



## Request for Applications New Investigator Grant Program

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## THE AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION (AOA)

**AOA's Mission:** To advance the distinctive philosophy and practice of osteopathic medicine.

**AOA's Vision:** To be the professional home for all physicians who practice osteopathically.

**About the AOA:** Serving as the professional family for more than 145,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students, the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) promotes public health and encourages scientific research. In addition to serving as the primary certifying body for DOs, and is the AOA is the accrediting agency for all osteopathic medical schools.

Continually striving to advance the distinctive philosophy and practice of osteopathic medicine, the AOA stands for the following universal principles:

- Enhancing the value of AOA membership
- Protecting and promoting the rights of all osteopathic physicians
- Accentuating the distinctiveness of osteopathic principles and the diversity of the profession
- Supporting DOs' efforts to provide quality, cost-effective care to all Americans
- Collaborating with others to advance the practice of osteopathic medicine

The AOA stands firmly behind osteopathic physicians' ethical and professional responsibilities to patients and the medical profession. We offer an in-depth look at our ethical standards in our official Code of Ethics. Our policies and positions also outline the AOA's stance on major health issues affecting all areas of society.

## THE AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC FOUNDATION (AOF)

**AOF's Mission:** To support programs and services that promote osteopathic medicine and enhance patient-centered care

**AOF's Vision:** To be the leading philanthropic advocate of osteopathic medicine.

### **AOF's Values:**

- **Stewardship:** We are committed to strengthening our internal capacity in an effort to raise philanthropic capital.
- **Collaborative Leadership:** We advance our mission by investing in the future of osteopathic medicine through strategic partnerships that align with improving patient centered care.
- **Excellence:** We recognize and honor excellence in education, research and lifetime contributions to the osteopathic profession.

## OVERVIEW OF THE AOA AND AOF NEW INVESTIGATOR GRANT PROGRAM

The objective of this grant is to advance the scientific training of new investigators by providing funding for research projects. A New investigator is defined as Principal Investigator (PI) who has completed his/her terminal research degree or end of post-graduate clinical training, whichever date is later, within the past 10 years. Individuals who have previously competed

successfully as a PI for an AOA larger grant (i.e., \$100,000 to \$150,000 grant award) and/or received an RO1 National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant or its equivalent as a PI are not eligible.

Research projects considered for this program may be basic science, clinical science, or health services that will contribute to osteopathic medicine. Additionally, the AOA and AOF seek to encourage individuals to aspire to conduct and contribute to osteopathic research throughout their careers.

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITY & REQUIREMENTS**

The AOA and, with the guidance from the Bureau of Osteopathic Clinical Education and Research (BOCER), has available funding for projects designed to assess the osteopathic approach on two research priority areas.

### **1. All proposals must incorporate and address the osteopathic approach.**

The Osteopathic Approach is based on the tenets of osteopathic medicine. The osteopathic tenets are a foundation of the osteopathic profession from which emerges the osteopathic philosophy of the holistic approach to care by helping patients be truly healthy in mind, body and spirit – not just free of symptoms. The tenets of osteopathic medicine are defined as follows:

- (1) The body is a unit; the person is a unity of body, mind and spirit.
- (2) The body is capable of self-regulation, self-healing and health maintenance.
- (3) Structure and function are reciprocally interrelated.
- (4) Rational treatment is based upon an understanding of the basic principles of body unity, self-regulation and the interrelationship of structure and function.<sup>1</sup>

### **2. Specific requirements for topic and scope of project per research focus area.**

Proposals submitted must comply with the specific requirements for topic and scope of research projects as set forth in the respective RFAs for the larger research grants.

#### **1. Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine and Treatment on the Prevention and Management of Musculoskeletal Injuries (OMM/OMT)**

Proposals in response to this RFA should improve the scientific basis of the mechanics and impact of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) and Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment (OMT) on the prevention and management of musculoskeletal injuries through clinical, in vitro, or basic science research. Proposals should show clear relevance to disease states in one of the two following areas:

1. Use of OMM/OMT for fall prevention and/or vestibular problems.
2. Use of OMM/OMT in concussions, either mechanistic or efficacy, including outcome measures such as cognition, recovery time, biomarkers, lymphatic drainage, functional MRI, etc.

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<sup>1</sup> H622-A/13 TENETS OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE – AOA Policy Compendium, <http://policysearch.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/H617-A2018-TENETS-OF-OSTEOPATHIC-MEDICINE.pdf>

[Download Research Priority Area OMM/OMT RFA](#)

**2. Acute/Chronic Pain Management Grant (ACPM)**

Proposals in response to this RFA should explore the osteopathic approaches to acute and chronic pain management with an emphasis on treatments and patient outcomes. Proposals should address one or more of the following:

1. The role of OMM/OMT, as well as other osteopathic modalities such as touch and communication in surgical recovery.
2. The role of the effects of OMM/OMT on reducing opioid prescribing (consumption). Studies should measure acute pain control.
3. The identification and investigation of the role of biomarkers in substantiating that OMT works mechanistically and defining how biomarkers can be used as a more reliable measurement of pain reduction than the use of traditional pain scales.

[Download Research Priority Area ACPM RFA](#)

Preference will be given to proposals that: (1) use novel approaches; and (2) lead to results/outcomes that could be translated to physician practices. Please note that while the AOA and AOF has a preference for novel projects, it will also support supplemental projects of existing research studies. Supplemental projects must have research questions and specific aims distinct from the existing (parent) study. Applicants will be required to provide information regarding the parent study.

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS**

January 31, 2020 - All applications must be submitted via the AOA online application system by 5:00 pm (CST). Awards will be announced on June 15, 2020.

**GRANT PERIOD**

18 months (beginning September 1, 2020)

**FUNDS AVAILABLE**

Up to \$50,000

**The AOA and AOF 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.

*If an applicant or an applicant's institution is uncertain whether a particular expense is allowable, he/she should contact the Department of Research and Development prior to preparing the final budget for submission.*

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

1. Osteopathic Physician (DO); or
2. MD, PhD or other individuals holding an equivalent doctoral degree (applicants from non-AOA affiliated institutions must have a DO 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 date of the expected award.

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 active duty military service, determined on a case by case basis at the sole discretion of the AOA.

### **Ineligible to apply:**

- Medical students, residents, interns, and fellows (see information regarding Research Team).
- Investigators conducting research outside of the United States.
- Investigators conducting research on non-US populations.
- Investigators who have previously competed successfully as a principal investigator (PI) for an AOA larger grant (i.e., \$100,000 to \$150,000 grant award)
- Investigators who have received an R01 National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant or its equivalent as a PI.

### **NOTE:**

An investigator can be a PI on only one application (RFA) per grant cycle but may serve as the Co-Investigator on multiple grant proposals.

## **GRANT REVIEW CRITERIA**

1. **Scientific Significance:** Reviewers will assess the scientific significance of the research project. Specifically, they will assess the purpose of the study, specific aims/hypothesis(es) quality of the scientific literature and how it supports the specific aims and hypotheses; and the potential for external funding.
2. **Osteopathic Significance:** Reviewers will assess the osteopathic significance of the research project. The proposal must address the tenets of osteopathic medicine. Specifically, they will assess whether the investigator articulates an osteopathic significance, the quality of the osteopathic literature and how it supports the research proposal, and how the research project will advance the field of osteopathic medicine.
3. **Approach:** Reviewers will assess the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses (including power analysis, timelines and milestones) to ensure that it is logical and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Also, they will assess whether

the proposal discusses the potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success. If the project is in the early stages of development, reviewers will assess whether the strategy established is feasible and addresses the management of potential adverse effects.

For projects involving human subjects, reviewers will assess whether the proposed plan addresses: (1) the protection of human subjects from research risks; and (2) the inclusion (or exclusion) of individuals on the basis of sex/gender, race, and ethnicity, as well as the inclusion (exclusion) of children.

- 4. Research Team & Scientific Environment:** Reviewers will assess if the research team is well-suited to conduct the project successfully and whether the Principal Investigator (PI) has included a seasoned investigator to serve as an advisor on the research team to provide guidance and support to the new investigator. It is expected that the advisor will have an ongoing record of securing grant funding, conducting research and disseminating findings. This record should be evidenced in the advisor's biosketch and submitted with the application as key personnel.

Reviewers will look at the scientific environment in which the work will be done to determine if the environment will contribute to the probability of success. Collaboration with appropriate research partners should be addressed. Specifically, reviewers will assess the institutional support, collaboration, equipment and other resources available to the investigators and determine if they are adequate for the proposed project.

Preference will be given to proposals that include collaboration with appropriate partners and subject matter experts. Other resources include the availability of well-qualified students, residents, interns and fellows to participate in the research project.

- 5. Statement of Career Goals:** Reviewers will assess the PI's "Statement of Career Goals" including the summary of past accomplishments in research, commitment to research, and how successful completion of the grant proposal will enhance the PI's potential for future large-scale funding.
- 6. Overall Impact:** Reviewers will provide an overall impact score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for project findings contribute to the literature and lead to future research studies. The budget and budget justifications will be reviewed. Finally, the impact score will also reflect the quality of the proposal (i.e., clarity, conciseness, organization and presentation.)

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

1. Prior to beginning the application process, applicants should read the Request for Application thoroughly and confirm their organization and project qualify for the funding being offered.

2. All applicants must electronically submit:

Form	Name	Instructions
A	Application Face Page	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete all sections keeping in mind that the project title must contain a reference to the clinical relevance of the project.</li> <li>Indicate if this is a new or resubmitted application, and enter specific titles, departments, addresses, telephone and e-mail addresses, where requested.</li> <li>Ensure all required signatures are provided. Signatures are required for the applicant, department chair, other investigators associated with the project (if applicable), the financial officer/grant administrator and the official authorized to sign for the institution. No “per” signatures are permitted.</li> <li>Indicate the type of project (basic, clinical or health services), the research focus areas and the keyword descriptors. In addition, please indicate all other relevant categories.</li> <li>Indicate the appropriate Research Focus Area (<b>select only one</b>)</li> </ul>
B	Key Personnel	<p>Provide information on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicant/PI</li> <li>Advisor</li> <li>Individuals whose effort is central to the project, including experts in the field of this study that should be included on the project as well as other contributors.</li> <li>Biostatistician whose effort is central to the project, either salaried or unsalaried.</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Include a biosketch for each individual listed.</p>
C	Biosketch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide information for all personnel on the Research Team.</li> <li>Follow the format on the form for each person.</li> <li><b>DO NOT EXCEED FIVE PAGES per person.</b></li> </ul>
D	Statement of Career Goals	<p>Provide a statement describing the PI’s career goals, including a summary of past accomplishments in research, future research goals and how successful completion of the grant proposal will enhance the PI’s potential for future large-scale funding.</p>
E	Budget Worksheet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a specific budget for the proposed expenditures. The budget should show the items and the amounts requested from the AOA. Only direct costs will be funded.</li> <li>Each budget item should be itemized and justified.</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b> See document entitled, “Budget Worksheet Instructions” for detailed guidelines.</p>
F	Budget Justification	<p>Provide detailed justifications on all expenditures listed on the budget worksheet.</p>
G	Resources (Facilities and Other)	<p>Describe facilities and resources to be used to conduct the research.</p>
H	Project Summary/Abstract	<p>Provide a summary of the proposed activity suitable for dissemination to the public. The abstract/summary is meant to serve as a succinct and accurate description of the proposed work when separated from the application.</p> <p><b>DO NOT EXCEED 7,500 CHARACTERS</b></p>
I	Statement of Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a statement describing the relevance of the project to the AOA’s mission.</li> <li>Provide a statement that explicitly and clearly describes how the research will impact the field of osteopathic medicine and addresses the tenets of osteopathic medicine.</li> </ul>



Form	Name	Instructions
J	Resubmissions <b>ONLY APPLICABLE IF YOU ARE RESUBMITTING AN APPLICATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a one-page report that explains how the previous reviewers' critiques have been addressed in your application. Make sure that you address all of the reviewers' critiques.</li> </ul> <p><b>DO NOT EXCEED 15,000 CHARACTERS</b></p>
The Research Plan		<p>Complete each section on continuous pages. Begin each section with the section headers below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research Question(s)/Specific Aims (Max. 1 page)</li> <li>Background and Significance (Max. 3 pages)</li> <li>Preliminary Studies <i>(if applicable)</i> (Max. 6 pages)</li> <li>Power Analysis/Methods (Max. 2 pages)</li> <li>Research Design &amp; Methods (Max. 10 pages)</li> <li>Human Subjects <i>(if applicable)</i> (Max. 3 pages)</li> <li>Vertebrate Animals <i>(if applicable)</i> (Max. 3 pages)</li> <li>Bibliography (Max. 6 pages)</li> <li>Collaboration (Max. 2 pages)</li> <li>Prepare a proposed timeline for each of the project's specific aims, demonstrating progress expected at 6, 12 and 18 months</li> <li>Set forth two to three specific milestones to be achieved per reporting period (Complete chart)</li> <li>Describe your dissemination plan of the study findings (1/2 page)</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b> See document entitled, "The Research Plan Instructions" for detailed guidelines.</p>
K	Required Reports <b>ONLY APPLICABLE IF YOU RECEIVE A GRANT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress reports should be a brief presentation of the accomplishments of the research project during the reporting period, in language understandable to a biomedical scientist who may not be a specialist in the project's research field. Progress reports are due semi-annually (every six (6 months)).</li> <li>A final report for the study shall be submitted within 90 days following the close of the grant period.</li> <li>A grant that is extended beyond the original funding period shall continue submitting progress reports semi-annually (every six (6 months)).</li> </ul>
L	Budget Report Worksheet <b>ONLY APPLICABLE IF YOU RECEIVE A GRANT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detailed financial reports should be an itemized listing of expenditures used. Financial reports are due semi-annually (every six (6 months)).</li> <li>A final financial report for the study shall be submitted within 90 days following the close of the grant period.</li> <li>A grant that is extended beyond the original funding period shall continue submitting financial reports semi-annually (every six (6 months)).</li> </ul>

Submit your proposal via the AOA online submission software program at <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=AmericanOsteo>.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE/QUESTIONS

Questions should be directed to the AOA Department of Research and Development at:

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