Investigator Initiated Trial in Surgery

This call of the SGC is targeted at surgeons who wish to conduct an investigator initiated clinical trial in the field of surgery. Support will be given to trials that are of value to the patients while addressing important, unmet medical and societal needs. The target of the call are clinical trials aiming to change surgical practice by targeting clinically relevant endpoints.

Applicants must submit a letter of intent (LOI) to SGC Secretariat (info@sgc-ssc.ch) by March 1st 2026, 5 p.m. Swiss local time.

The studies are to be designed and conducted according to the highest international standards.

Clinical trials are defined and regulated by the Ordinance on Clinical Trials with the exception of Clinical Trials of Medical Devices (Clinical Trials Ordinance, ClinO). This translates into a research project in which persons are prospectively assigned to a health-related intervention.

This call requires a multicentric setting. Inclusion of non-university surgical departments is encouraged.

Excluded from support are:

- Studies conducted for direct commercial purposes
- Pilot studies
- Proof of concept studies (phase I and phase IIa)
- Studies with safety endpoints only
- Observational studies
- Preclinical studies

Applicants
Full members of the Swiss Surgical Society are eligible to submit applications.
The members of the research group have clearly defined roles and responsibilities with regard to the implementation of the project as a whole.

Selection process
After the submission of the LOI a first selection will be performed within the board of the SGC. Afterwards selected research groups will be invited to write a full proposal. In this round of selection, an external review of selected experts in the field of surgical research will be performed.

Financial support
A total of 100’000 CHF is available and may be distributed to one or more projects. Submission of projects that are additionally supported by matching funds by other funding agencies, hospitals, donations or industry are welcome.

Deadlines:
Letter of intent: March 1st 2026
Communication of selected projects: May 1st 2026
Final protocol: October 1st 2026
Final decision: January 31st 2027

Letter of Intent

1. **Trial Synopsis** (*grey shaded fields marked by "*" are mandatory)*

Tentative title of trial*	*Insert a descriptive title identifying the study design, population, interventions, and, if applicable, study acronym. Maximum 180 characters, incl. spaces.*
Responsible applicant*	*Indicate the name, institution, position, role, phone number, and e-mail address of the applicant responsible for communication with the SGC.*
Other applicants*	*Indicate the name, institution, and position of each applicant, as well as her/his specific role and responsibility in the project. The number of applicants (including the responsible applicant) is limited to 5 persons.*
Clinical trial unit involvement*	☐ Yes - Name of clinical trial unit: ☐ No
Sponsor*	*Indicate the sponsor or sponsor investigator of the planned study including the contact information.*
Surgical field(s)*	
Trial type*	☐ Interventional (according to Article 2 letter b ClinO) ☐ Prospective ☐ Randomized ☐ Controlled
Trial duration (optional)	• (if applicable) Preparatory phase (months) max. 12 months: • First patient in to last patient in/Recruitment period (months): • Follow-up per patient (months): • Duration of the entire trial (preparatory phase, recruitment, follow-up, analysis) max. 60 months:
Endpoints (optional)	Primary endpoint: Secondary endpoint:
Sample size (optional)	
Recruitment sites (optional)	No. of centres to be involved: Names of cities and centres:
Approximate Funding requested	Total amount: CHF
Co-funding, contributions and donations from third parties (optional)	☐ Co-funding – Type: ☐ Donation – Type: Name of third party: Amount: CHF

2. **Abstract**

Describe the background, rationale, aim(s) and the methodology of the planned study. The abstract should not exceed 4000 characters, including spaces.

Submission of the full proposal

Clinical trial unit involvement

The involvement of a clinical trial unit (CTU) is recommended. If a CTU is involved, a letter of support describing its involvement must be submitted together with the letter of intent as well as the full proposal.

Providing open access to research data

Clinical trials funded must be registered and trial protocols made publicly accessible on a trial registry (SNCTP portal as well as on any WHO primary registry or ClinicalTrials.gov) before the first participant receives an intervention. After completion of the study, appropriately anonymised datasets must be made available for further analysis wherever possible.

Recruiting centres

Recruiting centres must confirm their participation in writing. These confirmations (letters of commitment) are of central importance for assessing the feasibility of the study and must include the following items:

- Confirmation of participation in the trial (giving the title of the trial and PI's name)
- Name and position of the person responsible for patient recruitment;
- Number of patients to be included in the trial at the centre;
- Evidence for the feasibility of patient numbers, e.g. experiences made in previous studies, patient registers or retrospective case studies.

Patient and public involvement (PPI)

In the research plan, applicants must document their efforts and plans to actively involve patients, members of their family, carers, the public or the relevant patient organisations across the entire lifecycle of the project (from the design of the study to its management and conduct, data analysis, dissemination of results and final evaluation).

Full proposal

For the submission of the full proposal the final proposal including requested funding is submitted. As a template for the study protocol templates available by Swissethics (https://swissethics.ch/) should be used.