The Society of Indian Physiotherapists
Research Grant Application

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose:
The Society of Indian Physiotherapists (SIP) was established with a prime aim to achieve excellence in the field of Physiotherapy Education, Practice & Research in India. Towards this end, SIP will fund meritorious physiotherapy scholars by way of four (4) research grants. The purpose of these grants is to provide opportunities for physiotherapy clinicians, academicians and researchers to engage in research and add to the growing body of research evidence in physiotherapy practice.

Objectives:

1. Assist postgraduate student research by means of supporting expenditure towards research equipment and the development of measurement equipment and/or outcome measures.
2. Provide research grants to clinicians and young researchers so as to enable them to be engaged in evidence generation process.
3. Provide seeding grant to senior researchers to generate pilot data to apply for full proposals to other National and International funding agencies.

Number and Value of Grants:
Four (4) research grants are available each year, one for each of the four categories: A. Postgraduate student; B. Clinician; C. Young researcher; D. Senior researcher. The value of each research grant will be limited to a maximum of twenty five thousand rupees (INR 25,000 each)

Duration of Research Grant: The research grant is valid for a period of one year from the date of grant approval letter.

Eligibility:

1. The grant is open to all physiotherapists who are members of SIP.
2. Applicants under the **postgraduate student category** should be **enrolled in a fulltime postgraduate program in physiotherapy** (program of minimum two-year duration) in a duly recognised academic institution in India and **should be in their first year of study**. Applications in this category will require an NOC from their Institution.
3. Applicants under the **category of clinicians** can be from government or private **non-academic institutions or clinics.**
4. Applicants in the **young researcher category** should be holding a **permanent teaching position** in an academic institution duly recognised by State or Central Government and should **not have completed five years** since their post-graduation in physiotherapy. Applications in this category will require an NOC from their Institution.
5. Applicants in the **senior researcher category** should have completed at **least five years since their post-graduation** in physiotherapy **or 10 years since completion of their entry level physiotherapy education.** For applicants in this category, it is desirable to have two research publications in a peer reviewed indexed journal to their credit. Applications in this category will require an NOC from their Institution.

Areas of Support:

1. Basic sciences research
2. Clinically focused research (both observational and experimental designs will be considered)
3. Instrument design and/or validation
4. Professional practice, education and policy research
5. Population and community studies relevant to physiotherapy practice

Grant Utilization#:

The research grant can be utilised for any of the following purposes, subject to approval of the account head and amount by the research grants committee:

a. *Cost towards developing equipment/instruments, assessment tools that has applications within the scope of physiotherapy practice.
b. Costs for procuring / hiring research equipment that may not be available as part of a regular physiotherapy clinical setting.
c. Cost of approved interventions that are not offered as part of regular physiotherapy clinical setting and needs support.
d. Cost of approved investigations and other assessment measures and tools that are part of proposed study/research.
e. Software that is essential and is part of the intervention program or assessment
f. Consumables required for applied/basic sciences research
g. Printing and other miscellaneous costs for data collection
h. SIP conference early bird registration fee (for PG students only)
i. Contingency

#Decision on final approval and/or division of costs resides with the grant committee

**SIP will be part of the Intellectual Property Right/Patent application that arises out of equipment/instrument developed through SIP grant support.*

Application, Review and Decision: Applications complete in all aspects and with relevant supporting documents should be submitted by email between 1st November to 30thDecember 2018. The email should be addressed to researchgrant@sip-physio.orgwith "SIP RGA<year>, <first name of PI>, <Category, Section>" as subject line. A copy of the email can be sent to sundark94@gmail.com.

Applications complete in all aspects and found eligible by the SIP grants committee will be given a reference number. Each eligible application will be peer reviewed by at least two subject experts who are blinded to the applicant identifying details. The application will be scored on the following:

a. Scientific merit
b. Potential to influence physiotherapy education and/ practice
c. Potential for publication in indexed journals/ future funding opportunities

The scoring rubric is available at the end of this document. The decision of the SIP grants committee will be announced during the subsequent annual conference of SIP.

Financial Administration and Reporting:

All applicants will also be informed about the decision of the grants committee by email and successful applicant will be required to provide bank account details for financial transactions.

Official bank account of the institution or clinic (as the case may be) should be used to receive the award.

The grants committee will transfer the award in two instalments to the account after the applicant submits an undertaking that the grant money will be utilised only for the intended purpose. All expenditure should be paid by cheque or online transfer and original bills should be obtained. Expenditure towards items not approved by the grants committee will not accepted. Submission of an interim report, bills and expenditure statement are mandatory requirements for release of the next instalment.

The applicant is expected to complete the project within one year from the date of the grant sanction order. The mid-term report should be submitted by email within six months about the progress made in the execution of the project along with all bills in original and an expenditure statement (attested by the head of the institution). At the end of the research project, a final report of the project in the prescribed format, statement of expenditure (attested by the head of the institution) and all bills in original should be submitted to the grants committee within one month of the project completion deadline. Project extensions may be provided only under rare circumstances and will be decided on a case to case basis by the grants committee.

Ethical Clearance:

Prior ethical clearance / proof of submission to ethics committee is mandatory for the application to be considered for peer review. However, ethical approval is mandatory for the application to be eligible for funding. Applicants having ethical committee in their institutions are encouraged to apply to their local ethical committee well in advance so that they receive their approval letter before the grant application deadline. Applicants not attached to institutions with ethics committee or in private practice can apply to other independent ethics committee in their place of residence.

Clinical Trial Registration:

For research designs involving clinical trials, it is mandatory for the principal investigator to prospectively register the trial in Clinical Trial Registry India. http://ctri.nic.in/Clinicaltrials/login.php. You will need to provide a clinical trial registry number / reference number for trial registration at the time of submitting your application.

Other Conditions:

a. Each application can have a maximum of one principal investigator and two co-investigators. The need for more than two co-investigators needs to be justified in the covering letter. The principal investigator and one co-investigator need to be a physiotherapist and should hold active SIP membership. It is not mandatory for all investigators to be from the same institution.
b. Principal investigators who have received an SIP research grant are not eligible to apply for a period of two years from the completion of their previous project. They are eligible to be co-investigators in a maximal of two other proposals during this time period.
c. The grant application should be prepared using the template provided and submitted by email (researchgrant@sip-physio.org with a copy to sundark94@gmail.com).
d. The applicant should present the results of their findings in the subsequent SIP annual conference. The principal applicant from the PG category can utilize the grant support to register (early bird registration only) for the SIP conference.

e. Successful applicants are strongly encouraged to publish their results in good quality peer reviewed indexed journals. The support of SIP grant with details should be acknowledged in all such publications (Institutional report, PG Dissertation, PhD thesis, peer reviewed publications and the like) arising out of the funded project.
f. If sufficient applications are not received in a particular category, the grants committee reserves the right to transfer the grant to another category. The decision of the grants committee will be final.