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, educators 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 their postgraduate dissertation.
2. Provide research grants to clinicians and young researchers to enable them to initiate research projects and engaging in evidence generation process.
3. Provide seed 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	₹ 25,000/
B	Clinician	₹ 25,000/
C	Young researcher	₹ 25,000/
D	Senior researcher	₹ 50,000/

Duration of Research Grant: The research grant is valid for a period of one year from the date of release of first instalment. Extensions will be considered on a case-to-case basis; limited to one-time six-month extension PG category and a maximum of two extensions of six months each for other categories.

Types of Research Supported by SIP Grant:

1. **Discovery Research**; Focuses on fundamental biological, physiological, or biomechanical mechanisms that inform physiotherapy interventions. (**Examples**: Exploring biomarkers or molecular pathways in sarcopenia, analysing joint biomechanics during movement, or studying collagen synthesis in tendon healing models)
2. **Development research;** Focuses on the creation or adaptation of new devices, instruments, tools, technologies, or frameworks for physiotherapy. (**Examples:**

Prototyping and developing devices or instruments, validating a new assessment tool, localizing an existing outcome measure, developing clinical algorithms, or care pathways)

3. **Clinical Research;** Focuses on evaluating physiotherapy interventions for safety, efficacy, effectiveness, or real-world implementation. Includes pilot and feasibility studies, clinical trials including RCTs across varied settings, and health systems research. **Note**: Implementation research addressing evidence uptake, service delivery, or integration into health systems is also supported under this category.

4. **Descriptive Research;** These focus on exploring the prevalence, incidence, disease burden, risk factor analysis, prognostic indicators, health system utilization.

5. **Physiotherapy Education Research;** These focus on exploring teaching-learning methods curriculum development and evaluation, educational outcomes, professional identify and ethics.

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 full-time postgraduate program in physiotherapy** (program of minimum two-year duration) in a duly recognised academic institution in India
    - **be in their first year of study**.
    - Applications in this category will require a certificate from the Head of Institution confirming current student status and expected course completion date.
3. Applicants under the **category of clinicians** should
    - Be affiliated to government or private **non-academic institutions or clinics**
    - Be holding a clinical designation
    - Not be affiliated with academic institutions as part time faculty.
    - Applicants who do not have access to an ethics committee may collaborate with a physiotherapist from institutions with ethics committee.
4. Applicants in the **young researcher category** should
    - Be holding a **permanent teaching** position in a duly recognised academic institution in India
    - **Not have more than 10 years since their post-graduation in physiotherapy** or **15 years since completion of their entry level physiotherapy education**
    - The research proposal should be their original work and not of their students or other faculty members
    - **Full-time on-site Ph. D students** within two years of enrolment to the Ph. D program can also apply under this category.
    - Applications in this category will require a certificate from their head of the institution indicating their academic position and eligibility for this category.
    - Full-time PhD students will require a certificate from their head of the institution indicating their PhD status and likely date of completing the course.

5. Applicants in the **senior researcher category**
    - should have completed at **least 10 years since their post-graduation** in physiotherapy **or 15 years since completion of their entry level physiotherapy education.**
    - The research proposal should be their original work and not of their PG or PhD students or younger faculty members
    - For applicants in this category, it is desirable to have two research publications in a peer reviewed indexed journal.
    - Applications in this category will require a certificate from their head of the institution indicating their academic position and eligibility for this category.

Grant Budget Heads: 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 (such as blood tests, X-rays etc.)
c. **Interventions:** Cost of approved interventions (such as towards therapy charges, expert consultations)
d. **Consumables:** Cost of research related consumables
e. **SIP Conference Registration Fee:** Applicants under the PG student 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)

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. Please refer to the following website to identify the closest ethics committee to your centre: https://naitik.gov.in/DHR/app_srv/soam/reports_pc_issued.jsp

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.

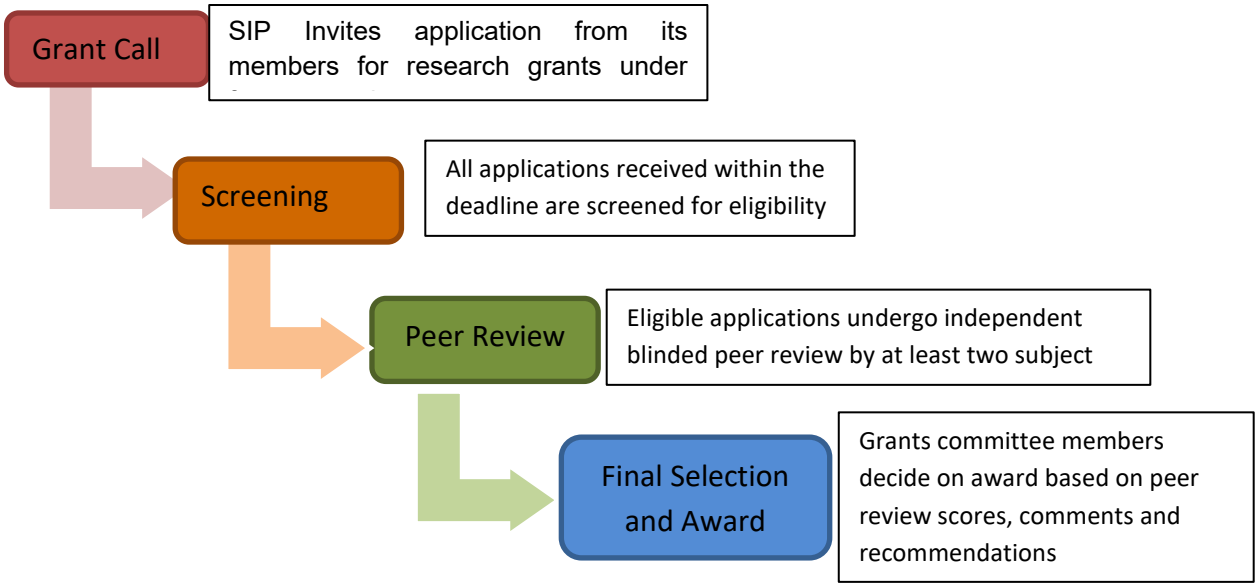
Disclosures: SIP recognises that applicants **may seek funding for a component of an ongoing research project** and it is possible that the ethical approval and CTRI registration may be in the name of the primary project. In such a scenario, it is **mandatory that appropriate disclosures are provided** 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

Application, Review and Decision:
Applications complete in all aspects and with relevant supporting documents should be submitted by email addressed to physioresearch.sip@gmail.com latest by **14th December 2026.** Upon submission, applications will be screened for eligibility and those meeting the criteria 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 decision of the SIP grants committee will be announced during the 11th Annual SIP Conference in Patna. It will also be published in the SIP Web site and via email to all the applicants after announcement in the conference.

Schematic Representation of Grant Award Decision



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.

Financial Administration: 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.

Reporting:

Mid-term Report: To facilitate the release of the next instalment, the following are mandatory:

- A progress report of by email within six months using the template needs to be submitted along with original bills and an expenditure statement attested by the head of the institution.
- Online Presentation: At the end of six months, deliver a brief online presentation to update the committee on project progress.

Both the report and presentation will be reviewed by the committee. Based on satisfactory progress, the final instalment will be approved.

Final Report

The project must be completed within one year from the date of the grant sanction order. Within one month of project completion, the following must be submitted to the grants committee:

- Final report in the prescribed format
- Statement of expenditure attested by the head of the institution
- All original bills

Project Extension:

Extensions are granted only under exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the grants committee. If approved:

- PG category: One extension of up to six months
- Other categories: Up to two extensions of six months each

Key Considerations:

I. The grant application should be prepared using the template provided and submitted by email physioresearch.sip@gmail.com.

II. Each application can have a minimum 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.

III. 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.

IV. Section B will be used for blinded peer review and the applicant needs to ensure no personal or institutional identifying information is included.

V. For Postgraduate and PhD Students, the applicant and respective guides need to take full responsibility of timely execution and completion of the grant and a letter in this regard needs to be provided along with the application section A.

VI. 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.

VII. 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.

VIII. 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.

IX. 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.

X. 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.

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