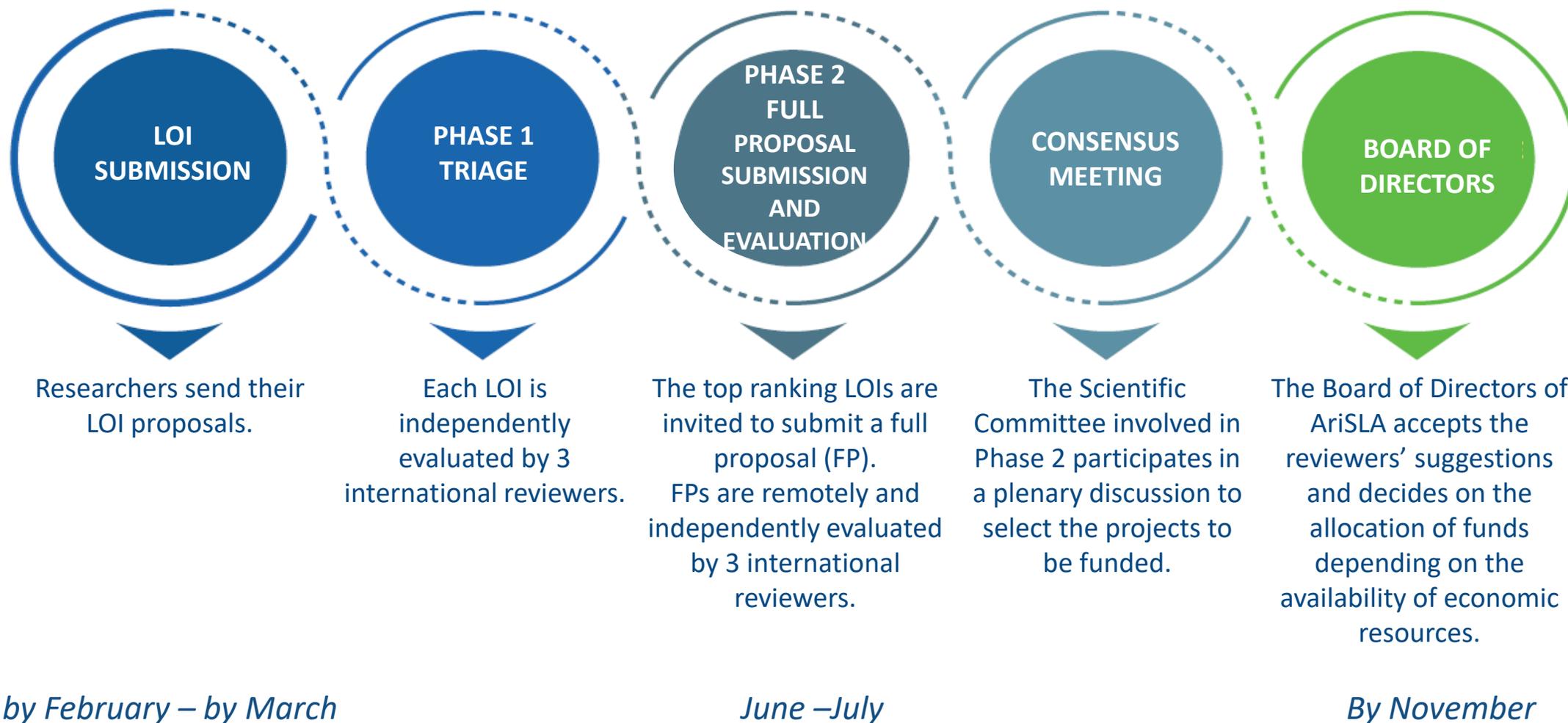


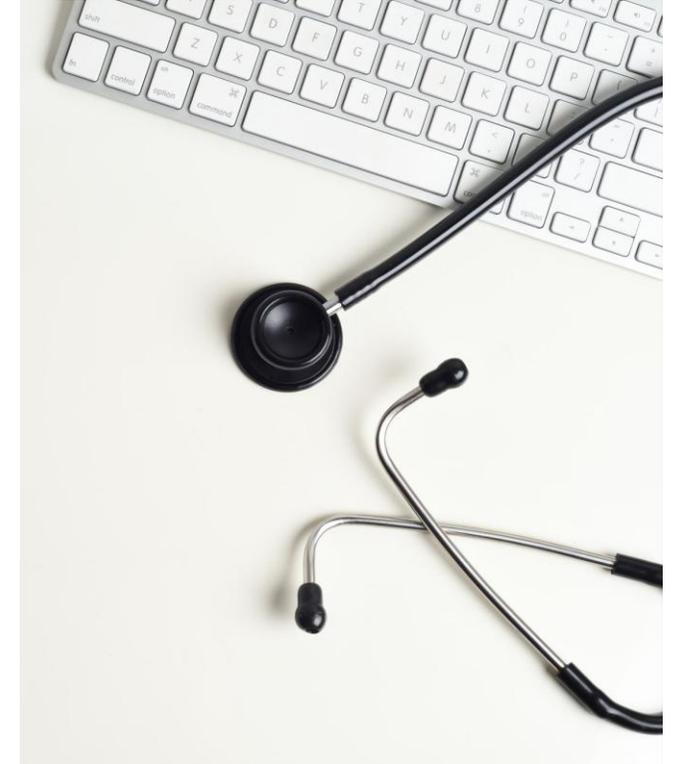
ARISLA CALL FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS 2026



ARISLA 2026 CALL: THE PEER-REVIEW PROCESS



- ❑ **Effective clinical measures for ALS**, including both diagnostic and theragnostic biomarkers
- ❑ **Natural history of ALS** from the pre-symptomatic to the disease state, to improve the knowledge of how the disease begins and progresses
- ❑ **Model systems** to provide information on human sporadic and genetic ALS
- ❑ **Molecular pathophysiological mechanisms of ALS also addressing clinical heterogeneity in ALS** with the aim of classifying ALS into subgroups



Interaction between basic research scientists **and clinicians** is highly encouraged. **Basic research is expected to be clinically informed**, integrating clinical characteristics to the interpretation of mechanistic studies.

ARISLA 2026 CALL: FULL OR PILOT GRANT

RESEARCH AREA: research projects in Basic, Pre-clinical and Clinical observational

FULL GRANTS: research projects with a **solid background and consistent preliminary data**

- Maximum amount of **240.000 euro, if single-center**
- Maximum amount of **300.000 euro, if multi-center**
- Maximum duration of **36 months**

PILOT GRANT: research projects with highly **innovative** and **original** hypotheses, without preliminary data

- Maximum amount of **80.000 euro**
- Maximum duration **12 months**
- Only monocentric

Please note that **during the LOI phase, only the total amount is required**, not the details of the various items, which will be requested during the Full Proposal phase.

DIRECT COSTS

Personnel	Costs for non-permanent staff (i.e., graduate students, PhD students, fellow student, post-doc or researchers without support granted by the Host Institution), other than the PI/Partner, are allowed, following rules of the Host Institution. The PI is obliged to report every staff change that will occur during the project implementation. Please note that the total annual labour cost should be indicated in the Application budget.
Material, supplies and equipment	Reagents, consumables and lab materials are considered eligible costs considering necessities and consistency to the project. Scientific equipment: purchase is allowed up to a maximum of € 20,000 for minor essential equipment. For each item, please justify the specific need for the project. Hardware/software purchase is allowed if strictly specific for the project up to a maximum of € 2,500.
Sub-contracting (services)	Applications may be assisted by sub-contractors. The sub-contractor provides external services or supplies which are necessary for the execution of the project. Total budget request for subcontracting must not exceed 20% of the funding requested to AriSLA each year.
Other expenses	Travels: project-related travel costs to visit Collaborators or Partners need to be justified. Expenses related to participation in Congresses are eligible up to a maximum of € 3,000/year/Applicant. Other costs include expenses for scientific publications, reprints, software (only if in line with the needs for the project), etc. The AriSLA Grant must be acknowledged in any material or scientific publication related to the financed project. Moreover, Investigators of a funded project should adhere to the Open access Policy (as indicated in AriSLA Dissemination Policy). For this reason, it is recommended to include in this category the fee costs for Open Access publications (please consider at least € 3,000/project).

Please consider that VAT is a cost for AriSLA. Therefore, the gross amount should be indicated for all item costs.

Please note that **during the LOI phase, only the total amount is required**, not the details of the various items, which will be requested during the Full Proposal phase.

INDIRECT COSTS

Overheads

Overheads can be required and include general expenses incurred by the Host Institution, administrative and maintenance costs, expenses for any machinery and equipment as part of the project activities. These costs are calculated as a lump sum. A maximum of 10% of incurred direct costs requested to AriSLA each year is allowed.

Non eligible costs:

- Salary of PI and Partner/s
- Full salaries for members of staff who already receive a regular wage
- Salaries, travel and other expenses related to sabbatical leave
- Membership in Scientific Societies
- Organization of meetings and workshops, if not functional for the activity of WP1 in case of Multi-centre Application
- Construction and/or renovation of space, furniture, rental of space or rooms, call charges and/or fax
- Setting up and maintaining animal facilities
- Purchase or repair of major basic equipment such as incubators, hoods, -80°C freezer

▼ **Control panel**

[Home](#) **LOI 2025 PILOT GRANT - id: 4007**

Open since: 20/01/2025 - 13:24:03 **Last updated:** 20/01/2025 - 13:24:03

[Delete Questionnaire](#)

[List of uncompleted mandatory questions](#)

[Print drafts](#)

▼ **Sections panel**

1 Privacy Statement and Declaration ✓	3 Overall description of the research project ✗	5 Reviewers ✓
2 General Information ✗	4 PI's Biographical Sketch ✗	6 Signature ✗

- Use 2024/2025 credentials or create new account if you never registered on the CBIM platform

Scientific contents

- SCOPE OF THE PROJECT/SUMMARY STATEMENT
- CENTRAL HYPOTHESIS, BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE
- RESEARCH PLAN
- SIGNIFICANCE AND NOVELTY
- PRELIMINARY DATA
- ROLE OF COORDINATOR AND PARTNERS
- ADHERENCE TO THE CALL'S PRIORITIES
- INDICATE HOW THE PROPOSED STUDY ADDRESSES THE PRIORITIES SET IN THE CALL

Eligible Host Institutions and applicants

- **Italian non-profit Institutes**, either public or private
- Applicants: **scientific competence, independence, capability** to self-manage the proposed project and **must operate in the Host Institution for the entire duration of the Grant**.
- Investigators: **maximum of 2 Grants** and can be **Principal Investigator (PI) of 1 Application only**.

Actual grantees

Applicants of ongoing AriSLA projects that are not expected to end by December 31, 2026, the following rules apply:

- a PI is not eligible to submit a new Application as PI, but can apply as Partner in one Multi-centre Application;
- a Partner of one ongoing project can apply for one new Grant, either as PI or Partner;
- a Partner of two ongoing projects is not eligible for the current Call.

Please note: If there are any changes during the evaluation process in the PI's and Partner's Host institution and/or **position please contact promptly** AriSLA Offices

Definition

- **Principal Investigator (PI)** is the scientific coordinator of the project, either in case of a Single-centre or a Multi-centre project.
- Project **Partners** are researchers directly involved in the project that will synergistically undertake part of the scientific work.
- **Collaborators** are researchers who provide support for minor parts of the project. **Economic coverage for collaborators is not provided by AriSLA.**

Declaration

- The Host Institution declares
 - The Applicant is authorised to submit the Application on its behalf (*General Information page*)
 - It will provide the necessary facilities and personnel to carry out the submitted research project. **If the Applicant is not holder of a permanent position, her/his salary needs to be provided through other means.**

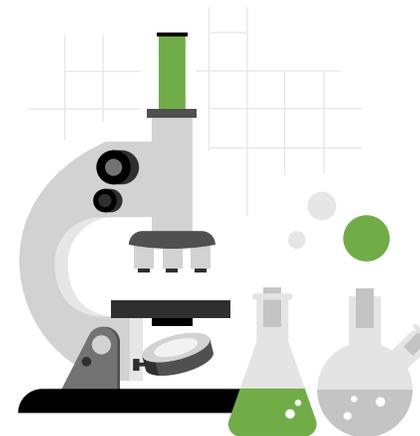


Renewal Application by a former grantee

- A “Renewal Application” is a new funding request **based on data from a previously funded AriSLA Grant**
- **Renewal Applications of previously funded Grants are encouraged**
- The “Renewal Application” of a previously funded Pilot Grant can only be submitted as Full Grant Application.
- The holder of a previously funded Pilot Grant may apply for another Pilot Grant as a “New Application” specifying the reasons of changing the research topic

Revised Applications

- The “Revised Application” should be modified **replying to the comments** received during the evaluation process and with previous AriSLA Call criteria.
- **Only up to two resubmissions** of a previously unsuccessful Application, not necessarily in consecutive years, are allowed.



THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The Committee conducts the evaluation process and makes funding recommendations on the basis of the criteria of the Call for Proposals to guarantee

- **impartiality** of judgement (no CoI) and confidentiality
- transparency and fairness of the evaluation
- Evaluation of **scientific excellence of the project** proposal
- attention to the **return of results on patients' quality of life**



Geographical distribution of members of the AriSLA International Scientific Committee

THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Participation is on **rotation** basis, and it is regulated by a **contract with AriSLA**

Confidentiality is preserved for a further period of **5 years** after the end of the contract

Composition may vary according to the type of applications being reviewed

Composition is **publicly available**. The identity of reviewers involved in each application is not disclosed to the applicant

- In order to **minimize conflicts of interest** (financial or otherwise), reviewers should not:
- have published together with the applicants at least in the past 3 years
 - be engaged in active collaborations with the applicants
 - be professional associates of the applicants

- ❑ They should **not currently work in Italian Institutions**
- ❑ **Avoid friends** (not associated with your work)
- ❑ **Highly qualified Scientists**, with specific interest in the argument of your grant proposal
- ❑ It is **better if AriSLA can rely on your suggestions**
- ❑ You can also **indicate reviewers you prefer don't see** your application for a given conflict



Full Grants

LOI evaluation

- Innovation and originality
- Quality and feasibility and experience of the applicant in the field



NOTE:

- Partner's contribution, complementarity of approaches and synergy are assessed by the Reviewers
- No indication of maximum number of centers

Full proposal evaluation

- Strength of the **background** and **rationale**.
- Availability of **solid preliminary data**
- **Objectives and methodologies**
- **Significance and expected impact** of the results **on the disease** knowledge and treatment
- **Investigator experience and synergy with Partners (if any):**
- Sound and effective exploitation of the **results derived from previously funded AriSLA Pilot/Full Grant** (if applicable).

Pilot Grants

LOI evaluation

- Innovation and originality
- Quality and feasibility



Full proposal evaluation

- Innovation
- Relevance of the project for ALS
- Significance and expected impact of the results on the disease knowledge and treatment
- Objectives and methodologies
- Capability to successfully carry out the project
- Potential for expected results to attract large-scale funding

HOW TO WRITE THE LETTER OF INTENT

Tell a compelling story:

- Generate interest in your scientific question
- Demonstrate the importance of your study
- Describe **concise** and **convincing** aims
- Indicate that you know what the expected results are

SUGGESTIONS

- Explain always the rationale**
- If your proposal is highly innovative, you'll need to make a very strong case for why you are challenging the **existing paradigm** and have **data to support** your innovative approach
- Make the review easier, **don't be redundant** with the content
- Define statistic analysis and power for significance**
- Avoid/limit experiments too dependent on success** and specify alternative approaches
- Ask your senior **colleagues** for feedback

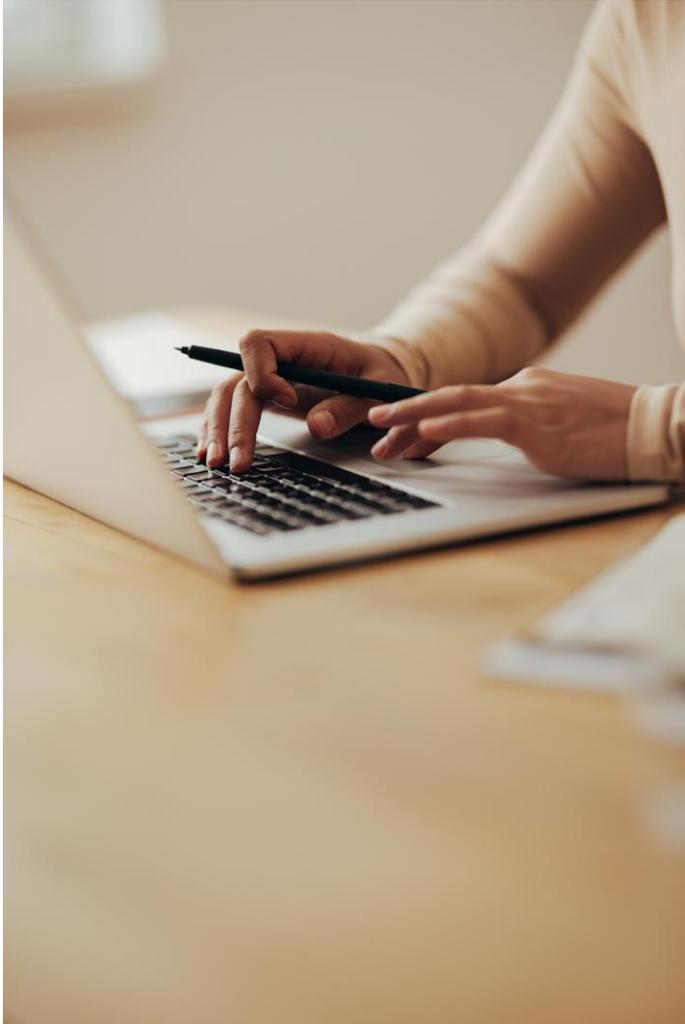
You have to convince reviewers that your proposal will work. If this is a completely new approach, no matter how exciting it might be, the grant panel will require some **evidence for its credibility**

HOW TO WRITE THE LETTER OF INTENT: RATIONALE

Background, rationale and objectives

- AriSLA funds only ALS related projects: **clearly and concisely introduce the disease characteristics you are proposing to investigate**
- **What is still missing?** capture the reviewers' attention by making an argument for why you should be funded. Tell the reviewers why testing your hypothesis is worth funding, why you are the person to do it!
- Define limited and specific Aims. **Do not propose too much**
- Your hypothesis must be demonstrable and the goals achievable with the required resources





Be honest and convincing!

Personal statement

- Good records in the topic
- Good records in the methods
- Experience in foreign laboratories

Independence of young investigators

- How many papers with the first/last name
- Any other/previous grants?
- How large is your group?
- Will you have the authorship of the proposed study?

Most common reasons cited by reviewers for an application's failure

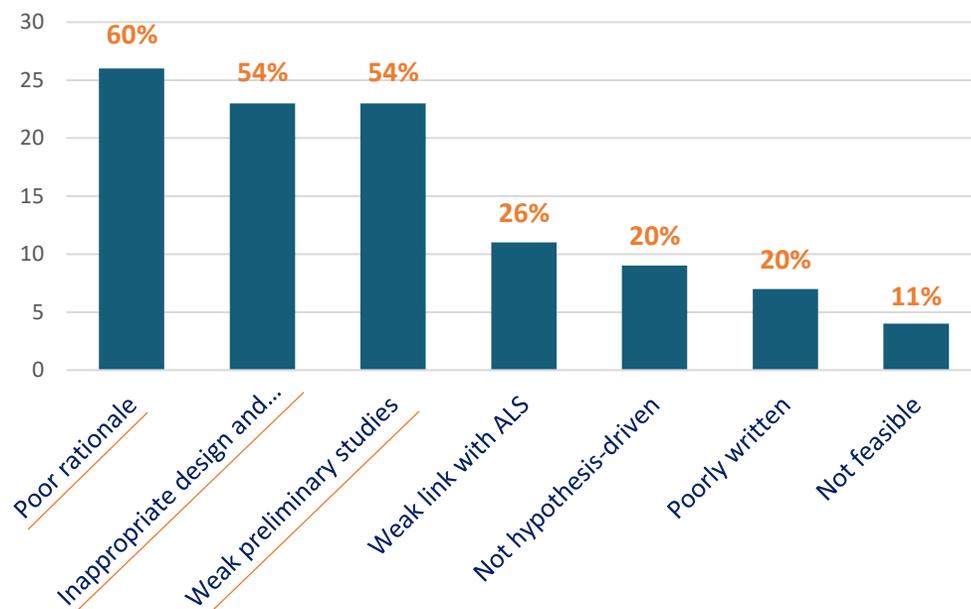
- **Not specific for ALS**
- **Poorly articulated hypotheses** / Lacking solid scientific basis
- **Weak preliminary data / Weak Rationale**
- **Not innovative** / Lack of original ideas
- **Unsuited methods and model systems**
- Too little detail - **no potential problems and pitfalls**
- **Over-ambitious research plan**
- **Insufficient** consideration of **statistical needs**. Sample sizes not justified with power calculations

INSIGHTS FROM 2025 ARISLA CALL: WEAKNESSES

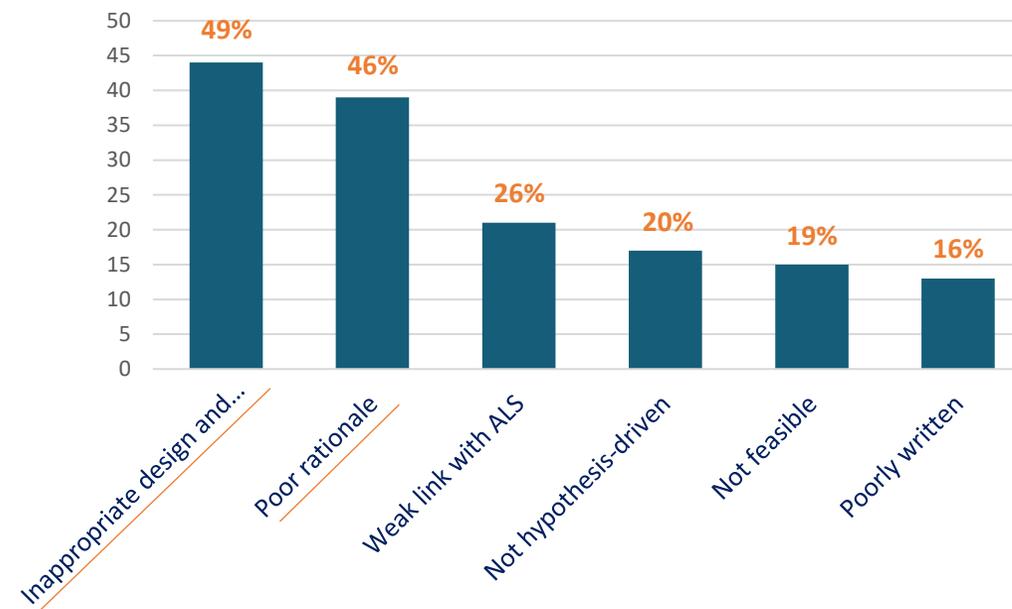
LOI WEAKNESSES

- Not feasible
- Poor rationale
- Inappropriate design and methods
- Poorly written
- Not hypothesis-driven
- Weak link with ALS
- Weak preliminary studies

FULL GRANT



PILOT GRANT



The **percentage** indicates the share of submitted projects reported with the specific weakness by at least one reviewer.

If you are not funded.... **Don't get discouraged.** You are not the only one!

Listen to your Reviewers

- Read the Review feedback carefully
- Perhaps if reviewers did not understand your work is because you did not make it clear and proved to be feasible
- You should learn from comments to re-write a more appealing grant the next year
- Try to understand and solve all the pitfalls

Suggestions for readings

- AriSLA Call for Research projects 2026
- Application guidelines 2026 Full Grant / Pilot Grant
- ISC members LOI Guidelines 2026

PLEASE READ THEM CAREFULLY AND CONTACT US IF YOU NEED SUPPORT

bandi@arisola.org

- *Guidebook for New Principal Investigators (Institute of Genetics, CIHR. By R. McInnes, B. Andrews & R Rachubinski)* https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/documents/ig_guide_for_new_pis_e.pdf
- <https://writingcenter.uagc.edu/writing-letter-intent>

Buon lavoro
dal
Team **ARISLA**!!