

# **AMERICAN ORTHOPAEDIC SOCIETY FOR SPORTS MEDICINE PLAYMAKER GRANT LAB REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS & GRANT GUIDELINES**

## **REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

The **American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine (AOSSM)**, under the auspices of its Research Committee, and in coordination with and support from **The Aircast Foundation**, is offering grants from \$10,000 to \$25,000 to help fund ambitious, exploratory, and ground-breaking projects in orthopaedic sports medicine. Project proposals will be accepted following the guidelines below. A limited number of proposals will be invited to attend the “Playmaker Grant Lab” during the AOSSM-AANA Combined Annual Meeting, July 7-11, 2021 in Nashville, Tennessee.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

This research grant opportunity aims to advance exploratory projects by providing start-up funding, seed-money, bridge/gap funding, or supplemental funding for an ambitious investigative team. Criteria and metrics utilized in the proposed study must be determined by best scientific evidence and designed to improve the understanding of an emerging or novel technology in orthopaedic sports medicine. Studies involving human subjects will receive priority.

### **AOSSM RESEARCH PRIORITIES:**

- Preventative Medicine
- Orthobiologics & Regenerative Medicine
- Optimizing Treatments
- Return to Play
- Osteoarthritis
- Cartilage

### **FUNDING:**

This opportunity provides an award of \$10,000 to \$25,000 with limited restrictions. Applicants that are invited to participate in the Playmaker Grant Lab will be required to submit a formal grant proposal, following the grant lab, to receive funds.

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

Any investigative team seeking such a grant must include at least one member of AOSSM in good standing. No AOSSM Board officer (e.g., President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, etc.) may be a named investigator on any application.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: JUNE 10, 2021 at 11:59pm Pacific**

## **PLAYMAKER GRANT GUIDELINES**

### **1) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

The Playmaker application must be completed in full and submitted together with the components requested in these grant guidelines. Applications must be submitted at the following website:

### **[PLAYMAKER GRANT SUBMISSION CENTER](#)**

The following documents must be uploaded to the Submission Center to be considered for participation in the Playmaker Grant Lab:

- Letter of Interest (LOI) including research questions or hypothesis
- Draft Specific Aims

### **2) DEADLINES**

You must complete your submission no later than **JUNE 10, 2021 at 11:59pm PST** for consideration of this grant opportunity.

### **3) PROCEDURE**

Phase 1: Apply to the Playmaker Grant Lab: The initial step to receiving a Playmaker Grant is to apply for participation in the Playmaker Grant Lab on Saturday, July 10 at the AOSSM-AANA Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN. This initial application includes a cover letter that introduces the proposed investigation and begins to outline specific aims of the investigation.

Phase 2: Participate in Playmaker Grant Lab: Applications accepted to the Playmaker Grant Lab will be invited to present their Research Strategy to a task force from the AOSSM Research Committee at the AOSSM-AANA Combined Annual Meeting. This session on Saturday July 10, 2021 will be open to meeting attendees to participate. All funding decisions will be made by standing members of the AOSSM Research Committee.

Phase 3: Complete formal grant application to AOSSM: Projects selected for funding during the Playmaker Grant Lab will be required to submit a formal grant application, following AOSSM Grant Application Format. This includes: Specific Aims, Research Strategy, References, Budget, Benchmarks and Timeline & Investigator Biosketches. Projects seeking supplemental or bridge/gap funding will be eligible to submit existing documentation.

For further questions regarding this phased procedure please contact Kevin M. Boyer, AOSSM Director of Research and Health Policy, [kevin@aossm.org](mailto:kevin@aossm.org).

### **4) APPLICATION COMPONENTS**

#### **PHASE 1:**

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LETTER OF INTEREST (LOI): This LOI serves as an introduction and brief description of the project you are presenting for the Playmaker Grant. Components of this letter may include:

- Summary Statement
- Statement of Need
- Project Activity
- Anticipated Impact
- Credentials/Investigative Team
- Budget
- Closing Remarks

The LOI should be signed by the Principal Investigator(s) and not exceed two (2) pages.

DRAFT SPECIFIC AIMS: State concisely (no more than one page) the goals of the proposed/ongoing research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will have on the research field(s) involved. List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed (e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology).

## **PHASE 2:**

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Proposals selected for the Playmaker Grant Lab should follow the guidelines below to create a “Research Strategy” presentation not to exceed 15 minutes:

### RESEARCH STRATEGY:

The Research Strategy should include sufficient information needed for evaluation of the project, independent of any other document. Be specific and informative and avoid redundancies.

The Research Strategy should answer these broad questions:

- What has already been done?
- What do you intend to do?
- Why is the work important?
- How are you going to do the work?

Organize the Research Strategy in the order specified below and using the instructions provided below. Start each section with the appropriate section heading – **Significance, Innovation, Approach**. Cite published experimental details in the Research Strategy and provide the full reference in the References document

If an application has multiple specific aims; Significance, Innovation, and Approach may be addressed either for each Specific Aim individually or for all of the Specific Aims collectively

### **Significance**

- Explain how the proposed project improves clinical decision making
- Describe the significance of the project’s objective and/or subjective measures or metrics
- Explain how the proposed project improves understanding
- Explain the relevance of your project to AOSSM members and how the tool/technology can be utilized by AOSSM members

### **Innovation**

- Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.
- Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
- Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

### **Approach**

- Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project.
- Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted as well as any resource sharing plans as appropriate.
- Describe plans to address weaknesses in the rigor of the prior research that serves as the key support for the proposed project.
- Describe the experimental design and methods proposed and how they will achieve robust and unbiased results.
- Include sample size calculations and/or power analysis.
- Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims.
- If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high-risk aspects of the proposed work.
- Point out any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and precautions to be exercised.

### **PHASE 3:**

Proposals selected for funding at the Playmaker Grant Lab will be required to submit a full grant application to receive their funds. The required documentation for a full grant application is included below.

### **SPECIFIC AIMS:**

**Specific Aims are limited to one page.** State concisely (no more than one page) the goals of the proposed/ongoing research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will have on the research field(s) involved. List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed (e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology).

### **RESEARCH STRATEGY:**

**The Research Strategy has a limit of five pages.** The Research Strategy should include sufficient information needed for evaluation of the project, independent of any other document. Be specific and informative and avoid redundancies.

The Research Strategy should answer these broad questions:

- What has already been done?
- What do you intend to do?
- Why is the work important?
- How are you going to do the work?

Organize the Research Strategy in the order specified below and using the instructions provided below. Start each section with the appropriate section heading – **Significance, Innovation, Approach**. Cite published experimental details in the Research Strategy and provide the full reference in the References document

If an application has multiple specific aims; Significance, Innovation, and Approach may be addressed either for each Specific Aim individually or for all of the Specific Aims collectively

### **Significance**

- Explain how the proposed project improves clinical decision making
- Describe the significance of the project's objective and/or subjective measures or metrics
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- Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.
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- Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

### **Approach**

- Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project.
- Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted as well as any resource sharing plans as appropriate.
- Describe plans to address weaknesses in the rigor of the prior research that serves as the key support for the proposed project.
- Describe the experimental design and methods proposed and how they will achieve robust and unbiased results.
- Include sample size calculations and/or power analysis.
- Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims.
- If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high-risk aspects of the proposed work.
- Point out any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and precautions to be exercised.

### **REFERENCES:**

List all references according to *The American Journal of Sports Medicine* format and alphabetically. Each reference must include the title, names of all authors, book or journal, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. The reference should be limited to relevant and current literature. While there is not a page limitation, it is important to be concise and to select only those literature references pertinent to the proposed research.

### **BUDGET:**

Applicants are free to present their **proposed budget in any format**. Please list each major expense separately with a brief description and total amount. Supplies under \$1000 do not need to be itemized. Budget justifications are encouraged but not required. See Section 5 of these guidelines for fiscal procedures and policies.

#### BENCHMARKS AND TIMELINE:

Applicants are free to present their **proposed benchmarks and project timeline in any format**. Include major tasks you will accomplish during the project period and milestones events that will occur to demonstrate progress towards the Specific Aims and completion of the project.

#### APPENDIX:

Applications may include the following optional materials in the appendix:

- Surveys, questionnaires, data collection instruments, and clinical protocols.
- Cover letter
- Letters of support

#### INVESTIGATOR BIOSKETCHES:

**The Submission Center will accept up to 5 biosketches of the investigative team. The biosketch of the Principal Investigator is required.** Biosketches of senior investigative team members are strongly encouraged.

**The biosketch for each investigator is limited to three pages.** A blank biosketch form is available on the AOSSM website in our [Research Forms Library](#). Applicants can complete this form using the instructions below. If any member of the investigative team already has a previously completed NIH Biographical Sketch (or other funding agency biosketch) you may submit the form without page limitation.

##### Name/Position Title/Education/Training:

Complete the block at the top of the biosketch page.

##### Positions and Honors:

List in chronological order previous positions and list in chronological order any honors. Include present membership or committee appointments.

##### Selected Peer-reviewed Publications:

AOSSM encourages applicants to limit the list of selected peer-reviewed publications or manuscripts in press to no more than 15. The individual may choose to include selected publications based on significance of contribution to science, recency, importance to the field, and/or relevance to the proposed research.

##### Ongoing and Completed Research Support:

List ongoing and completed research projects from the past three years that you want to draw attention to. Briefly indicate the overall goals of the projects and your responsibilities. Do not include the number of person months or direct costs.

## 5) FISCAL PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

### Facilities to be provided by the grantee(s) or their parent institutions:

Research grants are designed to serve as supplementary funding for meritorious projects initiated or contemplated by the grantee(s) and their parent institutions. Therefore, the grantee(s) and such institutions are expected to provide all the necessary basic facilities and services normally expected in professional environments qualified to undertake research related to sports medicine. **AOSSM expects that the grantee(s) will have available, whether from their own resources, funds other than those assigned by AOSSM, or from their parent institutions the following, unless otherwise specifically agreed upon:**

1. Laboratory space;
2. Maintenance services, including maintenance supplies and service contracts;
3. Telephone service, if needed;
4. Library services, including subscriptions to periodicals and the purchase of books;
5. Laboratory furniture;
6. Salaries of principal investigator or co-investigators, unless otherwise agreed upon;
7. Foreign and local travel expenses of personnel working under the AOSSM grant;
8. Society dues and memberships of personnel working under the AOSSM grant;
9. Workers' compensation, public liability or other hazard and special insurance;
10. Office equipment;
11. Employee group life, disability, medical expense or hospitalization insurance;
12. Audio/visual project support devices and items; and
13. Hospital bed expense, nursing or related services, even when used for research studies pertinent to the subject of the AOSSM research grant.

As a matter of policy, AOSSM grant funds may not be spent for remodeling or building construction costs or travel expense.

### Overhead/Indirect Costs:

**AOSSM funds under the grant may not be used to pay institutional overhead/indirect (facilities and administrative) expenses.**

The bulk of the grant should generally be dedicated to purchasing those materials that are directly related to completion of the project. The cost of disposable or non-reusable experimental equipment or costs for use of equipment in the institution are generally justified. The purpose of this grant is not to stock laboratory with relatively permanent equipment or to pay an outside institution to perform work of the experiment.

### Financial Records:

Separate accounts must be maintained for each grant. These accounts, with substantiating invoices and other expenditure data, must be available at all times to representatives of AOSSM.

### Unexpended Balances -- Completed Grants:

Any unexpended balances of \$100 or more at the scheduled conclusion, or other termination of any AOSSM grant must be refunded to AOSSM within sixty (60) days together with the final report of the grant fund expenditures.

## 6) REPORTING

### Status Update Reports for those Receiving Grants:

All grant recipients are required to submit status updates to AOSSM every 6 months after official notification of their selection. Failure to report on the project within 1 year of the award date or 1 year from most recent status update report can lead to withdrawal of grant support. The status updates are reviewed by AOSSM to ensure adequate progress towards the completion of the project's specific aims. If the project is adequately progressing, the next disbursement of grant funds will be made. Funds are equally disbursed based on the project timeline in the grant application. For any funded grant project to be considered complete, the recipient must provide a final report to AOSSM within the project period. No-cost-extensions (NCE) are considered on a case-by-case basis.

### Final Reports for Those Receiving Grants:

At the end of the funded study, the grantee(s) must prepare, sign (together with the countersignature of the responsible financial official of the parent institution where appropriate) and submit to the AOSSM a report of grant expenditures. A final narrative report is also required at the completion of the study that summarizes research findings. Manuscripts under consideration for or accepted for publication are also acceptable as a final report.

## 7) MODIFICATIONS

Grantee(s) must receive written permission from AOSSM prior to moving funds between budget categories, changing effective dates of the grant, or making any other desired modifications. Grantee(s) may terminate a grant prior to normal expiration by notifying the AOSSM office in writing and stating the reasons for termination. Unexpended funds must be returned to AOSSM within sixty (60) days, together with a final accounting of expenditures under the grant. AOSSM reserves the right to terminate the grant at any time upon three months written notice to the grantee(s).

## 8) PUBLICATION

AOSSM's first right of publication of grantee(s) research findings resulting from AOSSM grants are reserved for consideration of publication by the Editorial Board of *The American Journal of Sports Medicine*. AOSSM should be sent reprints of all papers and publications resulting from work done under an AOSSM grant, including those that appear after the grant has been terminated.

The following acknowledgment must appear as a footnote on the first page of the manuscript or printed text: **"SUPPORTED BY A GRANT FROM THE AMERICAN ORTHOPAEDIC SOCIETY FOR SPORTS MEDICINE AND THE AIRCAST FOUNDATION"** The same credit line must be included when the grantee(s) presents a paper at a professional or scientific meeting based on a study funded by AOSSM.

## 9) OWNERSHIP OF EQUIPMENT

Equipment purchased under AOSSM grants becomes the property of the parent institution of the grantee(s) or its associated facilities.

## 10) CORRESPONDENCE

Any questions or requests should be directed to Kevin Boyer, Director of Research, American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine ([kevin@aossm.org](mailto:kevin@aossm.org)); 847-292-4900).