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Introduction

Microbiota & Women's Health International Call for Projects

**Unraveling male-female genital microbiome interactions:
mechanisms, transmission, and impact on vaginal dysbiosis**

Rules

Apply

Deadline

Unraveling male-female genital microbiome interactions: mechanisms, transmission, and impact on vaginal dysbiosis

Proposals could include, but are not limited to, mechanistic studies elucidating how the penile microbiome contributes to the establishment, persistence, and recurrence of vaginal dysbiosis, including bacterial vaginosis. Areas of interest include microbial transmission dynamics during sexual activity, niche adaptation and persistence of BV-associated taxa in the penile environment, and the functional consequences of these interactions for vaginal community stability.

Studies evaluating how current and emerging interventions, such as antibiotics, topical or systemic partner therapies, circumcision, or live biotherapeutic products, alter penile microbial ecology and, in turn, influence treatment response and recurrence risk in female partners are also encouraged.

STI-related projects, except bacterial vaginosis, are not eligible.

Clinical studies may be submitted only after approval by an accredited ethics committee.

The purpose

From 2025, the Biocodex Microbiota Foundation rewards international research proposals involving the microbiota and its implication in Women's Health and Disease. Every year, the call for proposals covers a specific theme chosen by an International Scientific Committee. Either clinical or fundamental research proposals can be submitted.

The maximal duration of the project will be 3 years.

The applicants

The grants are open to MDs, PhDs or Pharm-Ds working in the subject area (gynecology, obstetrics, microbiology, infectious diseases, internal medicine, oncology, etc.). There are no geographic restrictions for applicants. All countries are eligible.

Members of the Women's Health International Scientific Committee and members of their laboratories are not allowed to apply for grants as Principal Investigators.

In the event of any possible conflict of interest for a Women's Health International Scientific Committee member, he/she will not be allowed to review the project or participate in the debate, nor will he/she be allowed to vote for that project.

The grant

The annual grant is set at €200,000. It will be awarded to researchers within universities, hospitals or other research settings to finance equipment, operations or staffing costs. However, grants will not be awarded to individuals. The Biocodex Microbiota Foundation (BMF) is a non-profit organization, and thus, the institution's overhead costs cannot be more than 10%.

The proposed project budget must be presented with all budgetary items listed with a proposed time frame for the utilization of funds.

The grant payment will be made annually and according to this provisional budget on the condition that BMF receives annual interim reports when the duration is longer than one year.

The review of applications

The applications will be sent to each member of the Women's Health International Scientific Committee (WHISC) for evaluation.

The evaluation criteria considered are the proposals:

- consistency with the predetermined subject
- scientific quality
- innovation
- benefit for Women's Health and Disease
- quality of the researcher(s)
- quality of the research environment
- feasibility

The International Scientific Committee is independent from the Company and is sovereign.

Their decisions will not be contested and do not have to be justified.

The applicants' undertakings

For transparency reasons, the applicants will notify the Foundation of any additional funding received or requested for the submitted proposals.

The applicants agree to provide the Foundation with a final report within the six months following the end of the project. However, if the project is longer than one year, they agree to provide an annual interim report on each anniversary date.

The applicants will mention the Biocodex Foundation's support in any communication or publication of their work with the following sentence: this work was (partially) supported by the Biocodex Microbiota Foundation. Applicants will send copies of these communications or publications to the Foundation.