American Pediatric Surgical Association Foundation

Guidelines for Applying for the James A. O'Neill, Jr. Global Pediatric Surgery Scholarship

INTRODUCTION

The American Pediatric Surgical Association Foundation encourages low- and middle-income country (LMIC) Pediatric surgeons to apply for the Global Pediatric Surgery Scholar grant. The grant's goal is to encourage high-quality research into Pediatric surgical disease and care in LMIC regions across the globe. Proposals are welcome across a wide range of relevant domains, such as:

- reducing the global burden of Pediatric surgical disease (on a community, institutional or regional basis)
- preventative interventions or improvements in identification or early referral for Pediatric surgical disease
- defining and improving existing resources and access available for Pediatric surgical care
- quantifying the ability of Pediatric surgical treatment to prevent death and disability.
- identifying strategies for instituting or improving Pediatric surgical care quality or capacity
- mitigating the financial burden on families seeking Pediatric surgical care
- interventions to increase Pediatric surgical volume in a region or country.
- interventions to decrease Pediatric surgical perioperative mortality and morbidity.
- advancing surgical education or human resources
- innovative solutions and technology utilization for Pediatric surgical care
- evidence-based advocacy initiatives, translational efficacy, and measurement of their effect
- basic science research addressing questions in Pediatric surgical diseases.

ELIGIBILITY

- The primary investigator(s) must be a Pediatric surgeon or trainee practicing in a LMIC (by World Bank Criteria- see below) who has completed at least one year of postgraduate training in Pediatric surgery. If the applicant is an LMIC trainee, there must be a local faculty sponsor in their home institution.
- World Bank country income criteria can be found here: (https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups)
- The investigator must pair with a regular, associate or candidate APSA member(s) as a partner. If the primary investigator does not have an existing relationship with an APSA member, the Global Pediatric Surgery committee will offer options for an appropriate partner. **Said applicants must reach out two months prior to award deadline so that adequate time is available for partner assignment and possible study revision.**
- The investigator must demonstrate nonmonetary and monetary support as available from their institution or local/regional/national organization. (For example, division or department support letter, commitment from the hospital or health authority to provide infrastructure, human resources, grant fund acceptance and distribution as appropriate, commitment to supplement research staff salaries, etc.)
- Award recipients may not reapply for the Global Scholarship Grant for at least eight years after the year in which the grant was awarded.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Use of Funds

- to maintain datasets and/or part funding for administration of dataset and storage costs
- for consumable resources (e.g., lab tests/equipment/supplies)
- to obtain statistical or other research support (e.g., a study coordinator or research student)
- up to 10% can be used toward a professional stipend. Otherwise, funds cannot be used for any direct individual investigator financial compensation.
- *cannot* be used for institutional indirect costs.

Duration

The project must be completed within two years although a shorter time frame is permissible. An extension of unused funds may be granted for use during a third year under special circumstances based on progress in year one.

Grant preparation

- One page cover letter including the projects specific aims and outlining the research plan for a one- to two-year research period.
- Detailed research plan should include the following elements, be no more than 8 pages in length, and written in a style appropriate for a reviewer who may not be an expert in the applicant's specific field of research.
    - Background - Brief overview and current knowledge gap on the subject. Include any pertinent preliminary data.
    - Significance - The potential importance of the proposed project in terms of how it would enhance or enrich the care of children in resource-constrained environments. Significant ideas, novel concepts, methodologies, interventions, approaches, or contributions that advance pediatric surgery care and research in LMICs should be included.
    - Experimental plan or approach - 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, power analysis (if appropriate), and pertinent aspects of patient care. The principal experiments or observations should be described sequentially in the order they are planned. Inclusion of any preliminary data for each study aim to demonstrate project feasibility is encouraged but not required.
    - Measurable outcomes - Describe what will be measured during the study. Clinical studies should attempt to demonstrate improved patient outcomes compared with randomized or historical controls.
- Budget and timeline - A detailed budget should be included with the constraints noted above. A tentative schedule of the main steps of the investigation within the project period is required.
- References
- Primary investigator(s) and APSA partner(s) curriculum vitae.
- Letter of support from the institution or organization including the facilities available for this project and process for grant fund acceptance and distribution.
- Letter of support from APSA partner(s).
    - Institutional review board approval, or local institutional equivalent, for research involving animals or human subjects is required. This should be obtained through the primary investigator and/or their APSA sponsor as appropriate. Although approval may be “pending” for the application, grant funds will be awarded strictly contingent on this approval.

PROJECT FUNDING

Awards range from $5,000 to $25,000 US dollars with a detailed budget included as below.

PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Grants will be judged based on clinical and academic impact, relevance, approach, innovation, local support, appropriate budget, and achievable timeline.

Awarding Committee

The awarding committee will be made up of members of the APSA Foundation Board (2), APSA program Committee member (1), Global Pediatric Surgery committee (3) and LMIC surgeons, preferably previous grant winners (3). The committee will provide the APSAF Board with a ranked recommendation list based on their assessment of the submitted applications. The final scholarship award(s) and amounts are determined by the APSAF Board.

REPORTING AND PRESENTATION

- Award recipients are required to present a report to the APSAF Board within one year of receipt of the award (interim or full report by Sept. 30) and full report within two years (by Sept. 30).
- The final report should include any manuscript, results of the project, and a spending report.
- Submit a *Perspective* piece for publication in *Journal of Pediatric Surgery*. The *Perspective* piece should give credit to funding by the APSA Foundation.
- Award recipients may be invited to present their work virtually or in-person at an APSA meeting. Meeting registration fees for the presenter will be waived but travel and accommodation costs will be the responsibility of the investigator or APSA partner.

APPLICATION AND TIMELINE

- Application submission deadline is **February 15**
- **All applicants must have an APSA member sponsor.**
- For applicants without an APSA sponsor, **the deadline to request a sponsor is December 15.**
- Award announcement will be made at the APSA annual meeting.

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