



1st *RICHEN GROUP* OPEN COMPETITION FOR RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF *HELICOBACTER PYLORI* 2021-2022

Project presentation:

RICHEN EUROPE is the European operating branch of the RICHEN GROUP, a major international group of medical device manufacturers with a global commitment. The company specializes in developing the best solutions for patients in the field of gastroenterology. Over the years our R&D department has excelled in the design and development of high-performance safe equipment and reagents for the diagnosis of *Helicobacter pylori* infection.

Since 2015, the Richen Group has been supporting the European Helicobacter & Microbiota Study Group (EHMSG) as Platinum Sponsor. The **European Helicobacter & Microbiota Study Group** (EHMSG) was founded in 1987 thanks to a collaboration of Helicobacter pioneers who created networks in their own countries and now represent their national networks to the European study group. This multidisciplinary group is composed of one representative from most countries of the European Union and organizes an annual workshop in a different country every year.

The Richen group is always looking for new ways to increase the quality, reliability and certainty of diagnostic results as well as recognising the needs of its customers and working with research groups to further develop its research portfolio. Thanks to this philosophy, the Richen group is launching its first ever research competition, which aims to encourage and support early career medical researchers to conduct studies and generate results within a 1-year timeframe, enabling them to apply for more substantive competitive funding.

Richen is offering to each successful applicant 1 instrument (plus accessories and kits) on a free loan for the duration of the Research Project. Richen Europe shall offer assistance and training and will be the reference contact for the duration of the Project.

Proposals may be in any area relevant to research into the diagnosis of *Helicobacter pylori* infection. Applications must be submitted on the official form and adhere to instructions within these guidelines.

Assessment Procedure

In assessing applications, the **Research Grants Panel (RGP)** gives consideration to:

- The originality of the application
- Assessors scores
- Expert comment from the RGP members

The RGP shall select up to 4 Research Projects from those submitted before the deadline of 18th August 2021. These applicants will receive the loan instrument and start their study (October 2021 – July 2022), together with a maximum of 100 kits free of charge. Further kits shall be provided by

Richen Europe at a special price dedicated to this Open Competition. At the end of the Research Project development (31/07/21) the applicants shall return the instrument to Richen Europe and the best research publication will be declared **winner of the 1st Richen Group Open Competition 2021-2022**. The winner will be announced during the XXXVth EHMSG Workshop in Glasgow and will be awarded with **1 new instrument** (same model of the one used during the Project's development) and a free registration to the 2022 Workshop.

Requirements and Details:

- The competition is open to all early career researchers including post-doc students and junior professionals in the field of gastroenterology from any country within the European Union.
- Research proposals may be in any area relevant to the diagnosis of a) *Helicobacter pylori* infection, including but not exclusively epidemiological, clinical and therapeutic aspects.
- The research project shall be developed during a period of maximum 10 months and its results must be presented to the Organizers by the deadline, in order to be considered for the final award selection.
- No funding will be awarded until all ethics approvals have been provided.
- It is strongly encouraged for all selected candidates to publish their research in a sectorial scientific journal/magazine/review or general publication to be presented to the Competition's organizers. Whilst the candidates shall remain the sole owners of the publication, the latter must acknowledge that projects have been supported by Richen Europe.
- For an application to be valid, candidates must submit:
 - ✓ the application form with personal data
 - ✓ copy of ID
 - ✓ detailed curriculum vitae (max. 2 pages)
 - ✓ official statement of professional status
 - ✓ description of the Project's objectives and Research background
 - ✓ instrument needed (for research type a or b) and number of foreseen tests/patients
 - ✓ Research Project's duration (max. 10 months)
 - ✓ Draft calendar of the project and its expected publication date

It does not represent a reason for exclusion if the research study is already being funded by a different entity, which shall however be by no means in contrast or in competition with Richen Europe and the EHMSG Organization. This other funding must be mentioned in the application process.

The studies shall be presented in English language only.

The complete dossier must be sent in a single attachment to the attention of the Organizer's contact e-mail a.citrino@rceu.eu. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Aligned with the EU competition rules, the Organizers shall accept applications without discrimination on grounds of sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of national minority, property, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation.

Calendar and deadlines:

- 22/3 – 18/8/2021: Presentation of applications;
- 18/9/2021: Announcement of 4 selected Research Projects;
- by 30/9/2021: Delivery of equipment and training of candidates;
- 01/10/2021 – 30/7/2022: Undertaking of selected Research Projects;
- 31/7/2022: Deadline for submission of presentation/poster to the Organizers;
- 08 – 10/9/2022: Announcement of Competition's winner.