



Scoliosis Research Society

Dedicated to the optimal care of patients with spinal deformity

Research Grants

Annual Application Timeline

Letters of Intent Collected*: February 1 - March 15 (11:59pm EST)

*Applicable to: Biedermann Innovation Award, New Investigator Grant, SRS-Cotrel Foundation Basic Science Grant, and Standard Research Grants

Application for Resident/Fellow Grants and Exploratory Micro-Grants Collected:

February 1 - March 15 (11:59pm EST)

Requests for Full Proposals: No later than April 15

Full Proposal Applications Open: April 15 - May 15

Award Notifications: August

Award Announcement: SRS Annual Meeting

Research Project start dates should be September 1 - November 1 of the application year.

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(Please note that Internet Explorer is not a supported browser for the application site)

Directed Research Application Timeline

Letters of Intent Collected*: September 20, 2024 - November 15, 2024 (11:59pm EST)

*Directed Research Grant only

Requests for Full Proposals: No later than December 15, 2024

Full Proposal Applications Open: December 15, 2024 - February 15, 2025

Award Notifications: March 2025

Award Announcement: TBD

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Grant Descriptions and Information

Directed Research Grant

Research should preferably be designed as a retrospective, multi-center and preferably multi-continent study of a large cohort of patients diagnosed with Idiopathic Scoliosis in childhood and followed into adulthood. These patients may have been operated or treated non-operatively and followed for a minimum of 20-40 years.

Among operated patients specific metrics should include adequate patient and curve case mix variables, operative treatment performed during adolescence and outcomes such as defined in "The Scoliosis Research Society adult spinal deformity standard outcome set" (Spine Deformity, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43390-021-00334-2>)

Among non-operated patients specific metrics should include patient and curve case mix variables, treatment prescribed during adolescence and outcomes such as patient reported health related quality of life, operation in adulthood, curve progression, and associated health conditions/co-morbidities

Topic: Long Term Outcomes of Operative and/or Non-operative Treatment of Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis followed into Adulthood: A 20-40 Year Study

- Preliminary data is not required but may be viewed favorably
- The quality and timeliness of the investigators' previously funded SRS research and reports will be taken in consideration when evaluating applications for Directed Research grants
- Period of grant – up to 3 years
- Up to \$150,000 per year for 3 years may be requested (max \$450,000 total).

General Guidelines

- Applications may be submitted by non-profit, public and private institutions of higher education, such as hospitals, medical schools, universities, and colleges.
- Applicants do not need to be members of the SRS but do need to have at least one SRS member as a co-investigator.
- Funds are for work to be performed, not works in progress or already completed.
- All correspondence will be sent to the primary investigator. It is the responsibility of the primary investigator to provide information to co-investigators.
- The SRS Research Grant program was not developed to support research for independent manufacturer, industry development or personal business financial gain. SRS will be sensitive to this issue and avoid funding these projects.

Biedermann Innovation Award

The Biedermann Innovation Research Award shall be designed to support innovative research by young clinical investigators in the field of spine deformity.

General Guidelines

- The total grant award is \$50,000 per approved proposal.
- The award will be given out in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.
- Recipients should be young Active or Candidate SRS members (age 45 or younger at the time the award is given) who have demonstrated clinical or translational research

promise and have submitted a research proposal designed to enhance innovation in spinal deformity treatment.

- Funds are for work to be performed, not works in progress or already completed.
- All correspondence will be sent to the primary investigator. It is the responsibility of the primary investigator to provide information to co-investigators.
- The SRS Research Grant program was not developed to support research for independent manufacturer, industry development or personal business financial gain. SRS will be sensitive to this issue and avoid funding these projects.

New Investigator Research Grant

New investigator research grants are meant to stimulate younger members into a career of investigation in spinal deformity.

- Open to SRS Candidate Fellows or investigators who have not previously received an SRS Standard Grant, ORS, OREF, USA Federal grant (or OUS equivalent) and have completed 10 years or less of practice or at the committee's discretion.
- Preliminary data is not required nor is it expected.
- The work must be both conceptualized and executed by the young investigator. Reviewers will consider the extent of which the project seems to be the young investigator's own work rather than that of a more senior collaborator. Involvement, however, of an experienced mentor in an advisory role is encouraged and will be viewed positively.
- Applications with achievable goals and clear direction for subsequent work after the completion of the project will be viewed favorably.
- Duration of research – 2 years
- Up to \$30,000 (\$15,000 per year) may be requested.
- Applicants for the New Investigator Grant may also be interested in the US Bone & Joint Initiative's [Young Investigator Initiative \(YII\)](#).

General Guidelines

- Applicants do not need to be members of the SRS but do need to have at least one SRS member as a co-investigator
- Funds are for work to be performed, not works in progress or already completed.
- All correspondence will be sent to the primary investigator. It is the responsibility of the primary investigator to provide information to co-investigators.
- The SRS Research Grant program was not developed to support research for independent manufacturer, industry development or personal business financial gain. SRS will be sensitive to this issue and avoid funding these projects.

Resident/ Fellow Grants

The Resident/Fellow Research grants are meant to allow residents/fellows to pursue avenues of interest to prepare them for a lifelong research career.

- Open to all residents/fellows in good standing in an Orthopaedic or Neurosurgery training program.

- Preliminary data is not required nor is it expected.
- Duration of research – 1 year
- Up to \$10,000 each.
- It is encouraged this funding opportunity be anticipated prior to the senior year for residents or prior to the start of fellowship for fellows such that the research can be completed prior to graduation.

General Guidelines

- Applicants do not need to be members of the SRS but do need to have at least one SRS member/candidate member as a co-investigator.
- Funds are for work to be performed but can be for works in-progress.
- All correspondence will be sent to the primary investigator. It is the responsibility of the primary investigator to provide information to co-investigators.
- The SRS Research Grant program was not developed to support research for independent manufacturer, industry development or personal business financial gain. SRS will be sensitive to this issue and avoid funding these projects.

Exploratory Micro-Grant

Exploratory Micro research grants are meant to promote the diversity of the SRS membership and encourage members who do not typically receive major research awards to advance their creative ideas.

- Open to all SRS Fellows and Candidate Fellows.
- Preliminary data is not required nor is it expected.
- Duration of research – 1 year
- Up to \$2,500 each.
- Suggestions for types of projects that could be funded include:
 - Funding for a surgeon observership from an under-resourced country
 - Support a resident or student to perform research or travel on a medical mission
 - Projects from smaller institutions that do not typically obtain larger SRS grants
 - Non-traditional grants not necessarily for research – educational ideas, advocacy, quality and safety improvement, and outside-the-box ideas

General Guidelines

- Applicants do not need to be members of the SRS but do need to have at least one SRS member/candidate member as a co-investigator or an SRS member as the host for the applicants observership/medical mission trip.
- Funds are for work to be performed but can be for works in-progress.
- All correspondence will be sent to the primary investigator. It is the responsibility of the primary investigator to provide information to co-investigators.
- The SRS Research Grant program was not developed to support research for independent manufacturer, industry development or personal business financial gain. SRS will be sensitive to this issue and avoid funding these projects.

SRS-Cotrel Foundation Basic Science Research Grant

The SRS-Cotrel Foundation **basic science research grant** is conceived to support projects that will be performing work in **Pediatric Scoliosis**. Projects investigating molecular and cellular mechanisms, medical imaging as well as characterizing biomechanical aspects underlying the disease are eligible.

Basic science research using human populations or animal models are highly encouraged.

- One award available per year.
- Preliminary data and an investigational team with a proven track record will be viewed favorably.
- Additional Considerations:
 - How closely the SRS member is involved in all aspects of the project. (ex. A project performed by an investigative team that includes an SRS member clinician whose role is on the periphery of the project or whose role is poorly defined will not score as highly.)
 - How much of the focus of the investigators other work is related to spinal deformity. (ex. A team of investigators whose careers have been dedicated to investigating gut motility will not be scored as highly.)
- These applications will be reviewed by the SRS Research Grants Committee **and** the Cotrel Foundation.

Application Notes

- Duration of research – up to 2 years
- Up to \$25,000 per year may be requested (max \$50,000).
- CV page limit – 4 pages per investigator
- Research plan page limit – 10 pages (text includes all figures, charts, tables, and diagrams)

General Guidelines

- Applicants do not need to be members of the SRS but do need to have at least one SRS member as a co-investigator
- Funds are for work to be performed, not works in progress or already completed.
- All correspondence will be sent to the primary investigator. It is the responsibility of the primary investigator to provide information to co-investigators.
- The SRS-Cotrel Research Grant program was not developed to support research for independent manufacturer, industry development or personal business financial gain. SRS will be sensitive to this issue and avoid funding these projects.

Standard Research Grant

The expectation for a standard research grant is that the successfully completed project would be of a quality of a well-received podium presentation at the SRS Annual Meeting. The Society expects that these grants will lay the foundation for a sustained avenue of investigation and allow the investigator(s) to seek larger grants from sources such as the NIH

or OREF. Investigators who have been funded at this level should not plan on nor expect that the “next step” in a project will be funded by the SRS after completion of their initial work.

- Preliminary data is not required but may be viewed favorably.
- Investigators and consortia that have an ongoing study in this category will not be considered for additional funding until their funded project is complete, regardless of whether or not their new application is for a different avenue of investigation.
- The quality and timeliness of the investigators’ previously funded SRS research and reports will be taken in consideration when evaluating applications for standard research grants.
- Duration of research – up to 2 years
- Up to \$37,500 per year may be requested (max \$75,000 total). Applications requesting more than \$25,000 per year should spend additional effort to justify the request.

General Guidelines

- Applicants do not need to be members of the SRS but do need to have at least one SRS member as a co-investigator.
- Funds are for work to be performed, not works in progress or already completed.
- All correspondence will be sent to the primary investigator. It is the responsibility of the primary investigator to provide information to co-investigators.
- The SRS Research Grant program was not developed to support research for independent manufacturer, industry development or personal business financial gain. SRS will be sensitive to this issue and avoid funding these projects.

General Information and Guidelines

All grants must have at least one investigator that is an SRS member.

Funds are for work to be performed, not works in progress or already completed.

Research start dates should be September 1 - November 1 of the application/award year.

All correspondence will be sent to the primary investigator. It is the responsibility of the primary investigator to provide information to co-investigators.

The SRS Research Grant program was not developed to support research for independent manufacturers, industry development or personal business financial gain. SRS will be sensitive to this issue and avoid funding these projects.

If grant is awarded, you must submit your findings as an abstract to the SRS Annual Meeting, with no guarantee of acceptance, before submitting to any other meeting.

SRS must be cited as the source of funding in any publication, presentation or in any publicity resulting from the award or its results.

Selection Process

Applications are rated on the basis of their scientific merit and include the following criteria:

- **Significance:** Does the project address an issue that will advance the care of patients with spinal deformity?
- **Approach:** How innovative is the approach in the proposal? Are the aims of the project clear and reasonable with a strong scientific premise? Is the study design appropriate and adequately powered (if necessary)? Have the investigators identified potential problems and alternative strategies?
- **Feasibility:** Can the investigators deliver a meaningful result? Do the investigators and collaborators have complementary and appropriate experience to accomplish the goals of the project? Is there appropriate institutional support and physical resources for the project?
- **Budget:** Are the requested funds and period of support justified and reasonable?

Research Topics

The Research Grant Committee feels the following topics are important areas for research as part of the 2021-2024 Research Agenda. This list is not all-inclusive and should not deter other areas of spinal pathology research.

1. Pediatric and Young Adult High Grade Spondylolisthesis
2. Identifying the Optimal Evaluation of Pulmonary Function to Follow for Pediatric Spine Deformity
3. Study of Syndromic and Other Rare Deformities (e.g. SMA, Pediatric Cervical Spine, etc.)
4. Growth Modulation (e.g. Anterior Vertebral Body Tethering)
5. Carcinogenic Effects of (Cobalt Chrome) Implants
6. Global Screening Program for AIS
7. Prediction and Modelling
8. Etiology
9. Non-Operative Treatment of AIS (Physiotherapeutic Scoliosis Specific Exercises and Night-time Bracing)
10. Long-term Outcomes of Pediatric and Adolescent Spinal Deformity
11. Natural History of AIS
12. Natural History of Degenerative Adult Spinal Deformity
13. Non-Operative Treatment of Adult Spinal Deformity: Evaluating and Defining Conservative Care in ASD
14. Sarcopenia/Osteoporosis/Frailty in Pathogenesis of ASD