✓
able to associate the industries name with one of the affiliated projects if supported with additional 100k.			✓	✓
recognized with an award at the opening session of the EULAR congress.				✓
invited to be observers at the meeting of the scientific committee when selecting successful candidates for projects and fellowships.				✓
given the right to associate the industries name with one of the affiliated projects.				✓
invited with 2 additional attendees to the annual FOREUM Academy dinner on Tuesday evening preceding the congress.				✓

Table 1: FOREUM funding levels from 2024 on.