

AOS CLINICIAN-SCIENTIST AWARD

A. ELIGIBILITY

Candidates for this award must: 1) have completed an ACGME-approved residency in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and 2) hold a full-time teaching appointment in a US medical school within a department or division of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery 3) be citizens of the United States, or have been lawfully admitted for permanent United States residency at the time of application; 4) hold a Doctor of Medicine (MD) or equivalent degree from an accredited institution awarded within the last 10 years; and 5) have demonstrated the capacity or potential for a highly productive, independent research career with an emphasis in otology/neurotology. Preference will be given to candidates who have recently (within the preceding three years) completed, or are currently enrolled in a two-year otology/neurotology fellowship.

The AOS Clinician-Scientist and his or her mentor(s) are encouraged to use preliminary research results from this award as pilot material for the development of a research grant application to a suitable funding agency. Specifically, this grant mechanism is designed to permit the budding clinician-scientist adequate time and mentoring to accrue preliminary data to successfully apply for a K08/K23 grant from the NIH. Therefore, individuals who have already competed successfully for a career development award from a private or Federal funding agency are ineligible for this award program. The grantee may not receive concurrent research salary support from other agencies or sources during the period of this grant. Accordingly, funding from the AOS will be terminated once the Clinician-Scientist secures Federal funding for a Career Development Award.

B. QUALIFICATION AND CRITERIA FOR REVIEW

Research and research training supported by this award may be related to any research questions relevant to otology or neurotology, as long as it is demonstrated that the training will have a direct impact on the individual's ability to pursue his or her long-range research objectives. Note that the AOS Clinician-Scientist Award is not restricted to research pertaining to otosclerosis or Meniere's disease.

All candidates must be sponsored by the Chair of his/her Division or Department, and by an official representative of the institution which would administer the award and in whose name the application is formally submitted.

The applicant is responsible for selecting a research mentor at the academic institution to which the award will be made, and for making arrangements to work with that person. The designated mentor must be the faculty member who will directly supervise the proposed research training and evaluate the awardee's progress. An applicant may have a co-mentor if his or her research interests cross areas of expertise. **Selection of a mentor is a key step in the application process and will constitute an important review criterion.** In general, the applicant should seek a successful researcher who has recent publications in the area of research, experience in the research techniques to be applied, and, optimally, external grant support from NIH or other major agencies. Location in a department that will provide a stimulating and supportive research environment is an additional factor to consider.

The applicant's mentor should be an active investigator in the area of the proposed research who will directly supervise the candidate's research. The mentor must document the availability of staff, research support, and the curriculum and facilities for high-quality research career development in otology/neurotology.

The AOS Clinician-Scientist Award will be awarded on the basis of the scientific merit of the proposed research, the training and research environment at the parent institution, the qualification of the mentor(s) at the candidate's institution, the support of the Department Chair and the candidate's promise for a research career in otology/neurotology as a clinician-scientist.

C. AWARD LIMITATIONS

1. *Award amount:* Up to \$240,000 maximum total (direct plus indirect) costs (\$80,000 per year). Institutional indirect costs are limited to 8% of the direct costs, in conformity with NIH policy for career development awards.

2. *Period:* Up to 3 years, renewable yearly. Funds are available to support one project for up to three years.

3. *Funding:* One award to be made, contingent on the recommendation of the AOS Research Advisory Board.

4. *Use of Funds:* A detailed budget and budget justification constitute part of the application and will be evaluated for appropriateness as part of the review process. Funding may be used to support up to \$70,000 of the grantee's salary each year during the period of the award, within the total allowable costs. The parent institution may supplement the stipend, provided that such supplementation is in accordance with its usual policies and does not impose a service obligation in conflict with the protected research time requirements.

Up to \$20,000 (within the total allowable costs) may be designated for research supplies, equipment, and other costs each year, and should be identified in the budget as such. The allowance may be used for supplies and equipment for the AOS Clinician-Scientist's research, purchase and maintenance of experimental animals; consultation fees (e.g. biostatistical fees), and similar research-related expenses. Equipment and supplies purchased with this Award become the property of the parent institution and may not be removed from the institution without its specific release.

D. CONDITIONS OF SUPPORT

The candidate must devote at least two and one-half days per week (i.e. 50% effort) to the proposed research and research training activities during the period of the award. Applications must be accompanied by letters of support from both the applicant's mentor *and* from the Department/Division Chair, verifying that the applicant will be permitted to devote the specified amount of time to the proposed research and research training activities.

Renewal of support for years two and three will depend on submission of progress reports from the grantee. This report is in addition to the reports required by all AOS grants, as explained in the following section. This progress report should be submitted in PDF format annually by the Jan 31 deadline, and it should include the following components:

- 1) A short progress report on the research project (max two pages).
- 2) A list of grants applied for since the last progress report.
- 3) A list of papers submitted since the last progress report. Highlight those manuscripts supported by the AOS Clinician-Scientist Award.

- 4) A statement regarding the trainee's perceived progress towards applying for a K08/K23 grant. If things are not moving forward as fast as expected, please list changes you are making to make appropriate progress (max two pages).
- 5) A letter from the mentor describing the trajectory of the trainee's career development and his/her productivity, with bullet point lists highlighting the strengths and weaknesses.
- 6) A letter from the Chair documenting a minimum of 50% research effort.
- 7) An updated biosketch of the trainee in the latest NIH format.

Compliance with this requirement may, rarely, be assessed in site visits by representatives of the AOS Research Advisory Board.

E. GRANT APPLICATION FORMAT

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This grant is similar to a NIH K08/K23 grant. The goal is to accrue preliminary data to support a K08/K23 grant application to the NIH. Thus, the application requires a complete NIH-style K08/K23 application, with all of the required sections.

Please use the K08 or K23 application:

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/parent_announcements.htm

Select the appropriate mechanism, click the button partway down the page to "Apply Using Downloadable Forms", and then select the small button in white entitled "Proceed to Grants.gov to Download Application". You can then "Select the package", enter your email address, and then click "Submit" to download the application. You will only be able to open it using Adobe Reader outside of a web browser.

The application is a fillable PDF form that allows you to attach files containing the different sections of the grant. We want you to follow the instructions and submit this exactly as if you were submitting an K08/K21 grant application. All institutions that submit NIH grant applications will have personnel who can help you to follow the appropriate formatting and submission guidelines. If you follow the instructions, you will not be penalized.

Applicants are to follow the NIH instructions, including page limits, as explained at:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide.htm>

However, for the purposes of this grant mechanism, we require you to alter the submission process a little bit.

- 1) The funding is only for 3 years, and the direct and indirect costs are detailed in Table 1. Please keep the budget within these constraints.
- 2) Everything else should follow the NIH instructions. In particular, human subjects research requires including the planned enrollment report, protection of human subjects, inclusion of women and minorities, and inclusion of children sections. Animal research requires the vertebrate animal section.