



NORTH AMERICAN SPINE SOCIETY

2019 RESEARCH FUNDING



RESEARCH GRANTS

YOUNG INVESTIGATOR GRANTS

NONTRADITIONAL NONSURGICAL TREATMENT GRANTS

CLINICAL TRAVELING FELLOWSHIPS

RESEARCH TRAVELING FELLOWSHIPS

DEADLINES

LETTER OF PROPOSAL:

February 11, 2019
11:59 p.m. CST

GRANTS (BY INVITATION ONLY):

May 13, 2019
11:59 p.m. CDT

TRAVELING FELLOWSHIPS:

May 13, 2019
11:59 p.m. CDT

The North American Spine Society (NASS) is a premier multidisciplinary medical organization with more than 8,500 physician and affiliated healthcare members worldwide dedicated to fostering the highest quality ethical, value-based and evidence-based spine care through education, research and advocacy. NASS membership includes the following spine-related specialties: orthopedics, neurosurgery, physiatry, pain management, research and other disciplines, including allied health professionals.

NASS strives to be a leading force in promoting and supporting spine research. Since 1989, NASS has funded more than \$3.9 million in multidisciplinary spine-related research. NASS relies on the generosity of its membership, nonmember donors and the spine industry* to provide funding for its research funds in support of the highest quality, peer-reviewed research.

NASS supports basic, clinical and translational science performed with integrity. The goal is to improve quality spine care for patients and understanding of underlying disorders. One way NASS achieves these goals is by funding grants and fellowships.

**NOTE: NASS retains full control of research award selection. Specific individuals or corporations do not have influence over the selection of recipients.*

TYPES OF FUNDING AVAILABLE

Research Grants

Research grants should focus on basic science, clinical or translational research. **Basic research** may focus on projects that further our understanding of the mechanisms of disease and developing novel models for prevention and/or treatment. **Clinical research** may focus on projects that investigate the epidemiology, prevention, and or treatment of spine disease. **Translational research** may focus on projects that move findings from the 'bench to bedside'.

NASS research grants provide funding for promising research projects by qualified investigators in the field of spine. Funding amount and number of grants are at the discretion of the NASS Research Project Management Committee based upon merit of applications and amount of funding available each year. It is recommended that approved grant budgets range between \$20,000-\$40,000 per year. In rare cases and at the discretion of the committee, each year may be up to \$50,000 per year.

Young Investigator Grants

One to two Young Investigator Grants may be awarded each year. Principal investigators may be any age. MD applicants must be within five years of completion of training at the time of application; PhD applicants must be within five years of their post-doc training. Applicants may not have received previous grant funding from the NASS Research Project Management Committee. It is recommended that approved grant budgets range between \$20,000-\$40,000 per year. In rare cases and at the discretion of the committee, each year may be up to \$50,000 per year.

Nontraditional, Nonsurgical Treatment Grants

The Nontraditional, Nonsurgical Treatment Grant is the result of a donation to research as part of a settlement of a class action lawsuit unrelated to NASS. This grant supports research of disc-related and/or neuropathic back pain by nonsurgical techniques. These funds must be used for new, nontraditional methods of nonsurgical treatment of such back and neck pain and radiculopathy. If TNF-inhibitors other than etanercept are used in research and/or treatment funded, comparison studies using perispinal etanercept in at least as many research subjects or patients should be done. Funding amount and number of grants are at the discretion of the NASS Research Project Management Committee based upon merit of applications and amount of funding available each year. It is recommended that approved grant budgets range between \$20,000-\$40,000 per year. In rare cases and at the discretion of the committee, each year may be up to \$50,000 per year.

Clinical Traveling Fellowship

The Clinical Traveling Fellowship spans at least one month to be spent in three to five different medical centers studying spine techniques. The centers selected by the applicant should agree in writing to accept the applicant if he/she receives the Fellowship. The Fellowship primarily covers the costs of travel and housing and typically ranges from \$3,000-\$7,000.

Research Traveling Fellowship

The Research Traveling Fellowship spans at least five months at one medical center (other than the facility at which the applicant currently practices). The center selected by the applicant should have appropriate research facilities and agree in writing to accept the applicant if he/she receives the Fellowship. The Fellowship primarily covers the costs of travel and housing and typically ranges from \$3,000-\$7,000. If funding for the actual research project is needed, please apply for one of the research grants.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Any spine-related proposal will be considered. Applicants do not need to be NASS members. Any qualified applicant in any specialty will be considered. International applicants are welcome to apply. Medical residents are eligible with the condition that they have a mentor/faculty support to work with them.
- NASS strongly encourages new investigators to apply.
- Any principal investigator or co-investigator that receives a research grant from NASS will not be eligible to apply for grant funding again until three years after the date of the previous award.
- Multiple grants will not be funded simultaneously to any principal investigator, co-investigator or collaborator.
- The Letter of Proposal may be submitted in only one category; not multiple categories.
- There is no limit to the amount that may be requested for funding. See **Types of Funding Available** for recommendations.
- Funds are for work to be performed or works in progress, not works already completed.
- As a 501(c)3 organization, NASS funding is typically NOT subject to IRB fees. NASS will pay reasonable IRB fees (Limit \$2,000) with provided IRB documentation detailing the applicability of these fees to research funded by non-profit organizations.
- NASS does not support research for independent manufacturers, industry development or personal business financial gain. NASS will be sensitive to this issue.
- All correspondence will be sent to the principal investigator. It is the responsibility of the principal investigator to provide information to co-investigators.
- Grants are awarded for one to two years at the discretion of the Research Project Management Committee.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to have mentors or other senior researchers review Letters of Proposal and any Invited Grant Application before submission to NASS.
- All projects are required to be completed within three years.
- All fellowship applicants and **invited** grant applicants are required to submit a conflict of interest disclosure through the NASS online disclosure website in accordance with NASS disclosure policy. See **Policies and Agreements**.
- Cost-sharing of projects is encouraged. Please list other funding institutions/organizations and amount requested and/or awarded.
- Funding will not be considered for applicants who:
 - » Are excluded from federally funded health care programs. (See the HHS Office of the Inspector General's List of Excluded Individuals and Entities at <http://oig.hhs.gov/exclusions/index.asp>)
 - » Are debarred by the FDA (See FDA Debarment List <http://www.fda.gov/ICECI/EnforcementActions/FDAdebarmentList/default.htm>).

DEADLINES

February 11 2019; 11:59 p.m. CST	Deadline for letters of proposal
Week of March 25 2019	Invitations to submit full grant applications
May 13 2019; 11:59 p.m. CDT	All applications due (invited grants and fellowships)
May 20 2019	Letters to applicants confirming receipt of application
Week of August 19 2019	Notification to applicants of awards
September 2 2019	Award payee information due
Week of Sept. 25-28 2019	Award ceremony at Annual Meeting
January 2 2020	Research commencement

AWARDS PRESENTATION

All awards will be officially presented at the NASS 34th Annual Meeting, September 25-28, 2019 in Chicago, Illinois.

Each award recipient or a designated representative is expected to attend the Annual Meeting to accept the award (date TBD).

SELECTION PROCESS

Letters of proposal for grants will be reviewed by the entire NASS Research Project Management Committee and scored in the same manner as that of invited grants (see below) after assuring that applicants are not excluded from federally funded health care programs nor debarred by the FDA. Those proposal holders with a strong merit in significance, approach and feasibility, will be invited to submit a full grant application within eight weeks of notification.

All invited grant applications and traveling fellowships are reviewed by the NASS Research Project Management Committee. Applications are rated on the basis of their scientific merit. The criteria considered include:

- **Significance.** The extent, to which the project, if successfully carried out, will make an original and important contribution to biomedical and/or behavioral science in the spine community. Does this study address an important problem or scientific question? Does it address the significance of the topic, either health burden or biological importance?
- **Approach.** The extent to which the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses are properly developed, well-integrated and appropriate to the aims of the project. Are the theories underlying the approach supported by valid science? Are the aims of the project clear and reasonable in the context of the project?
- **Feasibility.** The likelihood that the proposed work can be accomplished by the investigators, given their documented experience, expertise, etc. These criteria would consider the curriculum vitae of the investigators. Are the investigators appropriately trained and well-suited to carry out this work? Can the investigators deliver a result?

Scientific merit is the primary criterion for selection, but potential conflicts of interest will also be considered. The Research Project Management Committee will provide a brief, written critique of each **invited** application not approved for funding to the principal investigator. Applicants will not receive any feedback beyond the written critique; all scoring is confidential.

All applicants submitting a letter of proposal and/or invited application do so with the understanding that they will abide by the conditions, deadline policies and decisions of NASS. NASS reserves the right to change the format and/or amount of any awards at its sole discretion at any time, with or without notice. The number and amount of awards each year are at the discretion of the Research Project Management Committee, Research Council and the Board of Directors. NASS makes no guarantee that applicants will be awarded the grant requested or that applicants will receive the total amount of funds requested if approved.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Research Grants, Young Investigator Grants, Nontraditional Nonsurgical Treatment Grants:

To apply for a grant, please submit a Letter of Proposal. Letters of Proposal should include the elements described in the **Letter of Proposal Guidelines** and be submitted to NASS by 11:59 p.m. CST on February 11, 2019. **Letters of Proposal will be accepted by email only. Include the Principal Investigator's name in the subject line of the email.** Please email to: Karen James, kjames@spine.org.

Research or Clinical Traveling Fellowship:

To apply for a fellowship, please complete the appropriate application form and submit via email to: Karen James, kjames@spine.org. Fellowship applications will be accepted by email only. All application materials (Word or PDF), any figures, tables, etc. must be part of the single Word or PDF document submitted. Fellowship applications are to be submitted to NASS by 11:59 p.m. CDT on May 13, 2019.

Questions?

Karen James, Manager of Research
Telephone: (630) 230-3691
Email: kjames@spine.org

LETTER OF PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

A two page letter of proposal (Word or PDF) should be submitted by all grant applicants in no smaller than 10 point font via email to Karen James, kjames@spine.org. **Include the Principal Investigator's name in the subject line of the email.** Deadline is February 11, 2019, 11:59 p.m. CST. The Letter of Proposal should consist of potentially ten parts with each section titled with the following:

1 Proposal Title.

2 **Type of Grant Being Applied for—Indicate Two Items.** Please indicate which type of grant is being applied for (select one): Research Grant, Young Investigator Grant or Nontraditional, Nonsurgical Treatment Grant (Refer to description under **Types of Funding Available**). Please also indicate if research is basic, clinical or translational (select one). Please Note: Translational proposals should entail the spirit of “bench to bedside” research; includes elements of basic AND clinical science.

3 **Contact Information for Principal Investigator.** Include name, credentials, address, phone and email address.

4 **Summary.** One to two sentence proposal overview. The entire proposal should be able to be summed up in these one to two sentences.

5 Hypothesis Statement.

6 **Description of Problem/Background** (not more than 100 words) as it relates to the spine.

7 **Purpose and Method of Research** (not more than 400 words) for the project. If applying for a second year of funding, please include a separate summary of all work completed in the first year of the project, including all preliminary work. The committee will not review applications for a second year of funding if this information is not included.

8 **Capabilities.** Indicate the identities (names), capabilities, credentials and contact information of all co-investigators/collaborators as well as any participating institution.

9 **Budget.** Budgets should include a specific request for funds and include permanent hard equipment, statistical analyses, consumable equipment, salaries to staff and other direct expenses. There is no limit to the amount applicants can request; however, most grants that are approved have budgets below \$50,000 per year.

- The overhead or institutional costs should not exceed 10%-15% of the budget. (Note: This is included in the budget amount).
- Hard equipment purchases should not exceed \$5,000.
- The budget should not include salaries for the principal investigator or other investigators, although salaries for statisticians, lab technicians and other support personnel may be included.
- Budgets should not include costs for attendance and presentation at the NASS Annual Meeting.
- As a 501(c)3 organization, NASS funding is typically NOT subject to IRB fees. NASS will pay reasonable IRB fees (Limit \$2,000) with provided IRB documentation detailing the applicability of these fees to research funded by non-profit organizations.
- Grants may be awarded for one to two years at the discretion of the Research Project Management Committee.
- The budget should be formatted in a table.
- If budgets are for multiple years, please include each year's budget separately and in total.
- Include listing of all other funding related to the project along with the amount and source.
- **The budget you submit on your Letter of Proposal will match what you submit on your invited application (i.e. if the budget is for one year, your invited application will be for one year).**

10 **Closing Statement.** The closing statement should include any long-term research plans related to the study (ie, plans to apply for NIH grants, etc.)

POLICIES AND AGREEMENTS

Fellowship and Invited Grant Applicants Only:

In accordance with the NASS Disclosure Policy, it is required that all fellowship and invited grant applicants (all investigators) complete the conflict of interest disclosure through the NASS online disclosure website. The online disclosure module is located at <http://disclosure.spine.org>. If you have previously completed a disclosure, please use your user name and password to access and update the form. If you have not utilized the database in the past, you will need to sign up as a new contact. For more information about the NASS Disclosure Policy, please visit: <https://www.spine.org>.

All applicants selected to receive a grant or fellowship are required to submit an annual status report to the NASS Research Council. All research projects are required to be completed within three years; regardless of whether the project is a one year or two year project. All status reports are due July 31 of each year and should be submitted to the North American Spine Society via email to Karen James, kjames@spine.org.

Upon completion of research, the applicant agrees to submit a final report as mandated by NASS format, which includes an abstract in hard and electronic copy to the NASS Research Department with a permissions authorization to publish in any NASS Research publications, website, etc. Formatting instructions can be obtained from the NASS Research Department. A podium presentation at a future NASS Annual Meeting will be required for grants once the project is complete.

Citation

NASS must be cited as the source of funding in any publication, presentation or in any publicity resulting from the project or its results. NASS should be sent reprints of all papers and publications resulting from research supported by the grant.

Delinquent Research Reports

Investigators failing to submit an annual status report or final research findings will be noted as "nonresponsive" in any publication of NASS grants/funding, denied future funding and requested to return all funds distributed to them. This policy goes into effect one year past the due date of any delinquent report. Once submitted, eligibility is reinstated.

All Awards: Return of Funds

If the funded project does not take place, all monies awarded will be refunded to NASS. If it is terminated early, a partial refund with an accounting of the funds expended up to the termination date will be provided. At the conclusion of the completed project, any unused funds over \$50 will be refunded to NASS.

CLINICAL TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION

The Clinical Traveling Fellowship spans at least one month to be spent in three to five different medical centers studying spine techniques. The centers selected by the applicant should agree in writing to accept the applicant if he/she receives the Fellowship. The Fellowship primarily covers the costs of travel and housing. Recipients will be required to write an article for *SpineLine*, the NASS magazine, following the conclusion of their fellowship to report their experiences to the NASS Membership.

To apply for a fellowship, please complete the appropriate application form and submit via email to: Karen James, kjames@spine.org. Fellowship applications will be accepted by email only. All application materials (Word or PDF), any figures, tables, etc. must be part of the PDF document submitted. Fellowship applications are to be submitted to NASS by May 13, 2019, 11:59 p.m. CDT.

Questions? Contact Karen James, Manager of Research
Phone: (630) 230-3691 Email: kjames@spine.org

Applications should be page numbered at the bottom center of each page that is not a pre-printed NASS form, with the applicant's name on each page as a header in 12 pt. font. The application should be submitted in the following order:

- Completed Application Form. Please submit full name, academic degree(s), address, phone and email.
- Narrative Description of Goals for the Fellowship
- Amount Requested With Expense Breakdown
- Curriculum Vitae
- Letters of Acceptance From Each Medical Center
- Three Letters of Recommendation
- NASS Online Disclosure Form (See Policies and Agreements)

NOTE: All letters must be for current year.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

State your area of spinal interest: _____

Please provide a narrative description of your goals for this Fellowship: (Attach additional pages as necessary).

Candidate's Agreement

If selected for an award, I shall present a report of my experience (including an accounting of funds) to the Research Council upon completion of my Fellowship as well as a written account to the NASS membership in the form of a *SpineLine* article.

If the funded Fellowship does not take place, all monies awarded will be refunded to NASS. If it is terminated early, a partial refund with an accounting of the funds expended up to the termination date will be provided. At the conclusion of the completed Fellowship, any unused funds over \$50 will be refunded to NASS. I have read and agree to all policies related to the NASS Traveling Fellowships.

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

Office Use Only—Submission Date: _____

Action: Approved

Not Approved

RESEARCH TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION

The Research Traveling Fellowship spans at least five months at one medical center (other than the facility at which the applicant currently practices). The center selected by the applicant should have appropriate research facilities and agree in writing to accept the applicant if he/she receives the Fellowship. The Fellowship primarily covers the costs of travel and housing; if funding is needed for the actual research, please apply for a research grant. Recipients will be required to write an article for *SpineLine*, the NASS magazine, following the conclusion of their fellowship to report their experiences to the NASS Membership.

To apply for a fellowship, please complete the appropriate application form and submit via email to: Karen James, kjames@spine.org. Fellowship applications will be accepted by email only. All application materials (Word or PDF), any figures, tables, etc. must be part of the single Word or PDF document submitted. Fellowship applications are to be submitted to NASS by May 13, 2019, 11:59 p.m. CDT.

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- Completed Application Form. Please submit full name, academic degree(s), address, phone and email.
- Narrative Description of Goals for the Fellowship
- Amount Requested With Expense Breakdown
- Curriculum Vitae
- Letter of Acceptance From Medical Center
- Three Letters of Recommendation
- NASS Online Disclosure Form (See Policies and Agreements)

NOTE: All letters must be for current year.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

State your area of spinal interest: _____

Please provide a narrative description of your research project and what you hope to accomplish during the Fellowship. (Attach additional pages as necessary).

Candidate's Agreement

If selected for an award, I shall present a report of my experience (including an accounting of funds) to the Research Council upon completion of my Fellowship as well as a written account to the NASS membership in the form of a *SpineLine* article.

If the funded Fellowship does not take place, all monies awarded will be refunded to NASS. If it is terminated early, a partial refund with an accounting of the funds expended up to the termination date will be provided. At the conclusion of the completed Fellowship, any unused funds over \$50 will be refunded to NASS. I have read and agree to all policies related to the NASS Traveling Fellowships.

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

Office Use Only—Submission Date: _____

Action: Approved

Not Approved



7075 Veterans Blvd.
Burr Ridge, IL 60527