Request for Applications
Synthesis of Reference Material

1. Background

WADA is pleased to launch a Special Call for applications under its Science Research Grant program. This initiative seeks proposals from qualified research teams for the synthesis, purification, and comprehensive characterization of specific reference materials (please see priority list below). These materials are critical for advancing anti-doping analytical methods, including method development, validation, and quality control in WADA-accredited laboratories worldwide.

2. Priorities and eligibility of research proposals

Priority will be given to the synthesis of (one or more) the following substances:

a) Stable isotope-labelled (e.g., deuterated) alpha-hydroxy-salmeterol

b) Epimer of AC-262,536 [1]

c) Hydroxymetabolite of ACP-105 (M1b metabolite [2])

d) Metabolite of gestrinone (13β-ethyl-6α,17β-dihydroxy-18,19-dinor-17α-pregna-4,9,11-trien-20-yn-3-one)

The primary objective is to produce a batch of the above specified substances to be used as reference materials. The project should encompass the entire process, from synthesis to final delivery, and should include:

- Experimental design and execution of a robust synthetic route.
- Implementation of effective purification protocols.
- Comprehensive characterization using state-of-the-art analytical techniques.
- Demonstration of the material's purity, homogeneity, and stability.
- Delivery of a specified quantity of the final product to WADA with accompanying analytical data and Certificate of Analysis.

3. Application and decision process

Researchers interested in this RFA are invited to submit a full application (FA) **by 12 December 2025** (23:55 GMT) using the WADA Grants platform, with the following enclosures:

a) A project description (maximum five pages), including:

i. Substance(s) to be synthesized;

[1] M2 metabolite presented in Cutler C., *et al.* Equine metabolism of the selective androgen receptor modulator AC-262536 *in vitro* and in urine, plasma and hair following oral administration. *Drug Test and Anal*. v. 13, n. 2, p. 369-85, 2021.

[2] M1b metabolite presented in Cutler, C., *et al*. Identification of equine in vitro metabolites of seven non-steroidal selective androgen receptor modulators for doping control purposes. *Drug Test. Anal*. v. 14, n. 2, p. 349-370, 2022.

ii. Experimental design (route/method of synthesis, purification procedure);

iii. Characterization (analytical techniques applied for structural determination; purity, homogeneity and stability verification);

iv. Deliverables and anticipated outcomes: total estimated amount to be produced and delivered to WADA, will the material be certified (including concentration and associated uncertainty)? [3];

v. Timelines/milestones;

vi. Preliminary results (if available)

b) Information about the researchers (curriculum vitae), their home institution, and resources;

c) Detailed budget.

FAs must be submitted in English. All other relevant documents should be translated if the originals are in a language other than English.

Applicants are encouraged to contact WADA (science@wada-ama.org) for any assistance needed.

Full applications will be reviewed via a process that will involve independent experts and the WADA Health, Medical and Research Committee (HMRC), prior to the final WADA Executive Committee's approval. Applicants will receive decisions about full applications in April 2026.

[3] The material produced shall be accompanied by a Certificate of Analysis, including, at least, the following:

i. Concentration/amount (units) and associated uncertainty (if applicable)
ii. Total Volume
iii. Number and volume of vials (if aliquoted)
iv. Purity
v. Production and Expiration dates
vi. Conditions of shipment and storage