

2026 Research Grants: General Information

Research Grant – Seed Funding Grant (\$5,000) **2 awards of up to \$5,000**

AHPA Seed funding supports the ability of arthritis health professionals, researchers and trainees to compete for funds from government health agencies, health charities and professional organizations. Funding is intended to support the **development of a research protocol or the conduct of a pilot or small research project**. This funding will assist in defraying costs involved in the development of research protocols or the conduct of pilot or small projects in the fields of predictive research, clinical research, health care research, instrument validation etc.

Funding may be used to employ assistants (technical or professional) or student trainees, to remunerate professional and patient advisors, and to purchase materials and supplies or other research related costs. A maximum of 25% of funds can be used to pay for travel, accommodation expenses or conference registration fees. Funds cannot be used for equipment costs or to cover the use of space. Grant funds may not be used for the remuneration of the investigators conducting the project. Arthritis health professionals, as well as researchers, are eligible to apply for funding. Arthritis health clinicians are strongly encouraged to involve academic partners. Trainees can apply but cannot be the only principal-investigator. Funding is only available for clinical research projects led by AHPA members, and not for basic science.

Applicants cannot be a PI or co-PI on more than one application for the seed funding grant.

Description of grant review process:

Research Grants are awarded by the AHPA on the advice of its Grant Review Panel that includes 3-4 reviewers of the Research Committee and 1-2 external reviewers (including one patient), under the direction of the AHPA Research Chair. The Grant Review Panel of the AHPA reserves the right to approve or decline any application. Each application is assessed by the AHPA Grant Review Panel, which includes the Research Committee and external reviewers with suitable content expertise (2-3 reviewers) and a patient partner. Applications will be assessed based on scientific merit and appropriate budget requests. A composite scoring scheme will be applied to each application based on pre-defined criteria. The Grant Review Panel will determine whether a proposal is suitable for consideration of funding. Written opinions and recommendations of the Grant Review Panel will be made available to all applicants. Reviewers retain the right of anonymity so all feedback will remain anonymous. Research Grants are open to Canadian citizens, landed immigrants, or people who reside in Canada (for the duration of the grant) with a valid work or student visa. **The principal investigator (or one of the co-principal investigators) must be a member of AHPA at the time of grant application, throughout the duration of the grant, and up to the presentation at the CRA/AHPA ASM.**

Description of grant applications:

Research proposal content

A maximum of 4 pages is accepted for the Research Proposal using the current AHPA proposal form. The following content must be included in the Research Proposal section: Background; Research objectives; Research methods (study population, study design, analysis, and dissemination); Brief explanation of the feasibility of the project and potential barriers/challenges and mitigation strategies; Relevance of the anticipated results to the development of arthritis care. The page limit does not include references and appendices (research tools, figures, charts), which can be submitted as separate attachments.

Research Involving Human Subjects

If the proposed project involves human subjects, study approval is required from a Research Ethics Board (REB) before starting the project. A copy of the REB approval should be sent to AHPA prior to participant recruitment. Investigators not associated with a university or hospital or who do not have direct access to an REB are strongly encouraged to collaborate with an academic researcher with relevant content experience.

Research Grants are made for 1 year from the date of announcement of the award winner. If unable to complete the research project, the grant money must be returned to AHPA. Any unspent funds must also be returned to AHPA. Space and basic facilities at the institution concerned are expected as a prerequisite to an application; indirect costs are limited to a maximum of 10%. Project Funding awardees are expected to submit an abstract of project results to the annual AHPA/CRA abstract competition. Recipients of the grants should acknowledge the support of AHPA, in Project publications, reports or other disclosures in the following manner: "This research is funded by an Arthritis Health Professional Association grant".