



## PRESS RELEASE

### ERC Awards Proof of Concept Grant (PoC) to INOLYSIS for Innovative Therapy Targeting Fibrosis and Inflammation in IBD

**Athens, Greece – 14 July 2025** - The European Research Council (ERC) has awarded a prestigious 2025 Proof of Concept Grant (FIBROLEAD) to **Professor George Kollias** and his team at [INOLYSIS](#) for the development of a novel oral therapy targeting chronic inflammation and fibrosis in Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD).

At the heart of the project is [VM-313](#), a novel oral small molecule that targets **fibroblasts**, key cellular drivers of chronic inflammation and fibrosis in IBD. Current therapies primarily target immune cells and often fail to address the fibrotic component of IBD, leading to relapses and surgical intervention. VM-313 is the first of its kind to deliver **dual anti-inflammatory and anti-fibrotic effects**.

*“While this project focuses on intestinal fibrosis, the underlying therapeutic approach has the potential to transform treatment across a range of fibro-inflammatory diseases — including idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, liver cirrhosis, systemic sclerosis, and chronic kidney disease, where scarring and chronic inflammation drive disease progression” says Prof. George Kollias, founder of INOLYSIS. “The ERC’s support enables us to build a stronger case for further investment and partnerships to advance this promising compound toward clinical development.”*

The €150.000 grant will support **preclinical studies** to validate VM-313’s safety and efficacy in IBD models, elucidate its **mechanism of action**, and develop a **commercialisation roadmap**. The project will also engage with biotech partners and pharmaceutical stakeholders to explore licensing and investment opportunities. VM-313 is protected under international patent **WO/2022/189636 (PCT/EP2022/056349)**, which is **exclusively licensed to INOLYSIS**.

FIBROLEAD is one of **150 projects** selected in the first round of the [ERC’s 2025 PoC Call](#), which drew 480 proposals from across Europe. Funded under the **Horizon Europe** programme, the ERC PoC scheme helps bridge the gap between frontier science and real-world innovation.

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