RICHEN EUROPE S.R.L.
COMPANY OF RICHEN GROUP

4th RICHEN GROUP OPEN COMPETITION FOR THE RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF HELICOBACTER PYLORI AND MICROBIOTA 2026-2027

Evaluation process

The selection of the Research Project is made by the **Research Grant Panel (RGP)** and is divided into two phases:

- First selection coordinated by the Scientific Committee in Serbia, based on the Project's clinical value and potential in the field of research;
- Second evaluation of the accepted Research Projects coordinated by Richen Europe and based on their interest and applicability;

The scoring metrics will be as follows:

- **Scientific assessment of the Project** (max. 50 points)
- **Candidate's CV assessment** (max. 20 points)
- **Project's applicability** (max. 20 points)
- **Candidate's age** (under 35 will be an advantage) **and background** (max. 10 points)

- Applications can be submitted from 31st July to 20th November 2026. The results will be announced on 21st December and shall immediately be available on the EHMSG website www.ehmsg.org , where all the Competition's details can be found;
- The RGP shall select 1 Research Project from a minimum of 4 valid applications. The selected candidate shall receive the required instrument for the agreed timeframe of the Research Project;
- The selected candidate will be informed by e-mail about the procedure for the delivery free of charge of the instrument and accessories. A training shall be provided by the Richen Europe staff and the instrument will immediately be available for the Project's development (max. 6 months);
- At the end of the Research Project (July 2027), upon completion of all requirements and following the presentation of the results, the instrument used for the Research Project may be donated to the University/Hospital/Research Center where the awarded candidate is employed;
- At the end of the Research Project, the results shall be presented to the Organizers through a presentation and poster summarising its content, as well as the bibliography. The same

results shall be presented during the XLth Workshop in Athens 2027. The winner will be granted:

- **1 Free registration to the XLth EHMSG Workshop in Athens 2027**;

- Availability free of charge of the **instrument** used during the Research Project, which will be donated by Richen to the University/Hospital/Research Center;

- Invitation to speak during the Richen Symposium at the 2027 Workshop in Athens, in order to present the Research Project's results to a broad and specialized public.

Terms and Conditions

1. The aim and objectives of each submitted Research Project shall be clearly mentioned, in order to allow the project to be evaluated. **All projects must be submitted in English**;
2. The Research Project results shall mention the information about the Richen instrument and kits used for the study;
3. Richen Europe will discuss with the selected applicant upon the number of kits needed to perform the Research Project. Richen Europe shall provide up to 100 kits free of charge. A further amount of kits shall be provided at a special price dedicated to the Open Competition and to be agreed upon before the beginning of the Research Project;
4. **Ethics approval** is considered an essential requirement and shall be considered during the evaluation process. Failure to comply with this point shall result in the application's exclusion;
5. The Resarch Project shall be completed and its results presented to the Organizers before the deadline (max. 6 months from the delivery of the instrument), in order to be considered for the final award;
6. The awarded candidate shall present to the Competition's Organizers a list of possible scientific journals/magazines/reviews or other publishing entities that shall be contacted for the publication of the Research Project's results whether its validity is confirmed by scientific data;
7. With the new rules introduced for inter-personal relations by the COVID-19 pandemic, Richen highly recommends the new Breath Testing protocol of use for patients and clinicians that the EHMSG recently finalized;
8. In Europe, the use of **citric acid** for Urea Breath Testing is widespread and recommended, but there is no worldwide consensus yet. In the scope of this Open Competition, specifically for Projects in the area of Helicobacter pylori, Richen Europe will provide the awarded candidate with kits including citric acid powder and requests all participants to mention this information in their final report.