Jay Grosfeld, MD Scholar Grant
American Pediatric Surgical Association Foundation

Application Guidelines
2026

I. GENERAL POLICIES

A. Purpose

The American Pediatric Surgical Association Foundation (APSAF) encourages early career pediatric surgeon-scientists to apply for this seminal seed funding opportunity. The Jay Grosfeld, MD Scholar Grant is a prestigious award intended to develop sufficient background data that will justify applications for federal, extramural awards leading to independent investigation. APSAF seeks to support projects that will broaden the horizon of the recipient in a fashion not otherwise readily achievable and for which funds may not be available from usual sources. APSAF supports a wide range of research projects relevant to the field of pediatric surgery, and the science may involve any of the following domains:

1. Basic and translational
2. Clinical investigation
3. Comparative effectiveness
4. Quality improvement
5. Education
6. Trauma – including causes, effects, and social issues (e.g., gun-related issues, child abuse)
7. Bioinformatics
8. Social determinants of health
9. Equitable health care delivery

Projects can be supplemental to the ongoing research efforts of the applicant but should provide an extra dimension that will enhance or enrich the recipient, an institution, a community, children, and/or society in general.

B. Eligibility

Individuals eligible to apply for an APSA Foundation grant include:

1. Members - Regular, Associate, and Candidate***** Members of APSA
2. Non-members
    a. Applicants for Candidate or Regular Membership*****
    b. Individuals who have completed an ACGME- or RCSC-accredited pediatric surgery fellowship******
    c. Pediatric surgery fellows enrolled in an ACGME- or RCSC-accredited program******
3. Candidates within10 years of their initial faculty appointment and no higher than the level of assistant professor are preferred.
4. Previous APSAF grant recipients and those with independent principal investigator grant funding at the level of an NIH R01 or similar federal extramural are ineligible. However, those pediatric surgeons with a mentored NIH award (e.g., K) may apply for an APSAF grant.***

*****Sponsorship by a Regular Member of APSA is required.
Sponsorship by a Regular Member of APSA ***and* enrollment verification from the program director are required.
***Only one application per individual per year

C. Application and Due Date

The online application portal opens November 15, 2025. The deadline for submitting all application materials is February 15, 2026, 11:59 pm ET. It is important that the application be formatted as specified. While

unawarded research proposals submitted elsewhere are welcomed, sending copies of applications submitted to the NIH or other foundation, rather than using APSAF submission forms, is not acceptable.

D. Letters of Support

All applications should include a letter of support from the Division Chief of Pediatric Surgery, Surgeon-in-Chief, or Department Chair. If that person is not an APSA member, an additional letter of support from an APSA member sponsor should be included. Letters of support should document commitment of facilities, space, equipment, other resources, and time available to conduct the proposed project (suggest minimum of 25% protected time). Supplemental letters of support from any key senior investigators, collaborators, and mentors directly involved in the research endeavor are encouraged to demonstrate project feasibility.

E. Review Process

Multiple members of the APSA Research Committee will review each application in detail. All applications will be scored based on investigator track record, significance of the research proposed, innovation, approach, and environment to accomplish the stated aims. These criteria and scoring scale are in accordance with NIH Study Section guidelines. The top scoring proposals will be recommended to APSAF for funding. The aim of the APSAF leadership is to award 3 scholarships per year, assuming available funds.

II. GRANT PREPARATION

A. Amount and Duration of Grant

Award amount is $25,000. Grants are usually approved for one year, but a no-cost extension of unused funds may be granted for use during a second year under special circumstances based on progress in Year 1. When warranted by the special nature of the project or personal circumstances, awards may be approved for a shorter duration, or rarely, may be interrupted for periods of variable duration.

B. Narrative

Format: The proposal should not exceed 8 typewritten pages, Arial 11 font, and 1-inch margins. The proposal should be written in a style appropriate for a reviewer who may not be an expert in the applicant's specific field of research. Applications should include ALL the following sections in Narrative:

1. Background information: Briefly provide an overview and current knowledge gap on the subject. Include any pertinent preliminary data that you have collected.
2. Specific Aims: List the specific aims of the proposed research or project. For most study aims, a hypothesis should also be stated.
3. Significance: What is the potential importance of the proposed project in terms of how it would enhance or enrich the care of children or the surgical sciences? Make very clear the health-related implications of the research. Also discuss any significant research ideas, approaches, or contributions that the project offers in terms of advancing pediatric surgery.
4. Innovation: Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms in pediatric surgery by utilizing novel concepts, methodologies, or interventions?
5. Approach: Per NIH guidelines, please give details of the research methods, including number of patients and/or animals (when applicable), techniques to be used, outcomes metrics, statistical analysis, anticipated results, and potential alternative approaches. For clinical studies, there should be special attention to study design, patient selection, considerations regarding sex and race, power analysis (if appropriate), and pertinent aspects of patient care. Describe the principal experiments or observations sequentially in the order they are planned. Presentation of any preliminary data for each study aim to demonstrate project feasibility is encouraged but is not required.
6. A copy of the approved IACUC and/or IRB review form(s) should be submitted for research projects involving animals and human subjects, respectively. If pending, please provide a statement that research will adhere to all animal and human subject ethics and that final approval will be provided upon receipt of this award and before distribution of funds.
7. Timeline: Indicate a tentative schedule of the main steps of the investigation within the project period.

C. Facilities Available

Briefly list the facilities available for this project, including laboratories, clinical resources, office space, animal quarters, etc. List major items of equipment currently available for this project.

D. Other Support

Identify other funding available to the investigator or available in the same institution or laboratory for the project requested.

E. Budgetary Considerations

1. Personnel

The APSAF does not provide support for base salaries or supplemental earnings for faculty. However, salary support for research support staff and temporary secretarial services related to the project may be acceptable when justified.

2. Consultants

Support will generally not be provided for consultants. However, if consultants are essential for the success of the proposal, name each consultant and their affiliation, and indicate the nature of the consultant service to be performed. Indicate expected rate and total consultant fees, travel per diem, and related costs for each consultant as one total sum.

3. Supplies

Supplies are defined as disposable items that are to be consumed during the period of the approved grant or project. Give a brief account of expected needs.

4. Equipment

Any equipment request must be restricted to items specifically needed to complete the work and requires explicit justification. Major pieces of equipment should be provided by the institution where the work will be performed.

5. Office Equipment

Office equipment may not be purchased using APSAF funds.

6. Animals and Animal Care

Animal research costs including animal purchase and maintenance should be itemized separately. Animal care must follow NIH institutional guidelines.

7. Patient Care

Any patient care costs must be itemized and justified separately.

8. Travel

Travel will be supported only if essential to the project, out of the investigator's local area, or in instances where it is vital to the conduct of an in-house project. Travel costs must be explicitly justified.

9. Publication Costs

Publication costs will not be supported.

10. Duplicating

The cost of reproducing materials directly related to the project may be covered, including reprints required for progress reports or for acquisition of information essential to the project.

11. Technology Costs and Statistical Analysis

Technology costs, including statistical analysis, may be supported when necessary to the project.

12. Indirect Costs

APSAF awards do not provide institutional indirect costs.

13. Justification of Budget
Explain any unusual expense on a separate page following the detailed budget form.

F. Curriculum Vitae
An NIH Biosketch is encouraged as well to include in the Personal Statement the expertise of the investigator regarding the specific focus of the research topic and to justify any prior research that directly supports the current proposal. A listing of all current grant support should be included in the CV, using the following format:

Title:
Principal Investigator: Funding Period:
Funding Source:
Amount:
Percent of time devoted to project:

III. AWARDED PROJECT PROCEDURES

A. Announcement of Awards
Final determination of awards will be announced at the 2025 American Pediatric Surgical Association Annual Meeting. Applicants will also be notified via email. The grant recipient will be expected to present the results of the project at the 2026 APSA Annual Meeting.

B. Budget Changes
Categorical transfers will be considered during the time a grant is active. Requests for changes in budget category must be transmitted to the APSAF office for approval. Any unused funds at the completion of the project must be returned to APSAF.

C. Reports
A six-month narrative progress report will be required by February 1, 2026. A final narrative progress report is due within 60 days of the end of the grant year. Each report should be limited to two pages and include:

1. Title of project and project number
2. Investigator's name
3. Dates of support covered by the report
4. List of publications, articles in press or manuscripts in progress. Publications must give credit to funding by the APSAF.
5. Narrative
6. Objectives
7. A description of the studies carried out during the year and their relationship to the objectives.
8. An assessment of how this project has served to enhance or enrich ongoing current activity (i.e., clinical, educational, managerial or research)
9. Mailing address will be provided several weeks in advance of these report deadlines.