Orthotic and Prosthetic Education and Research Foundation (OPERF)
Request for Proposals (RFP)

The Orthotic and Prosthetic Education and Research Foundation (OPERF) is pleased to announce the 2017 OPERF Award Program. The Award Program provides funding to support clinically relevant research in orthotics and prosthetics (O&P), including Fellowship Awards and Small Grant Awards.

**2017 OPERF Fellowship Awards**
The OPERF Fellowship Program is designed to support quality graduate student research related to the O&P profession. Fellowship Awards of up to $5000 will be made available to meritorious and qualified students to support their graduate research. Two Fellowship Awards will be offered in 2017.

**2017 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 qualified and capable investigators to conduct novel and clinically relevant O&P research. One Small Grant Award will be offered in 2017.

This is a solicitation for open submissions to the Award Program. O&P 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 inquiries should be directed to:

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Announcement Number: OPERF-2017-FA-1

Fellowships
The OPERF Fellowship Program is designed to support quality graduate student research related to the orthotics and prosthetics (O&P) profession. Each year, one-year Fellowships of up to $5,000 are awarded. Previous recipients may request a one-year 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 OPERF Review Form, available on OPERF website). OPERF has arranged for Award recipients to present their research at the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists (AAOP) National Meeting. The AAOP has donated complimentary single day registration 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 include a brief description of 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 description
    - 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 progress over the project period and summarize expenditure of the Award.

- Fellowship Award recipients will be responsible for submitting an abstract (based on the OPERF-funded research) to the AAOP National Meeting, with a copy sent to the OPERF Research Committee Chair. The abstract should be formatted using the template provided by the AAOP when the call for papers is announced (approximately July 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 single day 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. If funds to travel to the AAOP National Meeting are not requested to be paid for by the Fellowship, recipients should indicate how travel to the conference will be achieved.
- 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 AAOP 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 Orthotic and Prosthetic Education and Research Foundation, Inc. (OPERF) under grant number __________.” (Grant number will be assigned to the recipient when Award is made.)
- Applicants are encouraged to keep copies of e-mails containing LOIs and proposals. OPERF will send e-mail receipts when LOIs and proposals are received. Applicants are responsible for calling or e-mailing the Research Committee Chair to verify receipt of their documents if they have not received a receipt within one week of the LOI or proposal deadline. LOIs or proposals that have not been verified within the one-week verification period may not be considered for funding.

**Key dates and deadlines:**
- LOI due December 11, 2016
- Proposals due by January 15, 2017
- Award notification by April 1, 2017 (estimated)
- Funding available by May 27, 2017 (estimated)
Announcement Number: OPERF-2017-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. Each year, a one-year Small Grants of up to $25,000 is awarded. Previous recipients may request a 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 OPERF Review Form, available on OPERF website). OPERF has arranged for Award recipients to present their research at the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists (AAOP) National Meeting. The AAOP has donated complimentary single day registration 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/or 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 include a brief description of the proposed research.
- The research proposal should be a maximum of 10 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 description
    - 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 disbursed in two installments (6 months apart) to the host institution.
  - Award recipients 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 disbursed. 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 progress over the project period and summarize expenditure of the Award.

• Small Grant Award recipients will be responsible for submitting an abstract (based on the OPERF-funded research) to the AAOP National Meeting, with a copy sent to the OPERF Research Committee Chair. The abstract should be formatted using the template provided by the AAOP when the call for papers is announced (approximately July 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 single day meeting registration has been donated by the AAOP 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. If funds to travel to the AAOP National Meeting are not requested to be paid for by the Fellowship, recipients should indicate how travel to the conference will be achieved.

• 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 AAOP 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 Orthotic and Prosthetic Education and Research Foundation, Inc. (OPERF) under grant number ________.” (Grant number will be assigned to the recipient when Award is made.)

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