AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

2026 AOA Research Grants Workshop: Essential Information

Thursday, November 13, 2025
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Gloria Dillard, MPH
Director, Research Grants

Welcome

Thank you for joining this workshop. My name is Gloria Dillard, the Director of Research Grants. This workshop was organized to provide you with the tools and insights needed to successfully and easily complete an AOA research grant.

If you have any questions, please type them into the Chat box. I will do my best to answer all your questions. For the questions that I am unable to address during the workshop, I will email responses to everyone who has registered for this workshop.

Agenda

1. Key Dates
2. Grant Programs & RFA/NOFOs
    1. Experienced Investigator -- DOs, MDs, & PhDs, or Othe Doctoral-Level Degree
    2. New Investigator
    3. Physicians in Training
    4. Osteopathic Medical Students
3. General and Budget Guidance
4. Observational & Explorative Studies – Specific Allowances
5. Budget Guidelines
6. Grant Review & Approval Process
7. Applying for a Research Grant
8. Funded Applications Requirements
9. Questions

Key Dates

- **Project Duration:** 24 months
- **Student Project Duration:** 12 months
- **Project Start Date:** July 1st
- The grant application process opened on October 27, 2025, and will close on January 31, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CST.
- There will be no extensions past the grant application process closing date of January 31, 2026.

Grant Programs and RFA/NOFOs

Programs:

1. Experienced Investigators Program -- DOs, MDs, & PhDs, or Other Doctoral-Level Degree
2. AOA/AOF New Investigator Research Grant Program
3. AOA Physicians in Training Grant Program
4. AOA Osteopathic Medical Student Research Program

Research Focus Areas/Notice of Funding Opportunity (RFA/NOFO) (applicable to multiple programs):

1. Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine and Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment (OMM/OMT)
2. Acute/Chronic Pain Management
3. The Impact of the Osteopathic Approach on Chronic Disease
4. Osteopathic Distinctiveness

Additional RFA/NOFO:

Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) Observational & Explorative Focused Hypotheses Research Studies

DOs, MDs, & PhDs Experienced Investigators Grant Program

Applicant Type	Grant Amount	Project Funding Period	Eligibility Criteria	RFA/NOFO
DOs, MDs, and PhD, or Other Doctoral-Level Degree Experienced Investigators	$100,000	24 Months	1. Osteopathic Physician (DO); or 2. MD, PhD, or other individuals holding an equivalent doctoral degree (A DO must be included as key personnel on the Research Team).	1. Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine and Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment (OMM/OMT) 2. Acute/Chronic Pain Management 3. The Impact of the Osteopathic Approach on Chronic Disease 4. Osteopathic Distinctiveness
DOs, MDs, and PhD, or Other Doctoral-Level Degree Experienced Investigators	$20,000	24 Months	1. Osteopathic Physician (DO); or 2. MD, PhD, or other individuals holding an equivalent doctoral degree (A DO must be included as key personnel on the Research Team). 3. Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) instructors (hospital or non-hospital based), OMM departments (hospital and/or COM based), or Residents working with an OMM Instructor or department on a project which may support a program's ACGME Osteopathic Recognition. (A DO must be included as key personnel on the Research Team.)	Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) Observational & Explorative Focused Hypotheses Research Studies

New Investigator Grant Program

Applicant Type	Grant Amount	Project Funding Period	Eligibility Criteria	RFA/NOFO
New Investigators	$50,000	24 Months	1. Osteopathic Physician (DO); or 2. MD, PhD, or other individuals holding an equivalent doctoral degree (A DO must be included as key personnel on the Research Team). 3. Applicants must have completed their terminal research degree (e.g., PhD or equivalent doctoral degree) or post-graduate clinical training (e.g., residency, fellowship), whichever date is later, within the past 10 years of the expected award date. Some applicants may have lapses in their research or research training or have experienced periods of less than full-time effort. AOA and AOF will consider requests to extend the timeframe restriction for reasons that can include medical concerns, disability, family care responsibilities, extended periods of clinical training, natural disasters, and	AOA/AOF New Investigator Research Grant Program ***(Applicants Must Select One RFA/NOFO Listed Within This RFA)*** 1. Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine and Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment (OMM/OMT) 2. Acute/Chronic Pain Management 3. The Impact of the Osteopathic Approach on Chronic Disease 4. Osteopathic Distinctiveness

Physicians in Training Grant Program

Applicant Type	Grant Amount	Project Funding Period	Eligibility Criteria	RFA/NOFO
Physicians in Training	$20,000	24 Months	1. Applicants must be a: a. DO in a residency program at an ACGME-accredited institution at the time of the award, or b. MD in a residency program with osteopathic recognition at an ACGME-accredited institution at the time of the award (A DO must be included as key personnel on the Research Team). 2. Applicant must have a Preceptor/Mentor who meets the following criteria: a. Possess a DO, MD, or equivalent doctoral degree and be affiliated with an osteopathic institution or a residency program with osteopathic recognition. i. If not affiliated with an osteopathic institution or a residency program with osteopathic recognition, a DO must be on the research team as key personnel. b. Possess a strong record as a researcher, an ongoing record of osteopathic research, recent publications in peer-reviewed journals, and a successful track record of securing research funding in the area of the proposed research topic.	AOA Physicians in Training Grant Program ***(Applicants Must Select One RFA/NOFO Listed Within This RFA)*** 1. Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine and Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment (OMM/OMT) 2. Acute/Chronic Pain Management 3. The Impact of the Osteopathic Approach on Chronic Disease 4. Osteopathic Distinctiveness

Osteopathic Medical Students Grant Program

Applicant Type	Grant Amount	Project Funding Period	Eligibility Criteria	RFA/NOFO
Osteopathic Medical Students	$5,000	12 Months	1. Applicants must be an osteopathic medical student fulfilling his/her coursework requirements at an AOA-accredited College of Osteopathic Medicine at the time of the award. 2. Applicant must have a Preceptor/Mentor who meets the following criteria: a. Possess a DO, MD, or equivalent doctoral degree and be affiliated with an osteopathic institution. i. If not affiliated with an osteopathic institution, there must be a DO on the research team as key personnel. b. Possess a strong record as a researcher, an ongoing record of osteopathic research, recent publications in peer-reviewed journals, and a successful track record of securing research funding in the area of the proposed research topic.	AOA Osteopathic Medical Student Research Program ***(Applicants Must Select One RFA/NOFO Listed Within This RFA)*** 1. Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine and Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment (OMM/OMT) 2. Acute/Chronic Pain Management 3. The Impact of the Osteopathic Approach on Chronic Disease 4. Osteopathic Distinctiveness

General Guidance

Notes to Consider When Completing Your Grant Application

1. When you review the RFA/NOFOs project requirements, pay particular attention to the wording "Not Limited to." We specifically placed this wording in the RFA/NOFO for your convenience. We provide examples of what studies can be conducted, but this by no means limits you to those studies; it should help you determine whether your study meets the overarching project requirements.
2. We have provided the grant review criteria for all RFA/NOFOs to assist you in preparing and submitting a research project that meets the highest standards. This document outlines each category that grant reviewers will evaluate, score, and comment on. It will help you identify areas that need improvement, ultimately increasing your chances of success.
3. We have provided an insight from the review process handout that summarizes common characteristics of strong and weak applications observed during the AOA research grant review process.

Budget Guidance

Funding Allowances and Restrictions

Percentage of time:

- You must input the percentage of time for everyone on the team.
- For the PI and CoPIs, you can only allocate 10% of their salary toward the grant, and the PI must commit to 20% of their time on the project. We ask for this information in three places, Forms B & C-Personnel, Form E-the budget worksheet, Form F-budget justification.

The AOA does not fund:

1. Physical plant renovations or improvements.
2. Professional development activities, including dues for professional society memberships, tuition for continuing education activities, and tuition for continuing medical education activities.
3. Indirect costs to the applicant's institution or any other participating institutions.
4. Development and/or engineering of equipment.
5. Provider payments for treatment.
6. Medical Education Programs, Conferences & Curriculum Development.

Budget Justification

Provide detailed justifications for all expenditures listed on the budget worksheet using Form F.

Observational & Explorative Focused Hypotheses Research Studies -Specific Allowances

OMM Observational & Explorative Studies – Funding Guidelines

The AOA will fund:

- Participant Recruitment
- STATISTICIAN: The award may be used for salary support of an institutional staff statistician or a statistician consultant working directly on the project.
- Equipment (Not to exceed 10% of the grant award)

The AOA will not fund:

1. Salary Support – Investigators and Technicians
2. Expendable Supplies
   - Items with a use/lifetime of less than one (1) year are considered expendable supplies. Examples include, but not limited to, animals, chemicals and drugs, radioisotopes, and other expendables.
3. Travel Expenses

Grant Review & Approval Process

Step 1: Number of Reviewers Per Application
Step 2: Score & Comments
Step 3: Bureau of Osteopathic Research and Public Health (BORPH)
Step 4: AOA Board of Trustees (BOT)
Step 5: Grant Agreements
Step 6: Return of Grant Agreement, IRB Approval Letter, and Brief Bio & Photo
Step 7: Decision Letter and Grant Review Comments

- We do not release grant scores.

Applying for a Research Grant

Step 1: Review the Grant Application Instruction Overview Document
This is your cheat sheet.
Step 2: Complete Registration or Log in to Account
Step 3: Complete Eligibility Quiz
Step 4: Complete Grant Application

Research grant application instructions overview

Apply for a Grant

Go to https://osteopathic.org/life-career/osteopathic-research/research-funding-opportunities/ to access the RFA/NOFOs, instructions, and the grant apply page.

Funded Application Requirements

- **Disbursements**
  - 1ST
    - Grant Agreement
    - IRB Approval Letter
  - 2ND, 3RD, 4TH – Due Date
    - Progress Report Based on Milestones
    - Financial Report
  - 5TH - Due Date
    - Lay Report
    - Publication in the Journal of Osteopathic Medicine (JOM) or a letter of rejection from the JOM
      - Note that the Journal of Osteopathic Medicine must be given the first right of refusal of the manuscript. If the Journal of Osteopathic Medicine declines to publish your manuscript, you will need to submit a letter of rejection from the JOM to receive your final disbursement.
    - Final Financial Report
  - **Osteopathic Medical Students – 12 Month Award**
    - 1-6-month Report
    - Must submit:
      - Abstract & Poster @ OMED
      - Publication in the JOM
      - Final Financial Report

Questions

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE/QUESTIONS

Questions should be directed to:
Gloria Dillard, MPH
Director of Research Grants
Department of Research
Phone: (312) 202-8006
Email: gdillard@osteopathic.org

Go to https://osteopathic.org/life-career/osteopathic-research/research-funding-opportunities/ to access the RFA/NOFOs, instructions, grant review criteria, and the grant apply page.