



Call for applications for the research development venture of the ARS, 6th edition

“Bridge to academic career” grants 2018

Dear colleagues,

ARS bridge grants have been awarded since 2009. Eleven outstanding applicants have been selected out of many high quality applications from young surgeons of different sub-specialties all over Switzerland so far! All awardees have succeeded in their scientific career and obtained competitive funding since. We feel therefore encouraged to launch this initiative again in 2018! We would kindly ask you to diffuse the enclosed advertisement among your collaborators and to select and encourage suitable candidates to apply. The easy application procedure and the fast decision-making should further motivate younger fellows.

Rationale

To date, many scientific funding opportunities in Switzerland support young investigators at the end of their formal academic education. Accordingly, MD-PhD programs are also increasingly available. Whereas the financial support of soon-to-be physicians is sensible and desirable, funding opportunities for research during surgical residency are scarce.

Surgeons interested in an academic career need the opportunity to develop their research training under the guidance of a senior investigator at a recognized institution. This is why the Association for Research in Surgery (ARS), as part of the Swiss Surgical Society, offers the financial support of promising research projects for advanced residents. This funding is thought to bridge novel research projects to a stage, where alternative funding is available and promotes the academic career.

The ARS and the SGC/SCC expect to enhance academic interest in motivated surgeons and to increase high-quality translational or clinical research in Switzerland.

Form of support

The ARS and the SGC/SCC will fund projects in the sense of **matching grants**. The home institution has to declare, that research can be performed (i.e. protected time) and that it commits to a matching fund adequate to the project (but at least 1:1).

For 2018, **30,000.-CHF** are available to fund 1-2 applicants working in a research program in Switzerland.

Eligibility criteria

The applicant should (I) be a surgical resident in general/visceral/thoracic/trauma surgery,
(II) have a clear career plan, and
(III) be a member of the ARS (no member fee).

The home institution guarantees (I) full support (infrastructure and financially) and
(II) convincing protected time for their project.

The research should take place in Switzerland.

The funding is limited for projects of less than 24 months duration. Funds for consumables and other research running costs are preferred.

Applications

“Straight forward” applications are strongly encouraged in order to ease the application process and to fasten the evaluation of the submitted proposals. Applications should be submitted until **February 4th 2018** as **one single PDF file** to the project coordinator of the ARS (martin.hubner@chuv.ch) and include the following documents:

- **CV** (2 pages) and list of publications.
- **Scientific part** including background, research plan, time frame (2 pages).
- **Budget** for the proposed study and planned financing (1 page).
- **Letter of support** declaring **financial matching and protected time**.

Decision

The board members of the ARS including the delegate for research from the SGC/SSC council constitute the referees. **The bridge grant recipients will be announced during the annual congress in Basel, May 16 – 18, 2018.**

We would like to thank you for your important cooperation! Yours sincerely,

PD Dr. M. Hübner
Project Coordinator, Vice-President ARS

Prof. L. Bühler
President ARS