

## IWGGD Future Leaders Grant (Launch 2026)

### **Announcement**

The IWGGD is pleased to introduce the **IWGGD Future Leaders Grant**, a new initiative designed to support **early-career investigators** in the field of Gaucher disease.

This grant aims to foster innovation, strengthen collaboration between IWGGD institutional members, and support the development of future leaders within the community.

### **Grant Overview**

- **Total funding:** up to €60,000 per project for up to 2 years
  - **Scope:**  
Open to Gaucher Disease investigator-driven proposals, including:
    - Clinical research
    - Translational research
    - Biomarker development
    - Basic science
    - Patient-centered research
- 👉 Collaborative projects between IWGGD members are **strongly encouraged**

### **Eligibility**

- Applications are **open to IWGGD institutional members only**
- Early-career investigators, including:
  - PhD candidates
  - Postdoctoral researchers [up to 10 years from completion of PhD]
  - Junior clinicians [up to 10 years from independent practice]
- Applicants may be part of established groups, but must:
  - Act as **lead investigator (PI or co-PI)**
  - Demonstrate **project ownership and independence**

Collaborative applications (including multi-center or international partnerships within IWGGD) are encouraged

### **Evaluation Criteria**

Applications will be assessed based on:

- Scientific quality
- Innovation

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- Feasibility
- Relevance to Gaucher disease
- Potential impact
- Strength of collaboration (if applicable)
- *Value for money*
- *Summary of CV of applicant*

### **Timeline**

- **Launch:** During the IWGGD Symposium (May 2026, Trieste).
- **Application deadline:** September 14th
- **Review period:** November 2026

A dedicated **webinar (Q&A session)** will be organized after the symposium to support applicants (22nd of June 2026).

### **Review Process**

- Applications will be evaluated by an **independent review panel** in case of conflict of interest for specific projects.

### **Looking Ahead**

From 2027 onwards, IWGGD aims to expand this initiative to:

- Multiple smaller grants per year
- Support a broader number of investigators
- Maintain continuous engagement across the community

### **Closing**

The **IWGGD Future Leaders Grant** represents a key step in:

- Empowering early-career researchers
- Encouraging collaboration across the IWGGD network
- Advancing Gaucher disease research globally