

Opportunities for Clinical O&P Research Support

Bid Number: EBP-043021

The American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association (AOPA) and the Center for Orthotic and Prosthetic Learning and Outcomes/Evidence-Based Practice (COPL) are proud to announce a Request for Pilot Grant Proposals in Orthotic and Prosthetic (O&P) research. AOPA leadership and the COPL Board of Directors recognize the dire need for original evidence-based and outcomes research in O&P. Consequently, this award is intended to fund original pilot studies that will support full-scale research projects and to encourage new knowledge generation from young investigators. Additionally, for the 2022-2023 award cycle, AOPA and the COPL Board have identified the following areas as priorities for evidence development:

1. Study social determinants of health, health inequity, and/or health disparity within orthotic and prosthetic patient populations.
2. Study how real-world data collection methods, like wearables, can be paired with traditional methods of functional assessment in O&P populations.
3. Study the impact of COVID on care and care coordination for limb loss, limb difference, and limb impairment patient populations.
4. Study transitional care; changes in orthotic and/or prosthetic care as patient transitions from pediatric to adult care models (coordination of care, device design, payer policies, etc.)
5. Study/develop outcomes measures, evaluation of clinical benefit, and quality of life metrics related to orthotic and/or prosthetic management (Note: submissions should be pathology and/or condition appropriate, e.g. Diabetes, Peripheral Vascular Disease, Stroke, Spinal Injury, Cerebral Palsy, Multiple Sclerosis, OA, etc.).
6. Demonstrate methods to record primary health outcomes such as falls and lower back pain in individuals living with limb loss, difference or impairment.
7. Study choice of socket during prosthetic intervention. Factors can include cost savings, adaptability, patient-preference, etc.
8. Study the functional impacts and proven clinical benefits of vacuum-assisted socket suspension systems, elevated vacuum. Develop guidelines and clinical decision support for elevated vacuum suspension systems.
9. Develop a validated instrument to assess prosthetic interface (socket, liner, and suspension) fit, comfort and performance.
10. Study the current prosthetic and/or orthotic prescribing patterns with respect to goal-oriented care and longitudinal clinical outcomes.

Additional topics beyond those listed will also be considered for funding. AOPA and the COPL Board will give preference to grants that address evidence-based clinical application in O&P. Applications involving patient-engaged, participatory research are encouraged.

Please post this RFP and share it with your colleagues. The deadline for proposals under the Request for Pilot Grant Proposals is **April 30, 2022**.

One-time awards will be granted for projects ranging between \$5,000 and \$30,000. The study must be completed within one year from the start date, which will be set once IRB approval is received and initial payment is made by AOPA.

Request for Proposal: **Bid Number EBP-043022**

Inquiries should be sent directly to: Ashlie White at awhite@AOPAnet.org or 571-431-0812

Eligibility

Note that in addition to O&P professionals, physicians in training (interns, residents, fellows) are eligible to apply, provided that the work is conducted under the preceptorship of a more senior or experienced investigator. Successful applicants must agree to acknowledge the support from AOPA and COPL in any publications or presentations that result from the research, and to submit a final report within 12 months of the date of the award. When feasible, studies should include patient populations within the United States.

Selection Criteria

Awardees will be selected based on feasibility, scientific and clinical significance, originality, and anticipated contribution of the research to clinical practice. Applications will also be evaluated on the availability of adequate resources, including personnel and facilities.

Review Process

All proposals will be submitted to the COPL Board of Directors for review and scoring. The COPL Board of Directors will send a funding recommendation to the AOPA Board of Directors for approval.

Deadline: Apply online by **April 30, 2022**. Successful applicants will be notified no later than July 1, 2022 with availability of this support to begin approximately August 1, 2022 contingent on IRB approval.

Application Instructions

ASSEMBLE THE APPLICATION MATERIALS IN THE ORDER LISTED BELOW. BEGIN WITH ITEM A (TITLE PAGE), AND END WITH ITEM I (APPENDICES). Please submit all materials as one (1) PDF file, with the pages below included at the beginning of the application. Applications not

following instructions will not be eligible for funding.

A. **Title Page** including the following:

1. **List the Principal Investigator and all Co-Investigators** -- If a trainee is listed as the Principal Investigator, indicate the name of the responsible investigator. This individual agrees to serve as the trainee's preceptor and to be responsible for scientific and administrative oversight of the project.
2. **Institutional Review Board (IRB) status** — If the research to be conducted involves prospective work with human subjects and is being conducted at a hospital, university or other health care institution, such institution likely requires approval of any proposal by its Institutional Review Board (IRB). Full compliance with applicable IRB requirements is a prerequisite before any grant funds will be distributed. If IRB approval is pending or has not yet been applied for at the time of submission and the grant proposal is subsequently approved for funding, funds will not be released until the IRB approval letter is received by AOPA. If the proposal is requesting funds for reimbursement of human subjects, a copy of the IRB approved consent form is required prior to funding as well.
3. **Conflict of interest** — A potential conflict of interest exists when the research involves a device from which any investigator(s) or a company may profit. It also exists when the research involves any product used in patient treatment that is not FDA-approved (if applicable) for any indication. A conflict of interest exists if any investigator holds or has submitted a patent on a device or other product or is a major share-holder in a company involved in the research. If applicable, attach a detailed letter of explanation (see below).

B. **Abstract**

Put on a separate page immediately following the title page. Limit to 200 words. Use the abstract to summarize the proposed research.

C. **Research Grant Proposal**

Begin on a separate page immediately following the abstract. Limit to 3 pages (excluding references and budget). Use 1" margins with font size no smaller than 11 point.

ASSEMBLE THE GRANT PROPOSAL AS DIRECTED BELOW, IN THE ORDER LISTED BELOW.

1. **Specific Aims** — Provide a clear description of the study objectives.
2. **Background/Significance** — State how the proposed work relates to prior work and indicate how it will extend the boundaries of current knowledge.
3. **Research Plan** — Give the details of the research plan, including the inclusion/exclusion criteria for enrollment, methods to be used, the kinds of data

that are to be collected, and how these data will be analyzed. Provide detailed sample size estimates.

4. **References** — Begin on a separate page. Be judicious in the use of references.
 5. **Budget** — Begin on a separate page. Indicate how the funds will be allocated and justify each budget item, including facility fees if funds are requested for this purpose. Note that salary support for the Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators will not be provided. Salary support will be provided for other personnel (research nurse, computer programmer) if adequately justified. Support will be provided for supplies and equipment. In general, major equipment acquisitions are not supported. Indirect costs (i.e., university overhead) are limited to 10% of total budget.
- D. Other Support**
For each investigator, list the title, funding agency, total direct costs, dates (including expected dates of notification) of all active awards and pending funding.
- E. IRB Approval Letter**
If received at time of submission, please include (see above).
- F. Conflict of Interest Statement**
Include, if applicable (see above).
- G. Biographical Sketch** of principal investigator, using NIH format.
- H. Supporting Letters**
Provide letters from collaborators, such as those supplying patient referrals, if applicable. Applications in which a physician/practitioner in training serves as Principal Investigator must be accompanied by a supporting letter from the individual's program director.
- I. Appendices**
Use (if needed) for data collection forms. Do not use to expand Section C (above).

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[Apply online](#)

REQUEST FOR PILOT GRANT PROPOSALS IN O&P RESEARCH (Sample Title Page)

TITLE OF PROJECT:

INVESTIGATORS: _____

NAME OF RESPONSIBLE INVESTIGATOR: _____ (to be completed if
Principal Investigator is a trainee)

FUNDS REQUESTED: _____

IRB STATUS: _____

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: As the principal (or responsible investigator, if applicable), I agree that if this grant proposal is funded, I will acknowledge the AOPA's support in all publications that arise from the research. I also will submit to AOPA a final report within 12 months after the date of the award.

Signature of Principal Investigator: _____

Signature of Responsible Investigator (required if PI is trainee):

Institution: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____