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## ECCO-AOCC Visiting Travel Grant

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The [Asian Organization for Crohn's and Colitis](#) (AOCC) and the [European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation](#) (ECCO) offer two collaborative ECCO-AOCC Visiting Travel Grants.

The aim is to offer an opportunity for European investigators ([ECCO Members](#)) to visit Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Centres in Asia or for Asian investigators ([AOCC Members](#)) to visit an IBD Centre in Europe ([ECCO Member Countries](#)), to learn about advanced endoscopy related to IBD or for clinical observations as an IBD Specialist. They are not designed to support travel to congresses or meetings.

Two ECCO-AOCC Visiting Travel Grants may be given in 2025.

### Eligibility

In order to be eligible, the applicant must meet the following criteria:

1. The applicant may not have reached 40 years of age at the submission deadline or if 40 years of age or older, must be within five years of the date of completion of their GI training or PhD graduation (a certificate with English translation needs to be provided).
2. The applicant and the host have to be members of their respective societies (ECCO or AOCC) at the submission deadline. e.g., an ECCO Member can apply to visit an Asian institution under host supervision of an AOCC Member and vice versa:
  - Travel Grant 1: AOCC Member goes to ECCO Member centre in Europe
  - Travel Grant 2: ECCO Member goes to AOCC Member centre in Asia
3. The applicant can apply for only one ECCO Award category per annual call.
4. Recipients who have been awarded an ECCO-AOCC Visiting Travel Grant in the past cannot reapply.
5. Members of [ECCO](#) or [AOCC](#) Committees are excluded from applying.

### Terms of Submission

1. A total amount of **EUR 10,000** will be awarded per ECCO-AOCC Visiting Travel Grant.
2. The duration of the Travel Grant is short term: 1-2 months. Please indicate the duration of the stay in your application.
3. A department may support one application per ECCO Award category per annual call.
4. Applicants should submit a proposal by email to the AOCC Office [aocc\\_office@aocc-ibd.jp](mailto:aocc_office@aocc-ibd.jp) containing the following documents:
  - CV of the applicant



- A confirmation letter from the Head of Department of the host institution.
  - The scientific purpose for travelling to the selected hosting centre. If a scientific project is attached to the application, it makes it more likely that this application is scored higher than others, but it is not essential.
5. The annual deadline for submission for ECCO-AOCC Visiting Travel Grant applications is **May 2, 2024**.
  6. Applications are reviewed by two ECCO Scientific Committee (SciCom) Members and two AOCC Review Committee members and two applications are selected. Applicants are notified of the results in **October 2024**.
  7. Payment of the Grant funds is contingent upon signing of the ECCO-AOCC Visiting Travel Grant form. The payment will be made before to **December 31, 2024**.
  8. The selected applicant receives the ECCO-AOCC Travel Grant certificate by e-mail.
  9. On completion and no later than twelve months after granting of the award, the applicant will submit a short report (max. 150 words), signed by the awardee and the hosting institution, to the Scientific Committee of ECCO and the Grant Review Committee of AOCC for publication in ECCO News channels and AOCC Intestinal Research.
  10. ECCO reserves the right to request a return of unused funds in the case of a serious impediment to travel such as a significant delay or if the host supervisor is unable to host the awardee, the awardee moves to a different field or similar disruption.

Applications have to be sent to the Chair of the Educational Committee of AOCC at the following address: \*

**ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION ONLY**

AOCC Office  
Att. Chair of the Educational Committee of AOCC  
2-12-1-502 Kagurazaka, Shinjuku-Ku,  
Tokyo 162-0825, Japan  
[aocc\\_office@aocc-ibd.jp](mailto:aocc_office@aocc-ibd.jp)

\*Data processing consent and retention:

By sending an application by email to [aocc\\_office@aocc-ibd.jp](mailto:aocc_office@aocc-ibd.jp) in reply to this open call, you agree to the data processing for the above-described project:

AOCC Office stores applicants' personal data of this application for the project timeframe. AOCC Office will delete data securely after the end of this project.

In addition, the scientific review process generates a review result for the applicants which will be stored with your data in line with the requirements of scientific review archiving. You have the right to object at any time at [aocc\\_office@aocc-ibd.jp](mailto:aocc_office@aocc-ibd.jp).

## Review Process

1. All applications are reviewed and scored by ECCO Scientific Committee (SciCom) and AOCC Review Committee, based on the following four criteria:
  1. Relevance of topic
  2. Personal development opportunity
  3. Impact for the IBD Community
  4. Available expertise of the applicant and host site
2. Applications need to fulfil the formal criteria: no indication of plagiarism, compliance with word limits.
3. Reviewing: Each ECCO-AOCC Visiting Travel Grant application will be reviewed by two members of the ECCO Scientific Committee (SciCom) of ECCO and two members of AOCC Grant Review Committee. They will score their assigned applications according to the four evaluation criteria above and comment on each application.
4. Ranking: Applications are ranked according to their average scores.
5. Selection: The ECCO Scientific Committee/ECCO Governing Board and the AOCC Review Committee/AOCC Governing Board will make a joint selection.
6. Notification: Applicants are notified of the results in **October 2024**.