MLMI Early Career Travel Awards 2027

1. Purpose

The Mediterranean Lifestyle Medicine Institute (MLMI) will offer **three competitive travel awards** to recognize outstanding scientific contributions and support the participation of students and early-career professionals in the **5th MLMI International Symposium, June 9–12, 2027, Leros, Greece**.
The awards will be allocated according to final ranking:

- **First Award: €1,000**
- **Second Award: €750**
- **Third Award: €500**

All recipients must meet the eligibility requirements and minimum assessment scores. Awards are fixed cash payments, independent of actual travel expenses.

Registration for the 2027 MLMI International Symposium is mandatory.

2. Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- **Career stage:** Postgraduate students, doctoral candidates, clinical trainees, and researchers or health professionals within five years of completing their final formal professional or research training (e.g., post-doctoral training for PhDs or clinical fellowship for MDs). Documented career breaks will be considered.
- **International eligibility:** Applications are welcome from all countries and relevant disciplines. Established senior professionals pursuing an additional degree are not automatically eligible.
- **Scientific contribution:** Applicants must submit an abstract that is accepted for oral presentation at the symposium. Recipients must attend in person and personally deliver their presentations. Poster presentations are not eligible.
- **Relevant work:** Original research, systematic reviews, and evaluated clinical, educational, or community initiatives related to lifestyle medicine and healthy living environments are eligible.
- **Award limit:** Each applicant may receive only one award.

3. Assessment and Selection

Applications and oral presentations will be evaluated using the following criteria:

Assessment criterion	Maximum score
Scientific quality and methodological rigor	40
Relevance to lifestyle medicine and the symposium theme	30
Expected professional or community benefit	10
Communication skills and quality of oral presentation	20
Total	**100**

Applicants must achieve a minimum of **28/40 in scientific quality** and **70/100 overall** to qualify for an award.
At least two independent reviewers will evaluate each submission. Reviewers must declare any conflicts of interest and withdraw from assessing their own students or collaborators. A third reviewer may be appointed when necessary.
Selection will take place in two stages:

1. **Pre-symposium assessment:** Submitted abstracts and supporting applications will be evaluated for eligibility, scientific quality, relevance, and expected benefit.
2. **Symposium assessment:** Oral presentations will be evaluated for communication skills and presentation quality. Final scores and award rankings will be determined after the presentations.

Final scores will be calculated as the mean of the reviewers' scores for each criterion. Eligible applicants meeting both minimum thresholds will be ranked by their total scores. Ties will be resolved by scientific-quality scores, followed by an independent review if necessary.
Fewer than three awards may be granted if insufficient applicants meet the eligibility and assessment requirements.

4. Application Requirements

Applicants must submit:

1. An abstract submitted for consideration for oral presentation, including its reference number.
2. A one-page CV indicating current academic or professional status and relevant training dates.

3. A brief statement (maximum 200 words) explaining how participation in the symposium will benefit their professional development or community.

Additional documentation confirming eligibility may be requested.

5. Award Conditions and Payment

- Awards are fixed cash payments of **€1,000, €750, and €500**, based on final ranking, and are not reimbursements for travel or accommodation expenses.
- Recipients must attend the symposium in person and personally deliver their accepted oral presentations.
- Applicants will be notified by March 1, 2027, of their abstract acceptance for either a poster or oral presentation, as well as their eligibility for a travel award.
- Final rankings will be confirmed following the assessment of oral presentations.
- Awards will be presented during the symposium and paid by bank transfer or bank check, subject to verification of eligibility and presentation requirements.
- Recipients must provide appropriate identification and acknowledge receipt of their awards.
- Awards are personal and cannot be transferred to co-authors or other individuals.
- A ranked reserve list will be maintained. If an applicant withdraws or fails to deliver their presentation, the next eligible applicant may be selected according to the final assessment scores.
- The total award allocation will not exceed **€2,250**.

The MLMI Scientific Committee will oversee the selection process and ensure that all awards are granted fairly and transparently.