

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 Small Grant Award

The OPERF Small Grant Program is designed to support quality investigator-initiated research related to the orthotics and prosthetics (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 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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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 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 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 proposal 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”)
 - 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 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
 - Collaborators (including a short biosketch for each) and letters of support (e.g. from department or institution, collaborators)
 - Curriculum Vitae (CV) for the principal investigator
- Note: page limit applies only to those sections marked with an asterisk (*)

Award specifics:

- Award funds will be paid directly to the award recipient’s host institution.

- A maximum indirect rate (i.e., Finance and Administration 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 host institution.
- Investigators must submit a 2-5 page progress report 5 months after the initial funds are received by the host institution.
- The principle 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 the chair of the review panel.
- 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.
- Small Grant 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.
 - 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 grant.
- A no-cost extension period of up to one year may be requested by the award recipient prior to presenting the study results.
- Investigators must submit a 2-5 page final report upon conclusion of the funding period.
- 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

