

# 2022 AO Spine Asia Pacific Research Mini-Grant Application Guidelines

The grants are intended to provide **start-up funding** for new spinal research projects with either a clinical or basic science focus. Early and mid-career investigators are encouraged to apply.

To apply for this grant, please complete the online application form and submit details of proposal to the online application platform.

The details of Research Grant are as follows:

## **Award**

- Eligibility: The principal investigator must be a subscribing AO Spine Member
- Amount of each grant up to CHF 5,000
- Type: Start-up (clinical or basic science)
- Duration: 1 Year (September 1, 2022-August 31, 2023)
- Deadline for submission of grant application: **18:00 HKT on May 31, 2022** ([check your local time here](#)).
- Announcement of awards: August 2022

## **Agreement & Funding**

Agreements should be made between AO SAP and the institution. Research grants will be sent to the institution and not to individual applicants. A full research grant will be sent upon the research grant agreement is signed. AO SAP reserves the right to discontinue the grant, with return of full funding by the recipient, if for any reason it is determined that the activities for which the grant is intended to address cannot be met.

## **Terms & Conditions**

- Recipients must submit an interim report at the six-month interval and a final report at the completion of the project.
- The research work should be published in a peer-reviewed journal within 3 months after the agreed project end date on the research agreement. Applications for extension must be made no less than 3 months from the agreed project end date and require email confirmation by the council research officer and AO SAP research chairman. If the council research officer and/or AO SAP research chairman are investigators of the award, the AO SAP chairperson will make the decision.
- All publications and oral/poster presentations must clearly acknowledge the financial support from AO Spine, stating the grant reference number.
- The investigator is expected to present his/her research stemming from this award at an AO Spine sponsored meeting or other conferences, at their own expense.
- If membership of the principal investigator shall be expired before the end date of the research project, the investigator needs to renew membership to cover the project period.

- Investigators holding current AO Spine positions are not eligible as the principal investigator.
- Principal investigators with unfinished projects are not eligible to apply.
- Applicants are only eligible to submit one grant proposal. Multiple proposals from the same applicant will not be considered.
- Violations of any of the above will lead to the investigator team forfeiting the remaining grant and will not be eligible for future award consideration.

### **Grading Procedure**

- Applications will be assessed by the scientific committee
- A score out of 5 will be given by each member based on the selection criteria below
  - Current scientific and clinical relevance, interest, and impact
  - Originality and innovation
  - Suitability of material and methods
  - Feasibility of expected deliverables
  - Budget requirement vs. expected deliverables
  - Reasonable time plan (preferably 1 year or less)
  - Completeness of proposal
  - Overall impression of the application
- Submissions by investigators who have failed to complete their previous project(s) satisfactorily will not be considered for the award.

### **Useful links and documents for preparation:**

[Online Application](#)

[Details of Proposal Template](#)

[Evaluation Committee Members](#)

[Check your AO ID](#)

[AO Account Creation](#)

[Membership Status/ Renewal](#)

[Become a member](#)

Inquiry: [researchAOSAP@aospine.org](mailto:researchAOSAP@aospine.org)