**AOTF Intervention Research Grant**
**2017-2018 FAQ**

**I am a private practice OT with a great idea for a study, can I apply?**
Your research must be administered by an eligible nonprofit.

**Is my research topic eligible for the IRG?**
Review the AOTF Research Priorities – does your topic fall into one of the categories?

**How many Letters of Intent are approved?**
There is no minimum or maximum number of Letters approved. All Letters that meet the criteria are given the approval to move forward to the application stage.

**Tips for submitting the Letter of Intent.**
- Review the eligibility criteria, priorities, objectives, approaches, and research criteria for the IRG. Do you have a match?
- Review descriptions of approaches for the IRG.
- Take note of deadline.
- Provide clear documentation and evidence that principal investigator, research mentor, and applicant organization meet minimum criteria.
- Complete the necessary advanced preparation for a proposal.
- Consider attending a grant writing workshop.

**Tips for submitting the Application**
- Review the application instructions when given the link and make special note of all the components that may take some time to complete.
- Take note of deadline.
- Develop a timeline that builds in a margin of error for problems.
- Develop a compelling specific aims page.
- Writing quality is important. Have someone proof your application.
- Attention to detail is important. All of the parts of the application must link together.

**If I receive the IRG, when will my grant begin?**
The annual cycle of the IRG will begin on July 1. However, the start of your grant will be delayed until we receive your IRB.

**How is the grant application reviewed?**
Every application is reviewed by the Scientific Review Group (SRG) – a team of experienced grant reviewers. The SRG uses NIH scoring criteria and looks at the LOI and application for an Overall Impact Score and five other categories as well as other considerations. The SRG meets by phone to discuss the top applications.

Overall impact score is the basis for identifying the top scoring applications. The SRG looks at the the likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved?

- Likelihood (i.e., probability)
  - investigator(s)
  - approach
  - environment criteria
- Sustained powerful influence
  - significance

- o innovation
- Research field(s) involved
  - o may vary
  - o is summarized by the reviewer

Scoring Criteria
- Significance
  - o Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field?
  - o If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved?
  - o How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?

- Investigators
  - o Are the PIs, research mentor, collaborators, and co-investigators well suited to the project?
  - o For PIs who are Early Stage Investigators or New Investigators, do they have appropriate experience and training? If established, have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)?
  - o If the project is collaborative or multi-PI, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise; are their leadership approach, governance and organizational structure appropriate for the project?

- Innovation
  - o Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions?
  - o Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense?
  - o Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?

- Approach
  - o Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project?
  - o Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented?
  - o If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility and will particularly risky aspects be managed?
  - o If the project involves clinical research, are the plans for 1) protection of human subjects from research risks, and 2) inclusion of minorities and members of both sexes/genders, as well as the inclusion of children, justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed?

- Environment
  - o Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success?
  - o Are the institutional support, equipment and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed?

o   Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements?

**What to do if this particular grant is not a good match or an invitation to apply is not received after submitting a LOI:**
- Examine the reasons that it is not a good match.
- Look at PI criteria, applicant organization criteria, mentor.
- Develop a professional development plan.
- Build your research network to expand your opportunities.
- Investigate opportunities to serve as a collaborator on another PI's grant.
- Explore internal and local foundations for funding.

**What to do if the application is not recommended for an award after review by the Scientific Review Group:**
- Review the summary statements and discuss them with your mentor.
- Determine whether it is possible to address the areas of weakness identified by the Scientific Review Group.
- If appropriate, revise the application to address areas of weakness and re-apply in the next grant cycle.

**Additional Questions?**
Contact AOTF at research@aotf.org.