

# Beyond animal testing, transitioning towards OOC #OOctransition

## Supporter Intro

At Bi/ond we believe in a future where pharmaceutical development will not rely on animal testing, and organ-on-chip (OOC) technology has the potential to make this possible.

Even though OOCs address essential biological needs and promise to eventually replace animal testing, they are far from becoming a standard tool in every biological lab. Bi/ond aims to accelerate the transition towards OOC launching a call for researchers to develop better models.

The success and the accuracy of these models will be the result of joint efforts between research, industry, regulatory systems and associations, this is why we need the help of organizations and institutes to promote the initiative.

In this file you will find all the information regarding the call, and the possible ways how you and your organization can support the initiative.

## I. Info about the call:

### Purpose of the call

Promote and accelerate the development of OOC models that could replace animal testing.

### Who can apply

Researchers working in academic institutions located in Europe.

### What to apply for

The winner of the call, will receive an in kind contribution from Bi/ond, with an estimated value of € 15,000.00. With this budget Bi/ond will help the winner to transition from their current model to one based on OOC.. This grant will cover the following costs:

- Organ-on-chip hardware (chips and interface);
- F2F trainings;
- 24 hours a day online support.

Project duration: six months.

The remaining applicants who will not receive the grant, will be eligible for a 20% discount on Bi/ond products.

## How to apply:

The applicants will have to submit a 2 pages research project proposal before the deadline below. All submissions should contain non-confidential information only. Applicants information will be collected and stored in accordance with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

## When to apply

Applications received until the cut-off date will be evaluated and projects will be selected for funding.

- The launch of the initiative is the 13<sup>th</sup> of October 2020.
- The deadline for submitting full proposals is 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2020, 5 pm CET.
- Announcement of results: 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2021.

The selected project will have to start latest by: 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2021.

## Assessment Criteria

In this call, the proposals are assessed according to the following four assessment criteria:

1. Problem posed and problem analysis, contribution to solution
2. Expected impact and route to impact to replace animal testing
3. Quality of the team
4. Quality of the research

Criterion 1 carries 25% weighting in the overall assessment, criterion 2 a weighting of 35%, and criteria 3 and 4 carries both a weighting of 20%.

To qualify for the founding in this program, applicants must meet the following conditions which are set out below:

1. The research performed within the *OOC Transition* initiative is both 100% free of laboratory animals and does not involve animals in any other way. This means that Bi/ond will not fund project that use slaughter house material or animal species falling outside the definition of the Animal Experiment Act;
2. The partners are willing to participate in communication about the research via Bi/ond and our supporter channels. Example include interviews, newsletters, photos, videos, etc. These forms of communications are always agreed in advanced with the parties involved;
3. Where the applications concern in vitro models, the use of Fetal Calf serum (FCS)-free media is strongly advised.

## Procedure

The selection committee will be composed by the Bi/ond team and referees selected by Supporter+ organizations (see Section II to know more). The committee will grade the proposals using the criteria listed above. The applicants will be informed about the evaluation of their proposal the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2021. No rebuttal phase is planned for this grant.

## II. How you can help the OOCtransition initiative

### Supporters type

If your organization wants to help the initiative, you can choose between two options: becoming a Supporter or a Supporter+.

Types of supporters		
	Supporter	Supporter+
What your organization does for the initiative	<p>Sharing/re-sharing posts related to the initiative on social media accounts, to attract more researchers to apply for the call.</p> <p>Writing articles/blogs/newsletters about the initiative and the winner project.</p>	<p>Your organization helps Bi/ond in the definition of the grant. Your organization can increase the value of the grant in multiple ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funding part of the activities/materials during the 6 months project;</li> <li>- Funding part of the trainings;</li> <li>- Paying the subscription to a Scientific Journal for the winner.</li> </ul> <p>Sharing/re-sharing posts related to the initiative on social media accounts, to attract more researchers to apply for the call.</p> <p>Writing articles/blogs/newsletters about the initiative and the winner project.</p>
What the initiative does for your organization	<p>Your organization will be inserted and acknowledged in the promotion material related to the initiative. Your logo and more info about your organization will be displayed in the application webpage. Moreover, we will promote your activities and organization during and after the initiative through our social media accounts.</p>	<p>Your organization become an active participant in the selection process of the winner. One of the organization employees becomes part of the selection committee.</p> <p>You will have the chance to give a presentation during an online event/webminar that is going to announce the winner.</p> <p>Your organization will be inserted and acknowledged in the promotion material related to the initiative. Your logo and more info about your organization will be displayed in the application webpage. Moreover, we will promote your activities and organization during and after the initiative through our social media accounts.</p>

It is important to highlight that by becoming a Supporter or a Supporter+ you are not supporting Bi/ond, but the *OOC Transition* initiative and the winner of the grant.

### III. Next step

Complete the form provided with this file and submit it to [info@biondteam.com](mailto:info@biondteam.com) before the 28th of September.