

GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH GRANT APPLICANTS



1. Background

1.1. The Australian Podiatry Education Research Foundation

The Australian Podiatry Education and Research Foundation (APERF) was established by the Australasian Podiatry Council (APodC) now known as the Australian Podiatry Association Limited (APodA) to promote foot health and to fund research into the causes and treatment of foot problems.

The role of APERF is to:

- Raise funds on a national basis for podiatric research in Australia
- Increase funding for Australia's under-financed podiatry research programmes
- Give grants that facilitate research into the causes, prevention and treatment of foot problems
- Provide education and community service programmes to bring the latest information on foot health to the public.

1.2. Aims of APERF grants

The foundation offers financial support for projects that are focussed on the causes, management and treatment of foot and related problems. Included in the research focus are professional issues such as the development of aspects of podiatric care. It should be noted at the outset that *funds can only be allocated to an approved Australian research institution or an Australian public institution as referred to in Section 73A of the Income Assessment Act.*

1.3. Structure of APERF

The APERF grant scheme is administered by the APodA. The Trustees determine and set guidelines for the fund's administration and review and determine the outcome of each grant application.

Current Trustees:

Dr Paul Bennett
Prof Hylton Menz
Mr Dean Samaras

Dr Shan Bergin
Prof Susan Nancarrow

A/Prof Karl Landorf (Chair)
Dr Anita Raspovic



2. General information

2.1. Eligibility for application

The APERF grant scheme is open to everyone involved in foot and foot-related research. However, special weight will be given to podiatrists as investigators, particularly if they are the primary applicant(s).

Grants are available to both skilled and inexperienced researchers. Grants will only be provided to research projects that have merit. Ethical, methodological and practical issues are considered in the review of applications. It should be noted that only project applications that have been formatted according to this Guidelines for Research Grant Applicants document will be considered.

A well-defined project is one that ‘investigates a significant problem or major issue in the theory or practice of podiatry or a research project aimed at the development of new knowledge in either fundamental or applied areas’.

2.2. Terms of the grant

The APERF makes available a limited number of grants of up to \$10,000, although larger grants may be offered from time-to-time. Because funding is limited, funds will be restricted as follows:

- Investigators may not use grant funding as salary, or en lieu of salary
- Funds may be made available for research assistants and technicians, where appropriate. However, as funding is limited, it does not normally extend to payment of a project officer to run the programme
- APERF will consider applications for supplementary funding for projects previously funded from other sources. Applicants must, however, demonstrate that a funding top-up is merited, based on substantiated progress made before the date of application to APERF for supplementary funds
- Projects that require substantial funding are encouraged to seek it from other sources

- Funds may be granted for feasibility studies to investigate the potential of a project, particularly when seeding funding may help the investigators obtain further and more substantial funds from another source
- Any capital equipment purchased with funding through this foundation will remain the property of the institution receiving the funding, however funding will not be provided for capital equipment that might reasonably be expected to be provided by the institution
- All budget items must be inclusive of costs associated with the Goods & Services Tax
- APERF will not consider applications from investigators yet to deliver a final report on a previous APERF grant.

2.3. Communication of results

Successful applicants will be required to communicate the final outcomes of their research in one (or more) of the following ways:

- Presentation at a national conference of the APodA
- Presentation at a national conference appropriate to the research topic
- Publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

APERF's support should be recognised in any form of publication of the research. Additionally, APERF requests that grant recipients inform the APERF Secretariat of any publications, conference presentations and reports resulting from their funding. Please also read Section 4 'Responsibility and Accountability of Grant Recipients' in this document, regarding the requirements of ongoing reporting to Trustees.

2.4. Institutional support

As all research is to be conducted through an approved institution, APERF requires that details and evidence of the support be provided by the institution. In accepting a grant, the institution is required to:



- Provide the facilities and services necessary for the efficient conduct of the research
- Meet the normal overhead expenses including maintenance costs on equipment purchased with APERF research funds.

2.5. General administration

2.5.1. Research officer

All applicants must nominate a Research Officer for the grant. This will be considered to be the primary investigator, unless otherwise indicated. The Research Officer will be the contact person for all correspondence from APERF, including the certification of expenditure and progress reports. The Research Officer is responsible for the prompt forwarding of progress reports to the APodA office.

2.5.2. Payment of funding

Payments of grant funds will be made upon the terms and conditions as specified by APERF. Unless otherwise specified, payments will be six monthly, in advance of all nominated expenses other than equipment, for which full payment can be made in the first payment. Payment can only be accessed by means of an invoice from the successful institution(s) to the APod finance officer. The invoice must contain bank details to enable a direct transfer of funds. A separate invoice is required for each grant.

2.5.3. Unused funds

Any grant funds paid for a project that are unspent or uncommitted at the end of the specified time, must be refunded to APERF. In exceptional circumstances, the chair may approve that the funds be carried forward. When this occurs, the Research Officer must make a written application to the chair at the end of the nominated time period.



2.5.4. Certification of expenditure

The Research Officer must, by no later than the 31st of March each year, produce a certificate of expenditure for each item of expenditure for the previous 12 month period. If not provided, funding may be withheld. This certificate must indicate:

- The use of funds received and their expenditure or commitment □

All funds that have not been expended or committed.

Applicants are reminded that University Administration may charge research grant winners a fee (i.e. on-costs). Please ascertain whether that is the case; if so, report it in the budget section of your application, as further funds cannot be allocated to cover these costs.

2.5.5. Termination of grant

Notwithstanding any other condition, APERF may, at any time, terminate a grant if it believes:

- The research for which the grant is approved, is not being carried out with competence, diligence and scientific honesty
- A primary investigator or graduate research personnel, whose participation is essential to the satisfactory performance of the project, leaves the institution or ceases to be involved in the project. The APodA office must be notified promptly if there is a change in research personnel.

2.5.6. Intellectual property

Intellectual property resulting from funded research normally belongs to the administering or host institution. However, APERF reserves the right to refer to funded research in publicising itself.



2.5.7. Institutional ethics and research office approval

Applicants are reminded that institutional ethics approval is essential; projects will not be financed unless evidence of approval is provided. An institutional ethics committee may require submission of the ethics proposal at at least one ethics committee meeting before the commencement of grant funding. Even earlier is advisable, in case reworking or resubmission of the ethics application is required. Similarly, the institutional research office may also require a copy of the research grant application in advance of the submission deadline.

2.5.8. Timeframe for grants

A grant shall be made for a period as agreed to by the applicants and the foundation up to a maximum period of 2 years. The normal commencement dates for grants is the 1st of March of each year. This date coincides approximately with the commencement of the tertiary academic year. However, it may be extended with the agreement of the foundation. Under these circumstances, permission to carry the grant forward 12 months past this date must be agreed to by the chair of the foundation. Payments will not commence until all institutional approval, including ethics approval, has been finalised.

3. Application process

One electronic copy of the completed application form must be provided to the foundation no later than the extended deadline of midnight on the 31st of October, 2018. The applicant must complete all sections of the forms and provide evidence of support where required. Institutional ethics approval from the nominated institution must be provided before funding can commence.

4. Responsibility and accountability of grant recipients

The grant extends for a period of up to 2 years. Investigators must provide six-monthly written reports on the progress of the project and certification of expenditure as indicated in Section 2.5.



5. Timeline for grant applications

There will be one call for applications for APERF grants each year. A second round may be advertised subject to availability of funds.

- **Call for Applications** September & October APodA correspondence, facebook and professional development updates
- **Closing Date for Submission:** Wednesday 31st October 2018
- **Date for Review (Trustee meeting):** Mid December
- **Applicants Notified by:** 30th of December
- **Payment of first instalment:** 27th of February
- **Assumed starting date for project:** 1st of March.

Any clarification of issues noted in the original application (i.e. resubmissions) required by trustees will be considered each March.

6. Communication

For further information and correspondence to the foundation, please contact:

Australasian Podiatry Council 89 Nicholson
Street

Brunswick East 3057

Phone: (03) 9416 3111

Email: aperf@podiatry.org.au

Web: <https://www.podiatry.org.au/about/aperf>

