



How to Develop and Write a Successful Grant Application

Residential course
on Grantsmanship
for junior oncologists
and scientists

A blurred background image showing a group of people sitting around a table in a meeting or workshop, with laptops and papers visible. The image is partially obscured by a teal diagonal overlay on the left side.

October 8-10, 2025
Warsaw, Poland

Conference Room
Novotel Warsaw Centrum
Marszałkowska 94/98

Welcome message from the OECI Academy Scientific Committee

Dear Trainees,

It is with great pleasure that we *welcome you* to the OECI Academy’s Residential Course on Grant Writing in Warsaw. You are joining a dynamic and forward-thinking community committed to advance oncology research and patient care across Europe and around the world.

This course—the first one of the OECI Academy—has been thoughtfully designed to provide you with the practical tools and strategic insights needed to develop strong, competitive grant proposals. Particular emphasis will be placed on Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) and European Research Council (ERC) starting grants, two of the most prestigious and impactful funding opportunities available to early-career scientists. You will gain a clear understanding of how to approach these calls, tailor your research proposals to meet their criteria, and elevate your research to its fullest potential. Thanks to expert-led sessions and interactive group work, you will be guided step-by-step through the grant writing process.

Your success is our priority. The OECI Academy was established in 2024 with the full support of the OECI President, Dr Giovanni Apolone, and the OECI Board, who remain deeply committed to nurturing the next generation of cancer researchers. This course is more than a training program: it is a strategic investment in your potential to shape the future of oncology and elevate patient care.

We would also like to *express our heartfelt thanks* to all the speakers who have traveled from across Europe to be here. Their expertise, dedication, and willingness to share their experience are what make this course truly exceptional. Their contributions reflect the spirit of collaboration and mentorship that lies at the heart of the OECI Academy.

We are honored to accompany you on this journey and wish you a productive, inspiring, and enriching experience.

The OECI Academy Scientific Committee

OCTOBER 8

Wednesday

Day 1

15:30 - 16:00	Arrivals and registrations	
16:00 - 16:15	Welcome and introduction	Giovanni Apolone Iwona Ługowska Claudio Lombardo
16:15 - 16:30	Presentation of the course	Chiara Gabbi

Session 1
Excellence: The Research Proposal

Moderator: Per Sandstrom

16:30 - 16:50	Grantsmanship and scientific writing	Chiara Gabbi
16:50 - 17:00	Q&A	
17:00 - 17:40	The research proposal: background, hypothesis, aims	Chiara Gabbi
17:40 - 17:50	Q&A	
17:50 - 18:05	Coffee break	
18:05 - 18:50	The research proposal: experimental design	Aldo Maria Roccaro
18:50 - 19:10	Q&A	

Keynote Lecture

Moderator: Claudio Lombardo

19:10 - 19:40	Personalized oncology: how gender and diversity may shape the future of cancer research	Winette van der Graaf
20:00	Welcome cocktail	

OCTOBER 9

Thursday

Day 2

09:00 - 09:10	Introduction to the second day	Chiara Gabbi
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Session 3

Excellence: The Principal Investigator (PI) Profile

Moderator: Per Anders Sandström

09:10 - 09:55	Crafting a competitive PI profile for grant applications	Speaker TBC
09:55 - 10:10	Q&A	

Session 2

Excellence: The Research Proposal

Moderator: Carla Finocchiaro

10:10 - 11:00	Team work	
11:00 - 11:15	Coffee break	
11:15 - 12:00	Team work and discussion	
12:00 - 12:45	How to perform the sample size calculation for a grant application	Rosalba Miceli
12:45 - 13:00	Q&A	
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch	

Session 4

Implementation

Moderator: Claudio Lombardo

14:30 - 15:00	Optimizing budgets in ERC starting grants	Katarzyna Kubica-Oroń
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OCTOBER 9

Thursday

Day 2

15:00 - 15:15	Budgeting in MSCA-PF grants	Marta Muter
15:15 - 15:30	Q&A	

15:30 - 16:15	PERT, Gantt chart, milestones, deliverables, work packages	Carla Finocchiaro
16:15 - 16:30	Q&A	

16:30 - 16:45	Coffee break	
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16:45 - 17:15	Facilities and infrastructures	Carla Finocchiaro
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17:15 - 17:30	Q&A	
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20:00	Social dinner	
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OCTOBER 10

Friday

Day 3

09:00 - 09:10	Introduction to the final day	Chiara Gabbi
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Keynote Lecture

Moderator: Claudio Lombardo

09:10 - 09:40	Beyond borders: global partnerships driving breakthroughs in cancer research	Rocio Isabel Rodriguez Macias
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Session 5

Impact

Moderator: Per Sandstrom

09:40 - 10:25	Impact on economy: how to address exploitation in EU grant applications	Michele Dubbini
10:25 - 10:40	Q&A	

10:40 - 10:55	Coffee Break	
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10:55 - 11:40	Impact on scientific community and society: the communication and dissemination plan	Aneta Andrzejczyk
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11:40 - 11:55	Q&A	
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11:55 - 12:40	Scientific Impact: significance and innovation	Chiara Gabbi
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12:40 - 13:00	Q&A, evaluation and conclusion of the course	
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13:00	Light lunch	
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14:00	Group transfer to the airport	
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