

The Society of Indian Physiotherapists
Research Grant Application Guidelines

Purpose: The Society of Indian Physiotherapists (SIP) was established in 2015 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** per year. 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:

S. No	Category	Value
A	Postgraduate student	INR 25,000/
B	Clinician	INR 25,000/
C	Young researcher	INR 25,000/
D	Senior researcher	INR 50,000/

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

Types of Research Supported by SIP Grant:

1. Basic sciences research
2. Clinically focused research
3. Instrument design and/or validation
4. Professional practice, education and policy research
5. Population and community studies relevant to physiotherapy practice

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/be pursuing their doctoral studies full-time on site** 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 a 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.

Grant Budget Heads & Utilization: Grants may be requested under the following budget heads.

- a. **Research Equipment:** This could be used to procure/hire research equipment/assessment tools/software that are not available at the host institution but essential for executing the proposed research.
- b. **Investigations:** Cost of approved investigations and outcome measures
- c. **Interventions:** Cost of approved interventions (such as towards therapy charges, expert consultations)
- d. **Consumables:** Cost of research related consumables
- e. **Contingency:** Cost of stationaries and any other unexpected expenditure. (This should not exceed 10% of the total budget.
- f. **SIP Conference Registration Fee:** Applicants under the PG students category can include the cost of registration fee for the next SIP Conference

(Note: Open access charges towards publication are not covered by the SIP grant)

Decision on final approval and/or division of costs resides with the grant committee. Once the grant is sanctioned, it is the responsibility of the awardee to ensure that the grant is utilized for the approved budget heads. Requests for change of budget heads after sanction are not encouraged but in exigent circumstances, may be permitted with prior permission from the grant committee.

Application, Review and Decision:

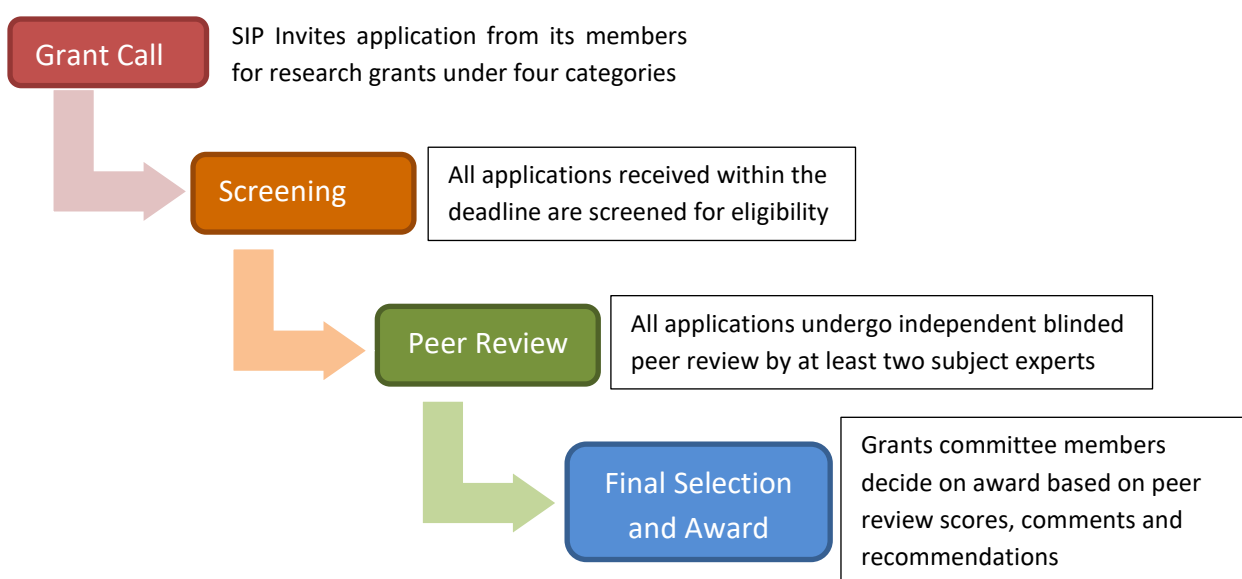
Applications complete in all aspects and with relevant supporting documents should be submitted by email latest by **16th February 2024**. The email should be addressed to physioresearch.sip@gmail.com with a copy to researchgrant@sip-physio.org.

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:

- Scientific merit
- Potential to influence physiotherapy education and/ practice
- 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 upcoming Annual Conference of SIP.

Schematic Representation of Grant Award Decision



Financial Administration and Reporting: All applicants will be informed about the decision of the grants committee by email and successful applicants 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 be accepted. Submission of an interim report, **a short online presentation of progress,**

bills and expenditure statements 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 first six months, recipients are required to make a short online presentation to apprise the committee members of the progress made in the preceding six months. The online presentation and the mid-term report will be reviewed by the committee and based on satisfactory progress; the committee will approve release of final instalment. 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. Please justify if not registered as yet.

Disclosures: SIP recognises that applicants **may seek funding for a component of an ongoing research project** and it is possible that the ethical approval and CTRI registration may be in the name of the primary project. In such a scenario, it is **mandatory that appropriate disclosures are provided** along with application form and **explicitly state** that the current application is part of an ongoing research project. It is essential to provide a summary of the ongoing project and how the current proposal fits within the larger project. The award decision will be solely based on the merit of the project being submitted to SIP for funding and not based on the larger project.

Any potential conflict of interest (such as but not limited to support from any industry or organisation supporting this study) also needs to be disclosed

Other Conditions:

- I. The grant application should be prepared using the template provided and submitted by email (physioresearch.sip@gmail.com with a copy to researchgrant@sip-physio.org).
- II. Section A and B should be submitted as separate PDF document and not as images in PDF format. The supporting documents such as declaration, ethical approval, letter of support can be submitted as a single file with scanned images.
- III. Section B will be used for blinded peer review and the applicant needs to ensure no personal or institutional identifying information is included.
- IV. Each application can have a maximum of one principal investigator and at least one co-investigator. The roles and responsibilities for each co-investigator 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.
- V. In the event of the principal investigator not being able to continue with the research proposal for whatsoever reason, the co-investigator should take responsibility to complete the proposed research activity.
 - a. In such scenario, the grant would still continue to be executed under the category in which it was awarded.
 - b. If the principal investigator and co-investigators are from different institutions, the need to transfer the grant to another institution will be decided on a case-to-case basis.
 - c. The principal investigator would be considered eligible for appropriate recognition for the outcome of the work such as copyright, patents, and publications. The order of authorship should be clearly identified by the research team at the time of handover and documented in writing so as to avoid conflicts in future.
- VI. Principal investigators who have received a 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.
- VII. 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.
- VIII. 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, conference presentations and the like) arising out of the funded project.

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

SIP Research Grant Applications 2021
Peer Review Scoring Rubric

GRANT Application Ref No: _____

A. Scientific Merit

Criteria	Requirement	Grading Scale				Reviewer Score
		Excellent	Adequate	Needs improvement	Not provided	
A1: Introduction & Literature Review	Provides a clear and thorough introduction and background	3	2	1	0	
	Comments					
A2: Purpose and Objectives	The need for the study is supported by relevant recent literature and leads to a specific research question / objective	3	2	1	0	
	The proposal presents a strong and valid need relevant to culture and context	3	2	1	0	
	Comments					

Criteria	Requirement	Grading Scale				Reviewer Score
		Excellent	Adequate	Needs improvement	Not provided	
A3: Methodology	a. Methods reported appropriate for the study and are scientifically valid	3	2	1	0	
	b. Design specific details are provided based on appropriate guidelines (CONSORT, STROBE, STARD etc)	3	2	1	0	
	c. A priori sample size is provided and justified using appropriate measures	3	2	1	0	
	d. Proposed outcome measures are appropriate and valid	3	2	1	0	
	e. A clear and appropriate statistical analysis plan to meet the study objectives are provided	3	2	1	0	
	e. Requested budget is appropriate and justified.	3	2	1	0	
	f. The timelines are realistic and clearly defined using a Gantt Chart	3	2	1	0	
	Comments					
Total Score for A		____/30				

B. On a scale of 0 – 10, How would you rate the proposal on each of the below listed parameters,

S. No	On a scale of 0 – 10, How would you rate the proposal for each of the following criteria	Score
B1	Relevance and potential of the proposed work to influence PT practice	_____/10
B2	There is high potential for publication in appropriate quality indexed journals / obtaining future funding	_____/10
B3	Overall impact of this application	_____/10
Total Score for B		_____/30

Total of A + B = ____/60

C. General Comments

D. What is your final recommendation for funding?

Recommended as is / Recommended with minor revisions / Not Recommended