



## The 10<sup>th</sup> European PRRS Research Award

Boehringer Ingelheim recognizes scientific excellence by awarding three research proposals with a funding of **25,000 Euro** each.

Boehringer Ingelheim, a global leader in animal health, honours three research proposals with a total funding of **75,000 Euro** (25,000 Euro each) to encourage further development of practical methods for controlling PRRS (Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome), and to recognize scientific accomplishments in this field.

The independent European PRRS Research Award review board is chaired by **Enric Mateu** (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) with members from across swine practice and academia: **Julia Stadler** (LMU Munich), **Nicolai Weber** (Danish Agriculture & Food Council), **Giovanbattista Danilo Guadagnini** (VetEvolution), **Michele Drigo** (University of Padova), **Carles Vilalta** (IRTA-CReSA) and **Torsten Pabst** (Tierarztpraxis Dr. Pabst).

*“This European PRRS Research Award really makes a difference as it brings the scientific world and swine practitioners together to decide on the funding of the three most important projects, answering the burning questions related to PRRS in the field.”*

**Marius Kunze**, Senior Global Technical Service Manager Swine, responsible for the Award.

In 2023, **Boehringer Ingelheim** has sponsored the annual European PRRS Research Award **for the tenth time**, already has funded a total of **750,000 Euro** for practical research projects.

For additional information on PRRS visit:

[PRRS.com](https://www.prrs.com)

Find the three winning proposals on the next pages.



## Developing a point-of-care diagnostic procedure for PRRS virus infection based on LAMP and real-time whole genome sequencing. (POC-PRRS).

- What was the current status of problem that let you submit your research proposal?

*“Time is a key feature in diagnostics. Performing diagnostics in situ, often referred to as point-of-care diagnostics, is a way to shorten results delivery. Point-of-care testing requires simplified diagnostic methods, like loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) and real-time next-generation sequencing (NGS).”*

- What is your study objective?

*“The first objective of the Project is to set up a point-of-care methodology for the diagnosis and characterization of PRRSV-1, to be applied in situ with portable tools and devices, and to generate results within approximately 24 hours. Once established, the second objective is to validate it using field samples collected for monitoring and diagnostic purposes.”*

- How does this PRRS Research Award help to accomplish this objective?

*“The combination of colorimetric RT-LAMP and Nanopore sequencing enables the detection and sequencing of PRRSV whole genome sequences (WGS) in approximately 24 hours, without requiring any large equipment, and at a competitive cost.”*



– Marti Cortey Marques,  
*Associate Professor*

Departament de Sanitat i  
Anatomia Animals, Universitat  
Autònoma de Barcelona



## Assessing the risk of porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus introduction in finishing herds.

- What was the current status of problem that let you submit your research proposal?

*“PRRS is one of the diseases that causes the greatest economic losses in pig production, also affecting the well-being of the animals and the morale of farmers and veterinarians. It is a disease that we have been suffering from since 1991 and for which we are not able to find a consistent solution.”*

- What is your study objective?

*“We still have many concerns about this disease, but one that worries us most is the way it enters farms. This study aims to delve into the possible entry routes into fattening farms that introduce negative piglets into areas of high and low pig density.”*

- How does this PRRS Research Award help to accomplish this objective?

*“For me, this award represents a stimulus and recognition of a curious spirit, with the interest of making a practical approach to real field problems.”*



– Albert Finestra Uriol,  
*Professor*

Facultat de Veterinària,  
Universitat de Lleida



## Air sampling method as tool for detection and surveillance of respiratory pathogens in pig herds.

- What was the current status of problem that let you submit your research proposal?

*Infections with respiratory pathogens like PRRSV are a major health concern in all pig-producing countries. In the absence of a global surveillance system, the control measures are inefficient to prevent reduced performance of the animals and increased production costs.*

- What is your study objective?

*The monitoring of respiratory pathogens in bioaerosols in the barn will provide an animal-friendly, easy and cheap alternative surveillance strategy to traditional individual and invasive sampling methods. This will lead to a more efficient and earlier detection of emerging pathogens, and facilitate the implementation of proper control measures more quickly.*

- How does this PRRS Research Award help to accomplish this objective?

*Through the European PRRS Research Awards, Boehringer-Ingelheim supports animal health and welfare by contributing to the implementation of easy tools at destination of farmers that ensure a better detection and control of respiratory pathogens.*



– Marylène Tignon,  
*Scientist*

Service viral enzootic,  
re-emerging and bee diseases  
Sciensano, Brussels

# Research Proposal Submission Instructions for Funding

## Specific Information:

Provide the following information for each project proposal. The proposal must be typed in no less than 12 point type, double spaced, and a maximum of eight pages including cover page, not including the, budget justification, or optional letters of recommendation (only the first eight pages will be read). The curriculum vitae is not part of the project proposal. Restrict the use of scientific acronyms in your proposal.

## Outline for Proposals:

**1. Complete and send the information to [paulina.hoerstermann@boehringer-ingenheim.com](mailto:paulina.hoerstermann@boehringer-ingenheim.com).** Please send also a 1-page Curriculum Vitae for the primary investigator.

### 2. Project Description:

- Current status of problem. Describe the significance of the problem, and summarize the current knowledge and status of the problem.
- Related research or experience of the investigators. Describe contributions or experience related to the proposal's topic.
- Project objectives. List multiple objectives separately. State the research question to be answered in each objective.
- Procedures to achieve the objectives. Include details of Experimental Design and Methods. Describe how the assays, procedures, and statistical tests will be done. For example, by following published procedures that are cited,

or unpublished procedures that are detailed in the proposal, or by submitting samples to an established service laboratory. Briefly explain key limitations or what might go wrong, and any alternative plan to overcome the problem.

**3. Originality and innovation. Briefly explain what is novel about the proposal.**

**4. Schedule/timeline for proposed research.**

**5. Value and practical benefits of the proposed research to the swine industry.**

**6. Budget for Project:**

- Explain the budget for proposal in regards of: Personnel, Expendables, Indirect costs, Travel, Equipment and Other.

- If the proposal cost exceeds 25,000 Euros, describe the funding available to support the total cost.

–In case you are interested in discussing a project and want to get further guidance, please don't hesitate contacting your Boehringer Ingelheim representative or send and email to [maris.kunze@boehringer-ingenheim.com](mailto:maris.kunze@boehringer-ingenheim.com)



# Further support needed?

To encourage Veterinarians in the field to prepare impactful proposals we offer the expertise of former Review Board member and successful applicant Prof. Tomasz Stadejek. Please contact him with your ideas and he can assist you to prepare your submission to the European PRRS Research Award.

**Tomasz Stadejek** graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Life Sciences in Lublin, Poland in 1990. From 1991 to 2011 he worked at the Department of Swine Diseases of the National Veterinary Research Institute in Pulawy, Poland. He obtained PhD degree in 1996 and DSc in 2002. He worked as a guest researcher at the National Animal Disease Centre and National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa, USA, National Veterinary Institute in Uppsala, Sweden and the National Veterinary Institute, Lindholm, Denmark.

In 2007 he was appointed by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) as an expert for PRRS, and in 2007-2011 he was the head of the OIE Reference Laboratory for PRRS. He is a member of Arterivirus Study Group of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV).

In 2008 he obtained the diploma of the European College of Porcine Health Management (ECPHM) and from 2011 to 2013 he was a board member and the secretary of the college.

Since 2012 he is full professor at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the Warsaw University of Life Sciences. His current research is focused on diagnostic and epidemiology of PRRSV, IAV, PCV2, PCV3 and emerging porcine parvoviruses.



–In case you need further support, please contact Tomasz Stadejek by sending an email to [tomasz\\_stadejek@sggw.edu.pl](mailto:tomasz_stadejek@sggw.edu.pl)