

AOTF Intervention Research Grant 2016-2017 Award Guidelines

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| Preface | |
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| AOTF Mission and Vision | <p><i>Mission:</i> To advance the science of occupational therapy to support people’s full participation in meaningful life activities.</p> <p><i>Vision:</i> We envision a vibrant science that builds knowledge to support effective, evidence-based occupational therapy.</p> <p><i>Research Goal:</i> To support initiatives that build research capacity and advance knowledge related to occupation, health, and well-being.</p> |
| Statement of Intent for Funding of Intervention Research Grants | <p>The American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) awards Intervention Research Grants as part of its mission to advance the science of occupational therapy to support people’s full participation in meaningful life activities. The purpose of this grant program is to lay the necessary groundwork for larger intervention studies and support the profession’s Centennial Vision of occupational therapy as science-driven and evidence-based.</p> |
| Objectives | <p>The objectives of the AOTF Intervention Research Grants are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lay the necessary groundwork for larger studies to evaluate the effectiveness of occupational therapy interventions on occupation, participation, and health. • Align with future funding priorities and intended sources of funding. • Develop interventions that are client-centered, occupation-based, theory-driven, and manualized. • Lead to efficacy (research under tightly controlled conditions) or effectiveness (research under real-world conditions) trials. • Cultivate interdisciplinary research teams and partner with communities. • Include underserved and diverse populations in research. |
| AOTF/AOTA Research Agenda: Intervention Research Category | <p>The AOTF/AOTA Occupational Therapy Research Agenda was used to establish the funding priorities. (American Occupational Therapy Association and American Occupational Therapy Foundation, 2011). Please review the goals and priorities for the Intervention (Preventative, Restorative, Compensatory) Research Category and the Priority Populations.</p> <p>American Occupational Therapy Association & American Occupational Therapy Foundation (2011). Occupational therapy research agenda. <i>OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health</i>, 31(2): 52-54. Doi: 10.3928/15394492-20110118-01.</p> <p>American Occupational Therapy Association & American Occupational Therapy Foundation. (2011). Occupational therapy research agenda. <i>American Journal of Occupational Therapy</i>, 65(Suppl.), S4–S7. Doi:10.5014/ajot.2011.65S4</p> <p>THE AOTF/AOTA Research Agenda can also be found on the AOTF web site.</p> |

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| <p>AOTF Research Priorities</p> | <p>AOTF Research Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health behaviors to prevent and manage chronic conditions • Functional cognition • Safety and injury prevention in home, clinical and community settings • Technology and environmental supports in home and community • Development and transitions for individuals and families • Emotional and physiological influences • Family and caregiver needs • Health care experience: access, care coordination, utilization |
| <p>Priority Populations</p> | <p>The funding priority populations are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developmental disorders – e.g., autism spectrum disorders, cerebral palsy, intellectual disabilities • Physical impairments – e.g., stroke, obesity, cancer, spinal cord injuries, hand injuries, work injuries • Cognitive impairments – e.g., dementia, traumatic brain injury, stroke • Mental disorders - e.g., depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, persistent mental illness • Chronic health conditions – e.g., arthritis, diabetes • People with preventable secondary conditions – e.g., diabetic neuropathy, decubitus ulcers, social isolation, sedentary lifestyle <p>These priorities can be found in the AOTF/AOTA Research Agenda.</p> |
| <p>Approaches for the Intervention Research Grant</p> | <p>Approaches that lay the necessary groundwork for larger intervention studies are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot studies • Feasibility studies • Intervention research planning grants <p>See definitions of approaches in the RFA for the AOTF IRG on the AOTF website.</p> |

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| Funding Award Information | |
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| Grant Amount | The maximum grant amount is \$50,000. Indirect costs will be funded up to the level of 10%. |
| Grant Period | Funds will be released on a payment schedule identified by AOTF. |
| Use of Funds | <p>Funds may be used for a variety of expenses associated with the project, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel: salaries and fringe benefits. • Equipment. • Travel. • Participant/trainee support costs. • Other direct costs: materials/supplies, publication costs, consultant services, technology/computer services, subawards/consortium/contractual costs, equipment or facility rental/user fees, other. |
| Areas of Study | AOTF will identify priority areas for intervention research grants on an annual basis. The number of grants to be awarded for intervention research projects will be determined on an annual basis. |
| Other Support | <p>The Foundation would prefer that proposed studies have obtained matching funds or in-kind services.</p> <p>All sources of support for the proposed project must be identified in the "Other Support" in the Financial Support section of on-line application.</p> |
| Limitations of Use | <p>No funds will be approved to finance cost overruns or deficits on existing projects or to finance projects already in progress.</p> <p>No funds will be approved to finance tuition.</p> <p>Support for purchase of major pieces of permanent equipment is limited to 20% or less of the total award.</p> |
| Payment of Funds | Funds will be sent directly to a designated official of the U.S. sponsoring organization/institution for administration through its financial office. Funds are only available for research done at U.S. non-profit institutions. |
| Fringe Rate | The Sponsoring Organization/Institution must indicate at the time of application the fringe benefit rate, if any, that shall be applied to the grant. |

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| <p>Schedule of Payment</p> | <p>For a one year grant, funding will be delivered in two payments of 50% each on one of the following schedules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April and October. • July and January. |
| <p>Deviation in Payment Schedule</p> | <p>Any deviation from this schedule must be requested in the application and approved in writing by the Foundation prior to the beginning of the grant period of performance.</p> |
| <p>Progress Report</p> | <p>The second payment will be contingent upon receipt of a Progress Report(s) 15 days before the scheduled date. The Progress Report must indicate satisfactory progress has been made in completing work on the proposed timetable. Failure to supply Progress Report(s) will result in termination of the grant.</p> |

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| Eligibility of Principal Investigator, Research Mentor, and Applicant Organization | |
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| <p>Eligibility of Principal Investigator</p> | <p>Research awards are made only to eligible principal investigators (PI). Eligibility of the principal investigator must be maintained during the funding period. These non-negotiable eligibility criteria include:</p> <p>General Personal Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A terminal research degree. • U.S. citizen or non-citizen national of the United States OR admitted for permanent residence OR applied for permanent residence. (For non-citizens, the applicant organization must have policies in place to determine whether residence status or visa status will allow completion of the research.)* • Employed by a U.S. domestic, public or private, non-profit organization/institution that is eligible to receive Foundation research grants. The sponsoring organization/institution assures that they will be accountable for the funds and provide the PI with adequate institutional support, equipment, and other physical resources necessary to conduct the research and contribute to probability of success. ** • A credentialed occupational therapist (or a non-OT investigator) with a primary academic appointment in an occupational therapy department. • No conflicts of interest that result in ineligibility, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AOTF or AOTA board member or staff ○ AOTF Scientific Advisory Council member ○ Board or staff member of IRG sponsor <p>Research and Proposed Project Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A track record of achievements and career goals related to the proposed project that includes peer-reviewed publications. • Does NOT currently have any substantial extramural research awards (e.g. RO1, PCORI, Research Program Project Grant, Veterans Administration Merit Award, Field-Initiated Project). Typically, the PI will have a funding history associated with early stage, emerging, or early midcareer investigators that may include small research grants and training-related or mentored career awards. • A commitment from an experienced research mentor who has an established record of substantial extramural funding, peer-reviewed publications and supervision and research mentoring experience. <p>* The Foundation expects applicant organizations to have policies in place for non-citizens. If a grant is awarded and the principal investigator's visa will not allow a long enough time to complete the project, the Foundation may terminate the grant. The Foundation reserves the right to impose specific citizenship requirement on specific grant programs as communicated in the eligibility criteria. The applicant may be required to provide documentation of proof of eligibility; ordinarily the authorizing organization signature on the application certifies that the applicant is eligible to apply for and receive an award.</p> <p>** The Foundation may consider factors relating to the applicant organization and the principal investigator's ability to responsibly handle and account for Foundation funds and to carry out the project. These factors include the applicant's intended role in the</p> |

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| | <p>project, the location where the project will be performed, the role of the principal investigator in the project, and the principal investigator's employment status.</p> <p>The principal investigator's responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiscal accountability for funds awarded. • Direct oversight of the scientific process with accountability for the quality of the study as conducted. • Timely submission of all progress and final reports to the Foundation. • Dissemination of results of the study through peer-reviewed publications and public presentation. <p>Thus, the principal investigator must have a substantive role in the project and not simply serve as a conduit for another investigator or organization.</p> |
| <p>Eligibility of Research Mentor</p> | <p>The research mentor must have an established record of substantial extramural grant funding, peer-reviewed publications and supervision and mentoring of researchers.</p> |
| <p>Eligibility of Applicant Organization</p> | <p>The applicant organization must be a U.S. domestic, public or private, non-profit organization/institution that is eligible to receive Foundation research grants.</p> <p>The applicant organization assures that they will be accountable for the performance of the approved project and the appropriate expenditure of the funds.</p> <p>The applicant organization will provide the principal investigator with adequate institutional support, equipment, and other physical resources necessary to conduct the research and contribute to probability of success.</p> <p>The applicant organization may not have real or perceived conflicts of commitment or an overlap in mission with the American Occupational Therapy Foundation.</p> |
| <p>Ineligible Requests</p> | <p>The following requests are ineligible for the AOTF Intervention Research Grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects to be completed in fulfillment of requirements for an academic degree. • Projects sponsored by an organization or institution outside the United States. • Projects that include expenses or debts incurred before the award date of a grant. |

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| Reporting Requirements | |
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| <p>Reporting for Grant Awards</p> | <p>Progress and final reports must be submitted to the Foundation following the guidelines described below. Failure to submit a report by the stated deadline will delay continued support or jeopardize future support by the Foundation. (If funds are to be paid on an alternate payment schedule, the reporting schedule will be adjusted accordingly.)</p> <p>Progress Report: The principal investigator must e-mail a Progress Report to the Foundation’s Scientific Program Administrator. For a one year grant, a Progress Report is due 15 days before the 2nd payment is scheduled. A brief Progress Report shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a summary of work completed to date, • discussion of major problems (if any) encountered and the plan to remedy the problems; • an explanation and justification for any deviation from the original plan of action; and • an explanation of any proposed changes to the plan. <p>Final Report: The principal investigator must submit a Final Report to the Foundation within thirty (30) days of completion of the grant period. The Final Report must be submitted electronically to the Foundation’s Scientific Program Administrator and should not exceed (5) pages. It must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a detailed account of expenditures from the sponsoring institution (including both Foundation and other sources) • work completed during the course of the research • explanation of any changes to the original plan • findings or results from the project • plans for future research projects and funding related to the study • plans for dissemination of information related to the study <p>Abstract: The principal investigator must also submit an electronic abstract with the following information and e-mail it to the Scientific Program Administrator at the time the Final Report is submitted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Updated Project Summary in Lay Language: An <i>updated</i> description of the project for dissemination to the public that includes broad, long-term objectives and specific aims, design, methods, project results/findings and how the project relates to occupational therapy and the Intervention Research Grant objectives. The summary should be understandable when read separate from the Application and Final Report. (Avoid describing supporting literature and past projects and use of the first person.) 2. Grants: Summarize any grants related to the project that have been submitted or awarded, including: the funding source and opportunity, title of research proposal, date, total budget, funding status. |

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| | <p>3. Publications/Abstracts, Presentations, Press Releases: Submit summary information of dissemination activities that have been submitted or completed, including publications/abstracts, presentations, press releases. See Post-Grant Summary Information for details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accepted Presentations: Provide summary information on any accepted presentations for dissemination to stakeholders in AOTF communications. <p>4. Surveys, Measures: Summarize any survey instruments or measures developed for the project.</p> |
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| Research Integrity | |
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| Research Integrity | <p>The Foundation expects that all grant personnel will adhere to the highest ethical standards and compliance with regard to responsible conduct and integrity in scientific research.</p> <p>Integrity of the individual investigator requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intellectual honesty in proposing, performing, and reporting research • Accuracy in representing contributions to research proposals and reports • Fairness in peer reviews • Collegiality in scientific interactions, including communications and sharing of resources • Transparency in conflicts of interests or potential conflicts of interest • Protection of human subjects in the conduct of research • Humane care of animals in the conduct of research • Adherence to the mutual responsibilities between investigators and their research teams <p>The research institution supports integrity by efforts to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide leadership in support of responsible conduct of research • Encourage respect for everyone involved in the research enterprise • Promote productive interactions between trainees and mentors • Advocate adherence to the rules regarding all aspects of the conduct of research, especially research involving human subjects and animals • Anticipate, reveal, and manage individual and institutional conflicts of interest • Arrange timely and thorough inquiries and investigations of allegations of scientific misconduct and apply appropriate sanctions • Offer educational opportunities pertaining to integrity in the conduct of research • Monitor and evaluate the institutional environment supporting integrity in the conduct of research and use this knowledge for continuous quality improvement <p>Institute of Medicine (US). Committee on Assessing Integrity in Research Environments, & United States. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health. Office of Research Integrity. (2002). <i>Integrity in scientific research: Creating an environment that promotes responsible conduct</i>. National Academies Press.</p> |
| Submission of Similar Applications | <p>The following submissions will not be accepted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • applications with essentially the same research focus from the same applicant organization • identical or essentially identical grant applications submitted by different applicant organizations • more than one application from the same principal investigator or co-investigator • identical or essentially identical grant applications submitted to another funding |

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| | <p>agency during the same grant cycle as AOTF</p> <p>Applicant organizations should ascertain and assure that the materials they are submitting on behalf of the principal investigator are the original work of the principal investigator and have not been used elsewhere in the preparation and submission of a similar grant application. The scientific review committee will be able to easily identify multiple grant applications for essentially the same project. In these cases, the application(s) may not be reviewed.</p> |
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| Approvals and Assurances | |
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| Human Subjects | <p>If data is to be collected on human subjects, or if data used in the project contains identifiable private information that can be linked to human subjects, the plan must include specific procedures for review of the protocol and securing informed consent of subjects in compliance with federal policy on protection of human subjects.</p> <p>IRB Approval. Proof of IRB Approval is not required at the time of application. If your project is awarded, the first award payment will not be issued until proof of IRB Approval is submitted to the Scientific Program Administrator at the Foundation. It must be on the sponsoring institution's letterhead and signed by the appropriate institution official. If the proposed project has more than one site, IRB Approval or Exemption must be obtained for every site in the project.</p> <p>Human Subjects Assurance. The institution sponsoring the project's research must be covered by an assurance agreement indicating compliance with Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) regulations governing the protection of human subjects.</p> <p>Human Subjects Research Training. The principal investigator and all key personnel involved in the conduct of the study must provide certificates demonstrating completion of a human subjects protection-training course. The training must be current according to the dates listed on the certificate. The Foundation will <i>not</i> accept a letter in lieu of a certificate indicating that a human subjects protection training course has been taken.</p> <p>HIPAA. Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information, the "Privacy Rule," is a federal regulation under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 that governs the protection of individually identifiable health information from covered entities through collaborative or contractual agreements. Decisions about whether and how to implement the Privacy rule reside with the researcher and his/her institution.</p> |
| Vertebrate Experimental Animals | <p>If vertebrate experimental animals are involved in the study, the plan must include specific procedures for review of the protocol in compliance with federal policy on the humane handling of animal subjects.</p> <p>IACUC Approval. The institution's Animal Care Use Committee (IACUC) must have approved or given a waiver for the project.</p> <p>Animal Welfare Assurance. The institution sponsoring the research must be covered by an assurance agreement indicating compliance with regulations governing the protection of animals.</p> |

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| Changes in the Research Project | |
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| Changes to the Research Plan | <p>The principal investigator must obtain written approval from the Foundation before making any substantial change in the plan of action, timetable for completion (including no-cost extensions), acquisition of subjects, etc. Requests for changes to the plan must be made in writing. The Foundation shall have thirty (30) days to review such requests and respond in writing to the principal investigator. If the request is made less than thirty (30) days prior to the next scheduled payment, the monies may be held until approval of any changes is given.</p> |
| Changes to the Budget | <p>The principal investigator must obtain written approval from the Foundation before making any substantial change in the budget. The Foundation shall have thirty (30) days to review any request for approval of a revised budget. The Foundation may approve or not approve changes at its discretion. If the request is made less than thirty (30) days prior to the next scheduled payment, the monies may be held until approval of any changes is given.</p> <p>Less than 20%: The Foundation does not require pre-approval of a departure from budgeted amounts as long as the departure does not exceed twenty per cent (20%) in any line item. However, any departure from the original budget must be explained fully in the progress and yearly reports.</p> <p>Greater than 20%: Transfers between line item in excess of twenty per cent (20%) and requests for expenditures in categories not initially included in the approved budget may be interpreted as representing changes in the overall plan of action. Accordingly, prior Foundation approval is required for all changes in line items of greater than 20%.</p> |
| Changes in Co-Investigators, Other Key Personnel, or Research Program | <p>The principal investigator must notify the Foundation upon becoming aware of any changes or pending changes that may prevent accomplishment or substantially alter the goals and objectives of the research program. Such notice must be received by the Foundation within five (5) days of the principal investigator's becoming aware of any such change or pending change. The Foundation may request additional information from which a decision to continue or to terminate the research grant can be made. The Foundation, in its sole discretion, shall determine whether the change jeopardizes the principal investigator's ability to complete the research program and whether funding of the project shall continue. In cases of early termination, the principal investigator shall be notified by the Foundation in writing sixty (60) days prior to the termination of the grant.</p> |

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| <p>Non-Compliance</p> | <p>Failure on the part of the principal investigator or applicant organization to comply with the policies governing the grant may be grounds for early termination of the grant and/or denial of any future consideration for funding from the Foundation.</p> <p>Should the principal investigator encounter problems during the grant period, the Foundation may request additional information from which a decision to continue or to terminate the grant can be made. In cases of early termination of the grant, the principal investigator and applicant organization will be notified in writing sixty (60) days before the grant is terminated.</p> |
| <p>Extension of Research Project</p> | <p>A written request for extension of reporting deadlines with no additional funding (a no-cost extension) must outline in detail the reasons for the request. The request must be received by the Foundation thirty days (30) prior to the expiration of the original grant period of performance.</p> |

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| Credit Acknowledgements and Post-Grant Requirements | |
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| Credit Acknowledgements and Post-Grant Summary Information on Research Program Activities | Future funding requests to AOTF from the Applicant Organization and Principal Investigator will be denied if there is not compliance with requirements for credit acknowledgement and post-grant summary information on research program activities. |
| Credit Acknowledgement | <p>Support provided by the AOTF Intervention Research Grant must be reflected in all publications, presentations, and press releases related to the funded research. An appropriate credit line is:</p> <p>“This research has been supported in full/part with an AOTF Intervention Research Grant (AOTF2016IRG##) funded by the American Occupational Therapy Foundation.”</p> |
| Post-Grant Summary Information on Research Program Activities | <p>For a period of five (5) years following the completion of the project and submission of the final report, the Principal Investigator is required to submit annual summary information to the Foundation on activities related to the funded research project, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding and grants • Publications • Presentations • Press releases <p>The Foundation may use the grant abstract, grant reports, and post-grant summary information for media announcements and other communications to promote public awareness and demonstrate accountability for funding awards.</p> |
| Future Funding and Grants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future funding and grants do not require Foundation approval. • The Applicant Organization/Institution or Principal Investigator shall regularly notify the Foundation of any future grant activities related to the research program, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funding Source and Opportunity ○ Title of Research Proposal ○ Date ○ Total Budget ○ Funding status • For a period of five (5) years following the completion of the project and submission of the final report, upon request, the Principal Investigator is required to submit information to the Foundation electronically regarding all grant submissions and funding awards related to the funded research project. |

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| <p>Publications</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publications and abstracts do not require Foundation approval. • The Sponsoring Organization/Institution or Principal Investigator shall notify the Foundation of the intention to release for publication the results of the Foundation-funded research. • One (1) copy of all published papers and/or abstracts relating to the funded study should be sent to the Foundation electronically immediately upon publication. • For a period of five (5) years following the completion of the project and submission of the final report, upon request, the Principal Investigator is required to submit information to the Foundation electronically regarding all submitted, in press or published papers; and submitted or accepted abstracts related to the funded research project. |
| <p>Presentations</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations do not require Foundation approval. • The Sponsoring Organization/Institution or Principal Investigator will provide the Foundation advanced notification of accepted presentations for the research project. Timely submission of summary information on accepted presentations may be disseminated as an advanced notice in AOTF communications to stakeholders. • The Principal Investigator is required to submit results from the completed project to AOTA's Annual Conference for presentation within two years after completion of the project. • For a period of five (5) years following the completion of the project and submission of the final report, upon request, the Principal Investigator is required to submit information to the Foundation electronically regarding all presentations related to the funded research project. |
| <p>Press Releases</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press releases prepared by the principal investigator or applicant organization do not require Foundation approval. • For a period of five (5) years following completion of the study and submission of the final report, the Principal Investigator shall provide the Foundation with an electronic copy of all media announcements related to the funded research project. |
| <p>Surveys and Measures</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys and measures developed do not require Foundation approval. • For a period of five (5) years following the completion of the project and submission of the final report, upon request, the Principal Investigator is required to submit information to the Foundation electronically regarding development of surveys or measures related to the funded research project. |

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| Royalties, Patents, Equipment | |
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| Royalties/Patent Policy | <p>By accepting a grant, the PI and sponsoring organization agree that they will inform AOTF (in writing within thirty days of filing) of any royalties, patent or invention resulting from the Intervention Research Grant award, and forward a copy of institutional policies governing third party royalty agreements. The AOTF and the Sponsoring Organization or Principal Investigator may enter into a written agreement (the Revenue Sharing Agreement) that defines the AOTF's participation in sharing net royalty income derived from Intervention Research Grant inventions.</p> <p>Title: Title to any Intervention Research Grant invention shall belong to the Sponsoring Organization/Institution or Principal Investigator and not to the Foundation.</p> <p>Government Agencies: For any Intervention Research Grant invention that is made with joint support of the AOTF and any agency or department of the United States Government, the AOTF may defer to the patent policy of that agency or department.</p> |
| Ownership of Equipment | <p>Title to all apparatus, equipment, material, instruments, and products purchased, built, prepared or fabricated by an organization with the Foundation research grant funds will normally vest in the grantee, with the understanding that such equipment will remain in use for the specific project for which it was obtained.</p> |

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| Criteria for Evaluation for Application | |
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| Grant Review Criteria | The Foundation's Scientific Review Committee (SRC) has responsibility for reviewing applications for the Foundation Research Grant and recommending to the Foundation which proposal(s), if any, will qualify for funding. The SRC, in evaluating applications, will take into account the following: |
| Overall impact/priority | The overall impact/priority score is the key review outcome and the main basis for a funding decision by AOTF. The score reflects reviewers' judgment of the extent to which a project can make an impact, has relevance and importance to the AOTF mission and IRG program, and has likelihood of success. The overall impact/priority score reflects all the criteria, but it does not represent a mathematical sum of the parts. |
| Significance | Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field? |
| Investigator(s) | Are the PD/PIs, collaborators, and other researchers well suited to the project? If Early Stage Investigators or New Investigators, or in the early stages of independent careers, do they have appropriate experience and training? If established, have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)? If the project is collaborative or multi-PD/PI, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise; are their leadership approach, governance and organizational structure appropriate for the project? |
| Innovation | 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? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed? |

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| <p>Approach</p> | <p>Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility and will particularly risky aspects be managed?</p> <p>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?</p> |
| <p>Environment.</p> | <p>Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Are the institutional support, equipment and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed? Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements?</p> |
| <p>Evaluation Classification</p> | <p>The scientific review panel will review, evaluate, and classify all eligible applications into the following four categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended for funding • Not recommended for funding • Not scored • Ineligible per AOTF requirements and criteria |
| <p>Completion of Project</p> | <p>The potential for successful completion of the project is a major consideration in awarding research grants.</p> |