

Rules of procedure

(Version 6.1 – January 2026)

- **Objectives**

- To encourage the development of research projects within the GLADEL network, using data from both its **scientific** and **educational** areas.
- To promote the development of studies based on regional data with the support of the GLADEL network.
- To provide guidance for project development.
- To facilitate the publication of project results in indexed journals, preferably in English.

- **Justification of the Project**

- There are multiple reasons that discourage research and publications in english-language indexed journals in Latin America. These include issues related to governments (lack of investment in science, technology, and innovation); universities (lack of training programs in rheumatology, epidemiology, and research methodology); postgraduate studies (deficiencies in the number and geographic distribution of specialization programs in rheumatology, as well as master's and doctoral programs); researchers (lack of formally accredited researchers, compounded by brain drain to countries with better opportunities); lack of protected time for research (in Latin America, the majority of time is dedicated to patient care, both in the public and private sectors); publications (deficiency in scientific work production and publications in English-language indexed journals, open publication costs); citations (deficiency in citations due to the low percentage of innovative research, mostly published in local media and languages); patents and intellectual property (deficiency in patent registration and therefore intellectual property, which is the antithesis of economic power).
- To address these issues, GLADEL is launching the "GLADEL- Pro&Pub" program.

- **Data Source**

- **Scientific Area:** "Additional Projects" are those that use data from the original GLADEL cohort (1997) and/or GLADEL 2.0 (2019). "De Novo Projects" refer to new cohorts, specific registries, surveys, and other data collection methodologies proposed by researchers for future development.

Collaborative studies comparing the GLADEL cohorts with other worldwide cohorts are anticipated.

Although it is possible to request additional data beyond those included in the registries from investigators at GLADEL centers for the development of "Additional Projects," this practice is not recommended and will be considered when assessing the feasibility of the study.

- **Educational Area:** "Additional Projects" use data from the programs Let's Talk about Lupus, Falando do Lupus, and Is it Lupus?. "De Novo Projects" refer to educational projects proposed by researchers for future development.

- **Recipients**

- GLADEL network researchers: physicians, epidemiologists, biologists, specialized nurses, postgraduate students, professionals from other health fields, among others.

NOTE: At the time of submitting the scholarship application, the principal investigator (PI) must be a GLADEL member. If not, they must have applied previously. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.gladel.org/ser-miembro/sea-parte-de-gladel/cmo-solicitar-la-membresia-en-gladel-3849>

- **Presentation Proposal Format**

- Both "Additional Projects" and "De Novo Projects" must be submitted in the format established by GLADEL (see: Standard Operating Procedures - SOP. V5.1, Jan 2026)

- **Letter of Recommendation and Essential Aspects of the Proposal**

- A letter of recommendation from the Head of Service or Institution of the GLADEL center is mandatory. This letter should clearly describe the candidate's academic background, demonstrate the viability and interest of the proposed project for the working group, and guarantee the time available for its completion.
- The proposal must expressly indicate both the impact and innovation of the project, and specify the candidate/s journal/s for publication of the results.

- **Responsibilities of the Lead Author**

The lead author of an "Additional Project" or a "De Novo Project" is responsible for fulfilling and ensuring that their collaborators fulfill all stages of the research/publication process, which includes:

- Respecting the established work schedule.
- Submitting a progress report every 3 months to the GLADEL Scientific Committee.
- Maintaining open communication with their GLADEL-assigned mentor.

- o Presenting the results in abstract format at national/international congresses.
 - o Publishing the results in a timely manner, including sending the manuscript to all co-authors for review until approval, selecting the PubMed-indexed journal (mandatory), uploading the manuscript to the selected journal platform, addressing reviewer comments until final approval and publication of the manuscript.
 - o Failure to comply with these responsibilities may result in the GLADEL Scientific Committee and the Pro&Pub coordinators determining the cancellation of the scholarship.
- **Statistics**
 - o Projects arising from the analysis of data from the original or 2.0 GLADEL cohorts and from GLADEL educational projects (“Additional Projects”) must work with a member of the GLADEL statistics team. This statistician will be assigned once the project is selected to participate in the Pro&Pub program.
 - o For “De Novo Projects”, if the project investigator does not have access to a statistics team at their institution, they may request the services of the GLADEL statistics team.
- **Mentoring and Language Review**
 - o The investigator will have access to GLADEL’s mentorship services for both methodological project development and preparation and review of the manuscript for publication in a PubMed-indexed journal.
 - o Although the candidate may propose a specific mentor, mentor selection will be carried out by the Scientific Committee based on the characteristics and needs of the proposal and mentor availability.
 - o The mentor's role includes: methodological guidance throughout project execution, review of quarterly progress reports, review of the manuscript in English before submission for publication, and advising on responses to journal reviewers/editors.
- **Project Duration**
 - o The maximum time for project development, from authorization by the Scientific Committee to presentation at a National or International Congress, is 12 months. The maximum time for submission to an indexed journal is 18 months.
 - o Any delay in project execution or publication is considered exceptional and may only be authorized by the GLADEL Scientific Committee.
- **Presentation of Results at National/International Congresses**
 - o Presentation of study results in abstract format (poster/oral) is mandatory at a PANLAR congress and is secondarily recommended at other scientific forums (National, ACR, EULAR, others).
 - o The chronological order of presentation is flexible and subject to each event’s submission deadlines. The first presentation does not have to take place at a PANLAR congress.
 - o GLADEL will not cover costs related to abstract submission, congress registration, travel, or accommodation.

- **Publication in Indexed Journals**
 - The lead author of the project, subject to the mentor's recommendation, is authorized to select the PubMed-indexed journal where they want the project results to be published.
 - GLADEL will not cover costs related to manuscript submission, processing, or publication.

- **Authorship**
 - The authorship of manuscripts to be published must adhere to GLADEL regulations (see GLADEL – Authorship and Participations. V6.0, Feb 2025).

- **Project Fees**
 - A fee of USD 2,500 is established for each research project.
 - This money will be received by the project's lead investigator. The investigator may decide to share this money with their team members.
 - If the project simultaneously receives funding from the pharmaceutical industry, GLADEL may provide methodological and analytical support, but not financial support.
 - 50% of the fee will be paid once the project is approved by the GLADEL Scientific Committee, and the remaining 50% will be paid upon completion, along with the acceptance of its publication in English in a PubMed-indexed journal.
 - Each transfer made by GLADEL must be supported by an official receipt from the lead investigator or their designee.

- **Mentoring Fees**
 - GLADEL mentors will receive a fee of 2,000 US dollars per project.
 - 50% will be paid once the project is approved by the GLADEL Scientific Committee, and the remaining 50% will be paid upon completion, along with the acceptance of its publication in English in a PubMed-indexed journal.
 - Each transfer made by GLADEL must be supported by an official receipt from the mentor.

- **Project Selection**
 - Submitted projects will be evaluated by members of the Pro&Pub Program Scientific Committee, who will score them according to the following criteria:
 - Project feasibility
 - Innovation and originality of the topic
 - Local relevance
 - Objective
 - Study design and methodology

- Presentation and publication plan
- Based on the score obtained, projects will be ranked, and those with the highest scores will be selected to participate in the Pro&Pub Program.
- The number of selected projects will depend on scholarship availability, which will be defined and announced by the Scientific Committee prior to the launch of each edition.
- Applicants are encouraged to visit the GLADEL website to review ongoing projects and avoid topic overlap:
<https://www.gladel.org/investigacion/proyectos-nuevos-y-en-progreso/proyectos-nuevos-y-en-progreso-3841>