

## Orthotic and Prosthetic Education and Research Foundation (OPERF) Request for Applications (RFA)

The Orthotics and Prosthetics Education and Research Foundation (OPERF) is pleased to announce the 2012 OPERF Award Program. The Award Program provides funding to support clinically-relevant research in orthotics and prosthetics (O&P) through a three-tier system that includes Resident Travel Awards, Fellowship Awards, and Small Grant Awards.

### **2012 OPERF Resident Travel Awards**

The OPERF Resident Travel Award Program is designed to support prosthetics and orthotics residents travel to the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists (AAOP) national meeting so that they may present their NCOPE (National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education) required residency research (i.e., Directed Study) project. \$1000 Travel Awards will be made available to meritorious and qualified O&P residents seeking to share their results of their directed study at the 2013 AAOP National Meeting. Two Resident Travel Awards will be offered in 2012.

### **2012 OPERF Fellowship Awards**

The OPERF Fellowship Program is designed to support quality graduate education research related to the O&P profession. \$5000 Fellowship Awards will be made available to meritorious and qualified students to support their graduate research. Two Fellowship Awards will be offered in 2012.

### **2012 OPERF Small Grant Award**

The OPERF Small Grant Program is designed to support quality investigator-initiated research related to the O&P profession. Small grant funding of up to \$25,000 will be made available to support meritorious and qualified investigators to conduct novel and clinically-relevant O&P research. One Small Grant Award will be offered in 2012.

This is a solicitation for open submissions to the Award Program. O&P Residents, graduate students, and investigators are encouraged to apply for awards by the deadlines posted. Applications will be assessed based on relevance of the research topic, scientific merit of the research design, and appropriateness of the personnel and environment.

Additional details regarding the OPERF Award Program, specific award descriptions, submission instructions, deadlines, and submission forms may be found on the OPERF website at [www.OPERF.org](http://www.OPERF.org). Additional questions or inquires should be directed to:

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## **Announcement Number: OPERF-2012-RTA-1/2**

### Resident Travel Awards

The OPERF Resident Travel Award Program is designed to support prosthetics and orthotics residents travel to the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists (AAOP) National Meeting so that they may present their NCOPE (National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education) required Directed Study Report. Travel Awards include a \$1,000 cash prize and are given on an annual basis. Selection of the Travel Award recipients will be based upon the merit of the resident's project, as determined by the OPERF Research Committee and OPERF Board of Directors. OPERF has arranged for award recipients to present their Directed Study projects at the AAOP National Meeting. The Academy has donated complimentary registration and speaking slots for residents to present their work.

### *Requirements:*

- The resident must be currently involved in or have completed an NCOPE accredited residency within the last 12-months.
- The project must be relevant to the orthotics and prosthetics profession.
- The submission must include the following components:
  - Application cover page (available on the [OPERF website](#))
  - Abstract (1-page maximum)
    - The abstract should describe the resident's NCOPE Directed Study project.
    - The abstract should be typed single-spaced in 10-12 point font on pages with 1" margins.
    - The abstract should be formatted according to the conventional format of introduction, methods, results, discussion, conclusion (optional), and references.
    - Figures may be included in the 1-page abstract, if they are legible.
  - Brief biosketches for the resident and residency advisor (1-page maximum).

### *Award specifics:*

- Travel Award recipients will be responsible for submitting an abstract (based on the submitted Directed Study project) for a free paper to be presented at the AAOP National Meeting.
  - The abstract should be formatted using the template provided by the Academy when the call for papers is announced (approximately June in the year prior to the Annual Meeting).
- Award funds will be paid directly to the award recipient.
- Award funds are to be used for travel, lodging, and/or food (as needed) by the recipient.
- Complimentary meeting registration will be provided by the Academy to award recipients.
- Award recipients are required to acknowledge OPERF funding in presentation of the Directed Study by including the following statement: "This presentation was supported through funds from the Orthotics and Prosthetics Education and Research Foundation, Inc. (OPERF) under grant number \_\_\_\_\_. " (Grant number will be assigned to the recipient when Award is made.)

### *Key dates and deadlines:*

- Applications due January 16, 2012
- Award notification by April 1, 2012 (estimated)

## **Announcement Number: OPERF-2012-FA-1/2**

### Fellowships

The OPERF Fellowship Program is designed to support quality graduate education research related to the orthotics and prosthetics (O&P) profession. One-year Fellowships of up to \$5,000 are given on an annual basis. Previous recipients may request a one-year extension (via competitive renewal) of the fellowship period and an additional \$5,000 to support longer projects. Fellowships will be awarded based upon the merit of the proposed research project (see Fellowship Review Form, Appendix I). OPERF has arranged for award recipients to present their research at the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists (AAOP) National Meeting. The Academy has donated complimentary registration and speaking slots for fellows to present their OPERF-sponsored research.

### *Requirements:*

- The student must be currently enrolled in a Masters and/or PhD educational program within the United States.
- The project must be relevant to the orthotics and prosthetics profession.
- A Letter-of-Intent (LOI) is due in advance of the proposal (see Funding Cycle, below)
  - Maximum of 1 page in length.
  - Must briefly describe the proposed research.
- The proposal should be a maximum of 5 pages in length (12-point font, 1” borders, single-spaced).
  - The research proposal must include the following components:
    - Application cover page (available on [OPERF website](#))
    - Abstract (up to 300 words)
    - Specific aims\*
    - Background and significance\*
    - Previous research (if appropriate)\*
    - Methodology\*
    - Project timeline (including milestones and deliverables)\*
    - Anticipated results\*
    - References
    - Budget and facilities
    - List of current/pending support related to the proposed research
    - List of collaborators (including a short biosketch for each)
    - Biosketch for the student
    - Letter of faculty support (from the student’s advisor)

Note: page limit applies only to those sections marked with an asterisk (\*).

### *Award specifics:*

- Fellowship funds are intended to be used for expenses related directly to the conduct of the proposed research project and are not to be used for tuition, books, or supplies required for the student’s coursework.
- Award funds will be paid directly to the award recipient. No indirect (i.e., Facilities and Administrative) costs will be allowed. Any financial or tax liabilities associated with accepting the award will be the responsibility of the recipient.
- If human or animal subjects are included in the proposed research, the applicant will be required to provide evidence of Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) approval from the host institution before funds are disseminated. Approval is not due at the time of submission, but will be required to receive award funds.
- Fellowship Award recipients must submit a 2-page report to the OPERF Research Committee Chairperson upon conclusion of the funding period.

- The report should be typed single-spaced in 10-12 point font on pages with 1” borders. Legible figures may be included in the report.
- The report should describe the fellow’s progress over the project period and summarize expenditure of the award budget.
- Fellowship Award recipients will be responsible for submitting an abstract (based on the OPERF-funded research) for a free paper to be presented at the AAOP National Meeting. The abstract should be formatted using the template provided by the Academy when the call for papers is announced (approximately June in the year prior to the Annual Meeting).
- Upon acceptance of the AAOP abstract, Fellowship Award recipients are required to attend the AAOP National Meeting and present their OPERF-funded research results.
  - Complimentary meeting registration has been donated for all OPERF award recipients.
  - Airfare and lodgings for the National Meeting are the responsibility of the award recipient and may be paid by the fellowship.
- A no-cost extension period of up to one year may be requested by the award recipient prior to presenting the study results at the Academy meeting.
- Award recipients are encouraged to submit the results of their work as a manuscript to the Journal of Prosthetics and Orthotics (JPO) or another peer-reviewed journal.
- Award recipients are required to acknowledge OPERF funding in any publication or presentation of the funded research by including the following statement: “This work was supported through funds from the Orthotics and Prosthetics Education and Research Foundation, Inc. (OPERF) under grant number \_\_\_\_\_.” (Grant number will be assigned to the recipient when Award is made.)

*Key dates and deadlines:*

- LOI due December 16, 2011
- Proposals due by January 16, 2012
- Award notification by April 1, 2012 (estimated)
- Funding available by May 7, 2012 (estimated)

## **Announcement Number: OPERF-2012-SGA-1**

### Small Grants

The OPERF Small Grant Program is designed to support quality investigator-initiated research related to the orthotics and prosthetics (O&P) profession. One-year Small Grants of up to \$25,000 are given on an annual basis. Previous recipients may request a one-year extension (via competitive renewal) of the award period and an additional \$25,000 to support extended research projects. Awards will be made based upon the merit of the proposed research project (see Small Grant Review Form, Appendix II). OPERF has arranged for award recipients to present their research at the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists (AAOP) National Meeting. The Academy has donated complimentary registration and speaking slots for investigators to present their OPERF-sponsored research.

### *Requirements:*

- The Principal Investigator (PI) must have attained a doctoral degree or provide evidence of prior research experience.
- The host institution and the primary research site must be located within the United States.
- The project must be relevant to the orthotics and prosthetics profession.
- The proposed research must include a clinician trained in prosthetics and orthotics as the principal investigator or co-investigator.
- A Letter-of-Intent (LOI) is due in advance of the proposal (see Funding Cycle, below).
  - Maximum of 1 page in length.
  - Must briefly describe the proposed research.
- The research proposal should be a maximum of 15 pages in length (12-point font, 1” borders, single-spaced).
  - The research proposal should include the following components:
    - Application cover page (available on [OPERF website](#))
    - Abstract (up to 500 words)
    - Specific aims\*
    - Background and significance\*
    - Previous research (if appropriate)\*
    - Methodology\*
    - Project timeline (including milestones and deliverables)\*
    - Anticipated results\*
    - References
    - Budget and facilities
    - Current/pending support related to proposed research
    - List of collaborators (including a short biosketch for each)
    - Letters of support (e.g. from department or institution, collaborators, etc.)
    - Biosketch for the principal investigator

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### *Award specifics:*

- Award funds will be paid directly to the award recipient’s host institution.
  - A maximum indirect rate (i.e., Facilities and Administrative costs) of 10% of the total direct costs will be allowed under the OPERF Small Grants Program (maximum direct + indirect costs are not to exceed \$25,000 per award).
  - Small Grant funds will be disseminated in two installments (6 months apart) to the host institution.
  - Investigators must submit a 2-5 page progress report to the OPERF Research Committee Chairperson 5 months after the initial funds are received by the host institution.

- The principal investigator is responsible for the timely submission of the progress report.
- The second installment of Small Grant funds is contingent upon a satisfactory progress report as evaluated by the OPERF Research Committee Chairperson.
- If human or animal subjects are included in the proposed research, the applicant will be required to provide evidence of Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) approval from the host institution before funds are disseminated. Approval is not due at the time of submission, but will be required to receive award funds.
- Small Grant Award recipients must submit a 2-5 page final report to the OPERF Research Committee Chairperson upon conclusion of the funding period.
  - The report should be typed single-spaced in 10-12 point font on pages with 1” borders. Legible figures may be included in the report.
  - The report should describe the investigator’s progress over the project period and summarize expenditure of the award budget.
- Small Grant Award recipients will be responsible for submitting an abstract (based on the OPERF-funded research) for a free paper to be presented at the AAOP National Meeting. The abstract should be formatted using the template provided by the Academy when the call for papers is announced (approximately June in the year prior to the Annual Meeting).
- Upon acceptance of the AAOP abstract, Small Grant Award recipients must attend the AAOP National Meeting and present their OPERF-funded research results.
  - Complimentary meeting registration has been donated by the Academy for all OPERF award recipients.
  - Airfare and lodgings for the National Meeting are the responsibility of the award recipient and may be paid by the grant.
- A no-cost extension period of up to one year may be requested by the award recipient prior to presenting the study results at the Academy meeting.
- Award recipients are encouraged to submit the results of their work as a manuscript to the Journal of Prosthetics and Orthotics (JPO) or another peer-reviewed journal.
- Award recipients are required to acknowledge OPERF funding in any publication or presentation of the funded research by including the following statement: “This work was supported through funds from the Orthotics and Prosthetics Education and Research Foundation, Inc. (OPERF) under grant number \_\_\_\_\_.” (Grant number will be assigned to the recipient when Award is made.)

*Key dates and deadlines:*

- LOI due December 16, 2011
- Proposals due by January 16, 2012
- Award notification by April 1, 2012 (estimated)
- Funding available by May 7, 2012 (estimated)