

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 2009 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.

2009 OPERF Fellowship Awards

The OPERF Fellowship Program is designed to support quality graduate education research related to the orthotics and prosthetics (O&P) profession. \$5000 Fellowship Awards will be given to selected students to support their graduate research. Two Fellowship Awards will be offered in 2009.

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. Additional questions or inquiries should be directed to:

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Announcement Number: OPERF-2009-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 Award Program information at www.OPERF.org). OPERF has arranged for award recipients to present their research at the 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 proposal must be relevant to the orthotics and prosthetics profession.
 - A Letter-of-Intent (LOI) is due in advance of the proposal (see “Key dates and deadlines”)
 - Maximum of 1 page in length
 - Must briefly describe the proposed research
 - Please address LOIs and Award submissions to Brian J. Hafner, PhD, Research Committee Chair, OPERF at brian.hafner@OPERF.org.
 - The proposal should be a maximum of 10 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
 - Collaborators (including a short biosketch for each)
 - 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 a 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.

- If human or animal subjects are included in the proposed research, the applicant will be required to provide evidence of Internal 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 attend the AAOP National Meeting and present their research results.
 - OPERF will forward the abstract to the Academy for inclusion in the National Meeting proceedings.
 - The abstract will serve as a final report to OPERF for the Fellowship Award.
 - 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.
- 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 _____. The opinions in this publication/presentation are those of the investigator(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the OPERF”

Key dates and deadlines:

- LOI due May 1, 2009
- Proposals due May 15, 2009
- Award notification by June 29, 2009
- Funding available by July 31, 2009