

AO VET: Guidelines for Applications for the 2023 AO VET / ARI Collaborative Grant Program

Applications which do not conform completely to the website application format or which ignore or fail to comply with any part of the guidelines may be returned to the applicant without review unless resubmitted by the original deadline.

General information

The AO VET Research and Development Commission invites proposals for funding through the 2023 AO VET / ARI Collaborative Grant Program. These amounts of money are available on a competitive basis to investigators who wish to undertake experimental work for their research study at the AO Research Institute (ARI), Davos. The topic of the research proposal should relate to unanswered questions in veterinary and/or comparative orthopaedics, and the methods that are to be used should be aligned with the resources and expertise available within ARI - <https://www.aofoundation.org/what-we-do/research-innovation>.

Investigators will ideally participate actively in the physical completion of the study at ARI or they may ask collaborators at ARI to complete the research on their behalf while remaining actively engaged in carrying the research throughout its duration. Investigators should identify collaborators at ARI in the proposal prior to grant submission. Assistance in the identification of suitable ARI collaborators and cost of the project is offered by the ARI representative to the AO VET R&D Commission, Dr Caroline Constant, caroline.constant@aofoundation.org.

All applications will undergo formal peer review through the AO VET Research & Development Commission. Projects will be selected based on their novelty, feasibility and the scientific merit of the proposal, as well as the professional attributes of the candidate. Less-experienced researchers are encouraged to make their applications in collaboration with a more senior colleague.

Most importantly, since the funds under this program can only be spent at ARI, grant applications will only be considered for research studies in which the **experimental elements of the work are to be completed in their entirety** at the AO Research Institute, Davos.

Eligibility

The principal investigator must be an active, paid-up member of AO VET at the time of grant submission.

Application form

The application must be submitted in English using the AO VET application form, available here (https://www.aofoundation.org/vet/about-aovet/news/news-2023/2023_03-call-ao-vet-ari-collaborative-research-grant-2023). Do not exceed the indicated number of characters and pages.

This allows adequate evaluation regarding relevance, quality and cost of the projects. Applications which are incomplete or do not comply with our guidelines may not be considered.

The following topics must be covered in the application under these headings:

- Abstract of the research project
- Outline of the problem
- State of the art in this field
- Past research of the applicant in this field
- Overarching goals - hypothesis, open questions, aim of the project
- Detailed research plan:
 - Study subjects, specimens or materials
 - Effect and outcome variables
 - Methods for taking measurements, data management and statistical analysis, including estimation of sample size and power
- Relevance of the project and description of the expected impact of this project on veterinary and/or comparative orthopedics
- Timelines
- Relevant literature by the applicant and by other authors

The application must be e-mailed as an unprotected Word document.

Funding policy

Salaries

Salaries for the principal investigator and co-applicants will not normally be approved.

Travel expenses

A maximum amount of CHF 1,500 for one national conference to present results will be covered. Funds cannot be used to cover investigator travel to/from ARI.

Indirect costs

No overhead contributions are made to the submitting organization.

Additional funding

Additional funding from other AO institutions or any other source must be disclosed in detail. If other funding is available, it must be made clear how this will affect the overall budget of the project if the AO VET grant application is successful.

Collaboration with AO Institutes

Applications that involve collaboration with the ARI have to be approved by its Director prior to submission. It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to provide a written confirmation from the Director of ARI with the application. Investigators are encouraged to contact the ARI representative to the AO VET R&D Commission, Dr Caroline Constant, caroline.constant@aofoundation.org for assistance in a timely manner (at least 1 week prior to grant submission). If the work involves collaborations with other AO institutions (e.g. AO Innovation and Translation Center, AO Technical Commission, and AO Expert Groups) letters of support should be provided from the Director of the appropriate institution to confirm budgetary and/or staffing commitments.

Use of animals in research

Applications that involve the use of laboratory animals for research or teaching will need to undergo review by the local ethics panel. Guidance on the procedures for ethical review at ARI is available from Dr Caroline Constant, caroline.constant@aofoundation.org. It is not necessary to have approval prior to submission of the proposal, but funds will not be released until approval has been confirmed by ARI. Any animal work performed under this award mechanism must be undertaken at ARI in Davos.

Implants and instruments

If products from DePuy Synthes (Johnson & Johnson) or other commercially available implants or instruments are included in the research project, the applicant should provide a quote from the local sales representative as part of the proposal. For administrative reasons, DePuy Synthes products must be purchased from the local distributor and reference to the accepted AO research project should be made.

Conditions

Support can only be granted if the Agreement is fully accepted and signed by the principal applicant/s and an authorized institutional official within 3 months of the date of award. Applicants are encouraged to review the standard Terms and Conditions of this AO VET grant mechanism with the institutional official prior to submission to ensure that the official is willing to sign off on the Agreement should funding be awarded. This grant mechanism is intended to have a short lead time from application to initiation of work, so failure to execute an Agreement within 3 months from the date of award may lead to withdrawal of the offer of financial support.

Notification

The AO VET office will send out an email confirming receipt of the application within one week of the deadline.

Decision

Decisions will be communicated within approximately two months after the deadline for submission. Applications should not be resubmitted unless the PI is specifically requested to do so.