



Y-ASAS Research Team: Project Description and Standard Operating Procedure

Project title	Y-ASAS Congress Grant
Project Leader(s)	Rodrigo García Salinas
Co-Leader(s)	Carla Saad, Mikhail Protopopov, Marleen van de Sande, Steven Zhao, and Valeria Ríos Rodríguez, Fabian Proft, Manouk de Hooge
Version	1.02

1. Relevance to ASAS

ASAS is committed to supporting the development of Young ASAS (Y-ASAS) members interested in spondyloarthritis research. Presenting research findings at international conferences is an essential part of dissemination of results, developing generic research skills, and networking. However, costs of conference attendance can be prohibitive for junior researchers. Through the Y-ASAS congress grant, ASAS seeks to support junior researchers to present their research at EULAR and ACR congress.

2. Overarching aims

The aim of the "Y-ASAS Congress Grant" is to provide financial support to Y-ASAS members who will present their axial spondyloarthritis research results at the EULAR or ACR congress.

3. Envisioned benefit/impact on target audience

Providing financial support for the dissemination of research projects led by Y-ASAS members is fully in line with the general scope of Y-ASAS to promote and facilitate research and knowledge sharing among the Y-ASAS community and to facilitate the dissemination of these projects with the clinical community in general.

Through this support, the members of Y-ASAS benefit from the active participation and in-person of the most relevant congresses of rheumatology showing their scientific productions. An additional educational benefit is the opportunity to gain experience in presenting your research alongside opinion leaders.

4. Project overview

- The Y-ASAS congress grant will provide financial support for one applicant per conference per year: one supporting attendance to EULAR and one for ACR.
- Y-ASAS members, whose research abstract has been accepted (whether as oral presentation, poster tour/ignite talk or poster) can apply for the grant. If the abstract is accepted for the abstract book (i.e., not requiring presentation), the applicant is NOT eligible.
- The research project and corresponding abstract must deal with a topic related to axial spondyloarthritis to be eligible for the Y-ASAS congress grant.
- The Y-ASAS Congress Grant application call will be launched with the acceptance confirmation dates of each congress (generally last week of March/first week of April for EULAR, and end of August/beginning of September for ACR) via email. The application call will be open up to 2 weeks after the acceptance confirmation dates for each congress.
- The applicant will submit:
 - Completed application form
 - Email from EULAR/ACR congress confirming the acceptance of the abstract and in which format.
- A review committee (detailed on the next section) will review each application.
- The financial support will provide a maximum of 2,500€ per person per congress and will be used for congress registration fees, travel costs and lodging during the congress period.
 - Flights should be booked by the grant recipient and are limited to economy class only.
 - Hotel accommodations should be booked by the grant recipient for the duration of the congress, plus one additional night before and after, if required by the travel schedule. Any extra nights will need to be covered by the recipient. Hotel rooms must be for single occupancy. Costs associated with additional guests or spouses will not be covered by the travel grant.
- The travel grant is not transferable and can only be used by the designated recipient.
- In the event of cancellation, the beneficiary will not be reimbursed for any non-recoverable costs.



5. Project detailed organization (standard operating procedure)

1) Call for applications:

After the communication of ACR and EULAR of the acceptance of the abstracts, a communication will be sent through the official channels of ASAS: email, website announcement and social media.

2) Who can apply:

- Y-ASAS members, with:
- a research abstract with an axSpA-related topic, that has been accepted as oral presentation, poster tour / ignite talk or poster in the EULAR or ACR congress
- Applicants who were NOT previously awarded with the Y-ASAS Congress Grant for that specific abstract.
- Applicants may apply with one or more SpA research abstracts for the same congress (in the same application); only those in which the applicant is the main/presenting author will be considered.

3) Application times:

- Call for application: at time when acceptance is confirmed.
- Deadline for application: **2 weeks**
- Review period: **3 weeks**.
- Decision of the chosen applicants for the Grant: up to **1 week**

4) Application form

- a) The applicant must complete the application form and attach the email from EULAR/ACR congress confirming the acceptance of the abstract and in which format the abstract will be presented.
 - The form will be sent within the stipulated time from the call to the email: youngasas@asas-group.org.

5) Review Committee

- a) During the month of December of the year prior to the congresses the review committee members will be appointed with the term of 1 year: the ASAS EC-liaison of Y-ASAS Education Team (anno 2024: Lianne Gensler), 1 Y-ASAS leader and a member of the Y-ASAS educational team (appointed by the team leader). The coordinator for the review process will be the leader of the Education Team.

Reason for not reviewing: co-authorship and/or any other (personal) reasons for a conflict of interest.

- b) The committee will review the proposals according to the form and files, fill up the score sheet, and send the score sheets to the coordinator.
- c) In case of a tie, there will be preference to candidates that were never/less often in EULAR/ACR in the last 3 years and/or preference to candidates working outside of Europe or USA/Canada.
- d) The coordinator will notify the results to the Y-ASAS leaders, the EC-liaison of the Education team and the President of ASAS for final approval. After the approval, all applicants will receive an email informing whether they were awarded with the Y-ASAS Congress grant or not.

6) Scoring Sheet (Points to consider)

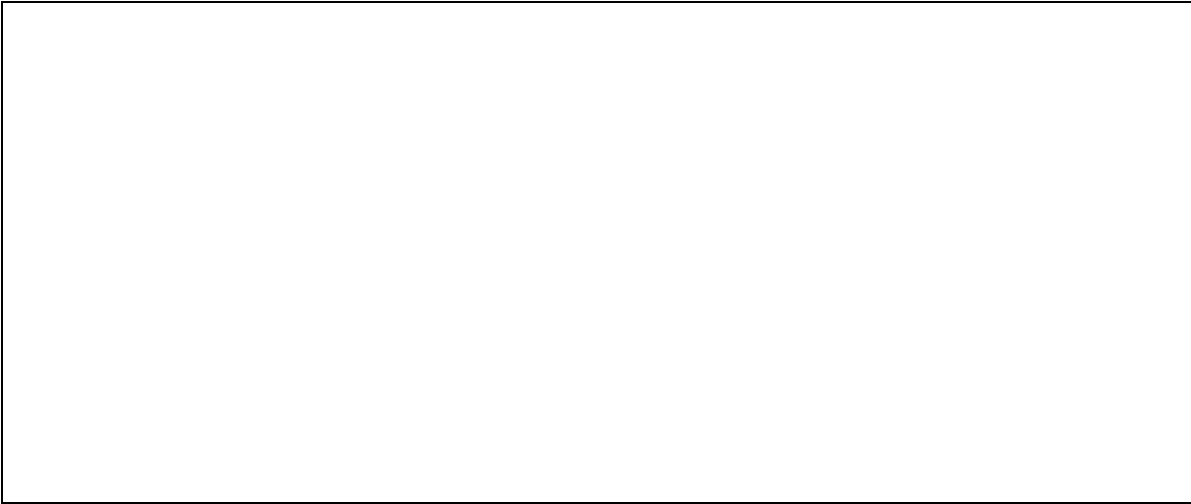
- a) The applicant is a Y-ASAS team member.
- b) Relevance of the abstract for ASAS.
- c) Motivation letter and CV.
- d) Format of the presentation.
- e) List of publications
- f) The applicant has more than one accepted abstract (as lead author or co-author)
- g) The applicant has never received the Y-ASAS Congress Grant (point will be given to first time awardees)

7) Accreditation of the grant.

The Y-ASAS Congress Grant money will be transferred to the awarded candidate as a refund after the congress once the applicant provides the receipts (invoices) to the ASAS Treasurer.

8) Acknowledgement.

Young ASAS should be clearly acknowledged on the poster or as part of the presentation by using name and logo.



6. Appendices

- Application form
- Scoring sheet