

**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF SPORTS PHYSICAL THERAPY
LEGACY FUND**

2019 Request for New Investigator Research Proposals

OVERVIEW

The American Academy of Sports Physical Therapy (AASPT) is recognized as the leader in sports physical therapy by promoting excellence in research, education, and professional development. AASPT established the Legacy Fund with the intent of supporting clinically relevant research conducted by its members to advance sports physical therapy practice.

The purpose of the New Investigator Research Grant is to support clinical research projects of AASPT members who are early in their professional careers. Research proposals that investigate issues within the broad discipline of sports physical therapy, including clinical practice, injury prevention and rehabilitation, epidemiology, and education are welcomed.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the New Investigator Research Grant award, the principal investigator (PI) must be an AASPT member who is no more than five (5) years from clinical residency or research doctoral/post-doctoral training at the time of application. Individuals who have obtained federal research funding or who have previously received Legacy funding are not eligible. Applicants without formal research training are strongly encouraged to work collaboratively with an experienced academic or clinical researcher and include this mentor as a co-investigator on the proposed project.

All proposals should clearly and directly add to or refine the body of knowledge on which the field of sports physical therapy is based. Additional consideration will be given to proposals that are likely to lead to larger clinical projects and/or subsequent foundation or federal level funding.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

The annual application deadline is October 15th. Any submissions received after the deadline will not be reviewed until the next funding cycle. Incomplete proposals will not be reviewed. The AASPT Research Committee may request additional materials beyond the formal application.

MAXIMUM AWARD AMOUNT

This fund will award up to a maximum of \$10,000 per award cycle for a study period of no more than one (1) year. Final funding amounts will be determined by annual spendable earnings and this amount may fluctuate slightly from cycle to cycle. Proposals with budgets exceeding \$10,000 will not be reviewed.

ACCEPTABLE USE OF AWARDED SUPPORT

Justifiable research expenses include but are not limited to data collection equipment, materials/supplies, statistical consultation, patient/subject honorarium, publication fees, and conference travel of one investigator for dissemination of findings. Grant funds may not be used for indirect costs, salary support of investigators or co-investigators, or the purchase of computers.

REVIEW PROCESS

Applications will be screened for completeness and prepared for distribution to the Scientific Review panel. Incomplete proposals will be returned to the applicant and not reviewed.

Complete proposals will undergo peer review by a Scientific Review panel appointed by the AASPT Research Committee. During each funding cycle, the panel will review all proposals within forty-five (45) days of the submission deadline. Reviewers will submit written evaluations of each proposal.

To encourage consistent, fair and reliable review of proposals, the review panel will follow adapted NIH guidelines for critique and scoring based on the scientific merit of proposals. Applications will be scored according to the four criteria identified below. Each criterion will receive an independent score, which contributes to an overall application score:

- a) **Significance & Relevance:** The potential for the proposal to make significant and timely contributions to the field of sports physical therapy.

- b) **Innovation:** The novelty of the concepts, analytical techniques, and interventions, or the potential to challenge current clinical and scientific paradigms within sports physical therapy.
- c) **Approach:** The extent to which the concept, research design, statistical methods and analyses are adequately described and appropriate for the proposed investigation.
- d) **Investigators & Environment:** The ability of the PI and the research team to successfully complete the proposed investigation, including clear evidence of protected effort. Consideration is also given to the quality of the facilities and resources available to the research team.

The Scientific Review Panel will provide a summary of the written evaluations to the members of the AASPT Research Committee along with a recommendation for funding. The AASPT Research Committee will evaluate the appropriateness and potential merit of projects based on the research priorities of the AASPT and have the final decision on the award.

NOTIFICATION OF AWARD

The Chair of the AASPT Research Committee will notify the PI in writing of the grant evaluations summary and the decision on funding. These notifications will go out within sixty (60) days of the submission deadline. No funds will be dispersed until Institutional Review Board approval has been obtained.

PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND PRESS RELEASES

To ensure that support provided by the Legacy Fund is adequately reflected, all publications, presentations, and press releases must recognize the funding provided by the AASPT. The required credit line is: *"The project described was supported by the American Academy of Sports Physical Therapy Legacy Fund. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not represent the official views of the American Academy of Sports Physical Therapy."*

PROGRESS REPORTS & STUDY COMPLETION

A final report must be submitted to the Chair of the AASPT Research Committee within ninety (90) days of the end of the funding period and should include a summary of study expenditures and a brief description of study results and significance of findings. A proposal will not be considered complete until this final report is submitted.

Investigators are expected to submit their findings for presentation at the APTA Combined Sections Meeting within 1 year of the end of the funding period. Submission for publication in sports physical therapy journals such as the *Journal of Orthopedic and Sports Physical Therapy*, *Sports Health*, or the *International Journal of Sports Physical Therapy* is expected.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applications must be sent electronically as a single PDF document to the chair of the AASPT Research Committee. Applications and supporting materials must be received by 11:59PM PT on October 15. Paper or faxed submissions will not be accepted.

Please address all applications and questions to:

Bryan Heiderscheid, PT, PhD, FAPTA
Chair, AASPT Research Committee
heidrscheid@ortho.wisc.edu

Grant Application Format

Applications that do not adhere to these format requirements or that are submitted as multiple files (i.e., anything other than a single PDF file) may be administratively withdrawn.

- Render all individual files into a single PDF for submission.
- Follow the order of components listed below to organize final submission materials.
- Create the application using Arial or Calibri typeface. Use no less than 11-point type size. Smaller type sizes may be used for tables and figures, but the text must be easily legible.
- Page sizes in final PDF submission must not exceed 8.5" x 11.0". Margins must be at least 0.8" on all sides. No more than six (6) lines of type per vertical inch are allowed for the submission materials. All pages of the application must be numbered sequentially.

Grant Application Components

1. **Cover Sheet:** contains project title; names and contact information of PI and co-investigator(s); dollar amount requested
2. **Project Abstract (max 250 words):** The abstract should describe the background and key objectives of the proposed research project. In addition, the research design and methods, including an analysis plan, should be clearly identified with a statement of hypotheses to be tested and future plans for research.
3. **Introduction/Specific Aims (1 page):** The introduction should provide sufficient background to the proposed area of research and clearly identify all primary and secondary aims as well as relevant hypotheses.
4. **Research Strategy (max 4 pages):** The research plan should not exceed four (4) pages in length and include the following key areas: Significance, Innovation and Research Plan/Approach. Relevance to sports physical therapy populations should be included in the significance section. Innovative aspects of the project including novel methods, analytic techniques, or interventions should be identified. The approach should clearly outline the complete plan, methodology and analysis proposed to achieve the specific aims. This section should include a description of the targeted patient population and sampling/recruitment strategy, statistical considerations including analytical approach and power/sample size justification, and finally limitations and potential alternative strategies to the approach. Preliminary data are encouraged (if available) but not required for a competitive application.
5. **Timeline (max 1 page):** Include a proposed timeline of key research milestones throughout the duration of the proposed project
6. **Project Budget with Justification (max 1 page):** A detailed budget, itemized by expense categories must be included. Existing grants or other funding sources being utilized for the same project should be listed separately by briefly stating the funding agency, amount, and general description of how the funds will be utilized.
7. **Facilities (max 1 page):** A description of facilities, equipment, and resources available to the study team and relevant to the proposed project.
8. **References**
9. **Biographical Sketches:** Bio-sketches for all study investigators should follow NIH format not exceeding 5 pages in length and should include all pertinent appointments and qualifications. A statement of purpose should be included identifying the investigator's strengths as they relate to the proposed study. Only publications most relevant to the proposed research project are necessary.
10. **Documentation of institutional and other relevant support:** Documents pertinent to the proposed research project including letters of support (e.g. from collaborators, institutions, clinics), proposed questionnaires/surveys, statements identifying conflicts of interest, Institutional Review Board approval letter or indication of pending status, and, if applicable, evidence of clinical trial registration or indication of intent to do so.