

# **TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

## **3rd International Symposium on the Connection Between Physics and Metabolism in Brain Functions**

**Organised by SJD Barcelona Children's Hospital**

### **1. Purpose of the Call for Applications**

SJD Barcelona Children's Hospital (hereinafter, "HSJD"), as the organising institution, launches this Call for Applications for Travel Scholarships to support attendance at the 3rd International Symposium on the Connection Between Physics and Metabolism in Brain Functions (hereinafter, the "Symposium").

The purpose of these Travel Scholarships is to reduce the financial barriers that may prevent participation in the Symposium and to promote interdisciplinary scientific exchange among early-career researchers and healthcare professionals with an interest in the intersection of Physics and Brain Metabolism.

The Travel Scholarships are intended for PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, clinical residents and early-career clinician-scientists working in the fields of neurometabolism, inherited metabolic diseases, neuroscience, physics, chemistry, mechanobiology or other related disciplines, who demonstrate a strong interest in interdisciplinary research.

The award of the Travel Scholarships is subject to compliance with the eligibility requirements set out in these Guidelines, the evaluation of applications by the Scientific Organising Committee, and the availability of the budget allocated for this purpose.

### **2. Eligibility Requirements**

Applications for the Travel Scholarships may be submitted by individuals who meet all of the following eligibility requirements:

- Be a PhD student, postdoctoral fellow, clinical resident or early-career clinician-scientist.
- Carry out research, clinical or professional activities in the fields of neurometabolism, inherited metabolic diseases, neuroscience, physics, chemistry, mechanobiology or other related disciplines.
- Demonstrate an interest in interdisciplinary research, particularly at the intersection of Physics and Brain Metabolism.

- Intend to attend the Symposium and commit to participating throughout its duration.
- Submit a complete application, together with all required supporting documentation, within the deadline established in these Guidelines.

Applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements or that fail to include the required documentation by the applicable deadline will not be considered.

### 3. Scholarship Coverage

Each Travel Scholarship shall cover the following expenses, up to a maximum value of **EUR 500** per recipient:

- Return travel in economy class.
- One night's accommodation in a hotel of up to four-star standard.

The Symposium registration fee is **not** included in the Travel Scholarship and must be paid directly by the participant.

Under no circumstances shall the total value of the Travel Scholarship exceed **EUR 500**.

#### 3.1. Expenses Not Covered

The Travel Scholarship does not cover the following expenses:

- Local transportation, including taxis, buses, metro services or any other means of transport between the participant's home, the airport or railway station, and the hotel or the Symposium venue.
- Fuel expenses.
- Mileage incurred through the use of a private vehicle.
- Vehicle rental or leasing.
- Parking fees.
- Valet parking services.
- Travel insurance.
- ATM fees, bank charges or currency exchange fees.
- Meals and personal expenses.
- Symposium registration fee.
- Any other expense not expressly covered under these Guidelines.

Any expenses not expressly covered by the Travel Scholarship shall be the sole responsibility of the participant.

### 3.2. Scholarship Funding Limit

If the total cost of the proposed travel and accommodation exceeds the maximum scholarship amount of **EUR 500**, the applicant will be informed before any bookings are made.

In such cases, the applicant may choose to:

- Pay the difference between the total cost of the proposed travel arrangements and the maximum scholarship amount to the organising institution before the bookings are confirmed; or
- Accept partial funding covering either travel or accommodation only, provided that the total value of the Travel Scholarship does not exceed **EUR 500**.

Travel and accommodation bookings will only be confirmed once the applicant has accepted the proposed arrangements and, where applicable, has paid the additional amount required.

If the applicant does not accept the proposed arrangements or fails to make the required additional payment within the specified deadline, the Travel Scholarship may be withdrawn and awarded to another applicant.

### 3.3. Personal and Non-transferable Nature of the Scholarship

The Travel Scholarship is personal and non-transferable and may not be redeemed for cash or substituted by any other form of financial compensation.

No payments or reimbursements will be made directly to the personal bank accounts of scholarship recipients. All travel and accommodation arrangements will be organised and booked directly by the Scientific Organising Committee or by any entity appointed by it.

## 4. Travel and Accommodation Arrangements

To facilitate travel planning and ensure the fair allocation of the available budget, travel dates will be limited to the following options:

- **Arrival:** 8 or 9 October 2026.
- **Departure:** 9 or 10 October 2026.

The Scientific Organising Committee shall determine the final travel and accommodation arrangements for each scholarship recipient, including:

- The travel itinerary.
- The means of transport, which may be by air or rail.
- The arrival and departure dates.
- The number of nights of accommodation, up to a maximum of two nights.

These arrangements will be determined taking into account the participant's place of origin, travel logistics, transport and accommodation availability, and the available budget.

Travel and accommodation arrangements will be managed directly by the Scientific Organising Committee. Scholarship recipients may not request a specific itinerary, means of transport or accommodation different from that proposed by the organisers.

Any changes requested by a scholarship recipient after the bookings have been confirmed may not be accepted. Where such changes are accepted, any additional costs arising from them shall be borne entirely by the participant.

## **5. Application Process**

Interested individuals must submit their application using the application form provided by the organisers within the deadline established in these Guidelines.

The application deadline is **Sunday, 23 August 2026, at 23:59 (CET – Central European Time)**.

Only complete applications received before the stated deadline will be considered.

Applicants must provide all the required information and accept these Guidelines as part of the application process.

Applications submitted after the deadline or without the required documentation will not be considered.

## **6. Required Documentation**

Applications must include, at a minimum, the following documents:

- A duly completed Travel Scholarship application form.
- A motivation letter of no more than one page.
- A short curriculum vitae (CV) of no more than two pages.

Applicants must submit their motivation letter and CV by email to [neurometab.bio.master@gmail.com](mailto:neurometab.bio.master@gmail.com)

The organisers may request additional information or supporting documentation where necessary to verify compliance with the eligibility requirements or to enable a proper assessment of the application.

Failure to submit any of the required documentation may result in the application being excluded from the evaluation process.

## 7. Evaluation Criteria

Once compliance with the eligibility requirements has been verified and all required documentation has been submitted, applications will be evaluated on the basis of, among others, the following criteria:

- The applicant's stage of academic or professional research career.
- The scientific merit of the application.
- The applicant's motivation for attending the Symposium.
- The relevance of the applicant's research activities to the Symposium's scope and objectives.
- The applicant's financial need.
- The geographical diversity of the selected participants.

Applications will be assessed taking into account the overall balance of the above criteria, as well as the availability of funds allocated to this Call for Applications.

In the event of a tie between two or more applications, the Scientific Organising Committee may consider the above criteria collectively and reach a decision based on scientific merit and the objective of promoting interdisciplinary and geographically diverse participation.

The decision of the Scientific Organising Committee shall be final.

## 8. Scientific Organising Committee

Applications will be evaluated by the Scientific Organising Committee of the **3rd International Symposium on the Connection Between Physics and Metabolism in Brain Functions**, or by individuals expressly appointed by the Committee to carry out the evaluation of applications.

In addition, in accordance with the criteria established by the **SSIEM**, the Scientific Organising Committee shall include at least one **Early Career Scientist (ECS)**. The ECS member shall play an active and meaningful role in the organisation of the Symposium, contributing to the design and development of the scientific programme and to the achievement of the Symposium's scientific and educational objectives. The composition of the Scientific Organising Committee shall reflect complementary expertise among its members in relation to the scientific and educational objectives of the Symposium.

Applications will be evaluated independently and objectively, ensuring equal opportunities for all applicants and based exclusively on the criteria set out in these Guidelines.

The Scientific Organising Committee shall decide the outcome of the Call for Applications, taking into account the merits of the applications, the established evaluation criteria and the available budget.

The decision of the Scientific Organising Committee shall be final.

## **9. Outcome of the Call for Applications**

Applications will be evaluated once the application deadline has closed.

Selected applicants will be notified individually by email.

Scholarship recipients will receive a proposed travel and accommodation itinerary for their Travel Scholarship after **28 August 2026**.

The award of the Travel Scholarship shall be conditional upon the recipient's express acceptance within the deadline specified in the award notification.

Failure to confirm acceptance within the specified period may result in the withdrawal of the Travel Scholarship and its offer to another applicant.

The award of the Travel Scholarships is also subject to the availability of funds.

## **10. Acceptance of the Travel Scholarship and Travel Arrangements**

Selected applicants must confirm their acceptance of the Travel Scholarship within the deadline specified in the award notification.

Acceptance of the Travel Scholarship implies:

- A commitment to attend the Symposium.

- A commitment to participate in the Symposium's full programme.
- Acceptance of the travel itinerary, means of transport and accommodation arrangements proposed by the organisers.
- Acceptance of the maximum scholarship value of **EUR 500**.
- Acceptance that any expenses not expressly covered by the Travel Scholarship shall be borne by the participant.
- Acceptance of these Guidelines and of the terms and conditions applicable to the Travel Scholarship.

Travel and accommodation bookings will only be confirmed once the proposed arrangements have been accepted and, where applicable, the required additional payment has been received.

Failure to comply with any of these conditions may result in the withdrawal of the Travel Scholarship and its award to another applicant.

## **11. Attendance at the Symposium**

Recipients of a Travel Scholarship undertake to attend the **3rd International Symposium on the Connection Between Physics and Metabolism in Brain Functions** and to participate in the Symposium's full programme.

The Travel Scholarship is awarded solely for the purpose of facilitating attendance at the Symposium and promoting interdisciplinary scientific exchange.

If a scholarship recipient is unable to attend the Symposium, they must notify the organisers as soon as possible.

Where a recipient's failure to attend is attributable to the recipient, the organisers may cancel the travel and accommodation arrangements or require reimbursement of any costs incurred, where applicable under the relevant booking conditions.

## **12. Withdrawal of the Travel Scholarship and Reallocation**

If a selected applicant withdraws from the Travel Scholarship before the travel and accommodation arrangements have been confirmed, they must notify the organisers in writing as soon as possible.

In the event of withdrawal, failure to accept the Travel Scholarship within the specified deadline, or failure to comply with the scholarship conditions, the organisers may award the Travel Scholarship to another applicant who meets the

eligibility requirements and has been placed on the reserve list, in accordance with the ranking established by the Scientific Organising Committee.

### 13. Data Protection

The personal data provided by applicants will be processed in accordance with the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**, **Organic Law 3/2018 on the Protection of Personal Data and the Guarantee of Digital Rights (LOPDGDD)**, and all other applicable data protection legislation.

The data controller shall be **Hospital Sant Joan de Déu Barcelona (HSJD)**.

The personal data will be processed for the purposes of administering this Travel Scholarship Call for Applications, receiving and evaluating applications, communicating the outcome of the selection process and, where applicable, organising and managing the travel and accommodation arrangements associated with the Travel Scholarship.

The legal basis for the processing of personal data is the applicant's consent, given through the submission of an application, and, where applicable, the performance of the obligations arising from the award of the Travel Scholarship.

Personal data will be retained for as long as necessary to administer the Call for Applications and, where applicable, to organise and implement the activities associated with the Travel Scholarship. Once these purposes have been fulfilled, the data will be securely retained for the periods required by applicable law in order to address any potential liabilities arising from the processing.

Applicants may exercise their rights of access, rectification, erasure, restriction of processing, objection and data portability by contacting the **HSJD Data Protection Officer** at [hospitalbarcelona.dpd@sjd.es](mailto:hospitalbarcelona.dpd@sjd.es).

Applicants may also lodge a complaint with the **Spanish Data Protection Agency (AEPD)** or, where applicable, the **Catalan Data Protection Authority (Autoritat Catalana de Protecció de Dades)**.

### 14. Acceptance of the Guidelines

Submission of an application constitutes full acceptance of these Guidelines, the terms and conditions applicable to the Travel Scholarship, and the rules governing participation in the 3rd International Symposium on the Connection Between Physics and Metabolism in Brain Functions.

Acceptance of the Travel Scholarship also constitutes a commitment to attend the Symposium and participate in its full programme

HSJD reserves the right, in exceptional circumstances and for duly justified reasons, including but not limited to force majeure, changes in the applicable legal framework or other unforeseen circumstances preventing the implementation of the Call for Applications as planned, to amend these Guidelines or cancel the Call for Applications.

Any amendments will be communicated or published as far in advance as reasonably possible through the same channels used to publicise the original Call for Applications.

Where any amendment affects applicants who have already been selected, they will be notified individually.

## **15. Compliance Management System**

Hospital Sant Joan de Déu Barcelona has established a **Compliance Management System**, which includes a **Code of Conduct** and a **Compliance Policy**.

By submitting an application under this Call for Applications, applicants acknowledge and accept the principles and values set out in these instruments and undertake to act in accordance with them throughout the selection process and, where applicable, during the Symposium.

Any conduct that may be contrary to these principles may be reported to the **HSJD Compliance Office** through the **Whistleblowing Channel** available on the corporate website or by email at [hospitalbarcelona.complimentnormatiu@sjd.es](mailto:hospitalbarcelona.complimentnormatiu@sjd.es).

## **16. Governing Law and Jurisdiction**

These Guidelines shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Spain.

Any dispute arising from the interpretation, application or implementation of these Guidelines shall be submitted to the jurisdiction of the Courts of Barcelona, Spain, with the parties expressly waiving any other jurisdiction to which they may otherwise be entitled, unless otherwise required by mandatory applicable law.

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