

Early Career Research Development Award Guidelines

Overview

The objective of this award is to provide start-up funding to orthopaedic trauma surgeons within 5 years of completion of their orthopaedic trauma fellowship (unless a military service obligation delayed the start of academic practice) who have demonstrated commitment and early success in their work environment. The funding would support feasible research that could be completed within the 2-years award and could be part of a larger body of work. Both laboratory and clinical projects (e.g., outcome studies) are suitable, but in either, case the clinical trauma relevance must be explicitly and clearly described. Awardees would also be expected to engage with the AO Trauma North America Research Committee and recipients of other awards to develop camaraderie and share knowledge and experiences with other young researchers.

Eligibility

The principal investigator (PI) must be an orthopedic trauma surgeon within 5 years of orthopedic trauma fellowship completion (unless military service obligations have delayed the start of academic practice) in the United States or Canada and a member of AO Trauma.

Application

To apply, the following must be submitted to aotna@aona.org:

- CV
- Personal statement
- A letter of support from your Chair
- Grant proposal
- Budget

Budget

Funding is distributed over 2 years as outlined below.

- Up to \$16,000 paid to the institution in year 1 upon receipt of the award
- Up to \$16,000 paid to the institution in year 2 upon receipt of a progress report accepted by the AO Trauma North America Research Committee (AO TNA RC)
- \$1,500 per year for 2 years (\$3,000 total) to cover travel to the annual One AO leadership meeting

Guidelines

1. Normally, support of each grant approved shall not exceed \$35,000 for a two-year period. If the research project submitted will cost more than \$35,000, no funds will be released from AO North America until the applicant is able to provide documentation that the additional funding necessary to complete the project has been secured from other sources.
2. The application process is an open call for clinical and translational trauma-oriented research projects. The PI must be within 5 years of orthopedic trauma fellowship completion.
 - a. Applications are limited to **one** submission per individual each academic year.
3. AO Trauma North America (AO TNA) will not provide funds for capital equipment, such as computers or laboratory instrumentation, except as explained in guideline number 4 below. AO TNA will not provide funding to support salaries of the principal or co-investigators, or any travel expenses associated with conduct or presentation of the study. Also, please note that no overhead or indirect costs are to be imposed by the recipient institution, and funds may not be used for payment of fringe benefits of participating staff.
4. AO TNA will provide funds to purchase low-cost instruments, such as measurement calipers, etc. In addition, implants needed exclusively for the research project may be funded.
5. Only one grant will be awarded per applicant per academic year. In general, only one grant will be awarded per institution per academic year; however, this restriction may be waived at

the discretion of the AO TNA RC for institutions having more than one trauma applicant per academic year, if funding allows.

6. Any grant monies not utilized for this specific funded research project **must** be returned to AO TNA within sixty (60) days of grant termination, and funded projects not completed will result in the fellowship director's program being eliminated from consideration for any subsequent AO TNA research funding opportunities for the next two years.
7. Applicants who receive funding from this application process **must** acknowledge AO TNA's support in any resulting publications or presentations. A statement indicating that "*This research was supported by funding from AO Trauma North America*" **must** be included in the acknowledgement section of the manuscript and the lead slide of any presentation.