

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this award is to support clinical research projects in hearing and balance science. Clinical research involves human participants and may be directed toward diagnosis, epidemiology, genetics, clinical pathophysiology, and treatment.

B. ELIGIBILITY

Candidates for this award must be residents of the U.S. or Canada and should hold an MD, PhD, or equivalent degrees as well as a faculty or post-doctoral appointment and demonstrate experience and strong research training as well as sufficient institutional support (facilities, time, and mentorship) to carry out the proposed work. Ideal candidate should be in their first 5 years after completion of formal training. A faculty mentor should be identified and a letter of support and availability should be included in the application. Previous DRF or AAO-HNS Foundation research grant recipients are eligible to compete for this grant. However, candidates who have successfully obtained funding from a private or federal funding agency for the same research are ineligible. Candidates who have applied for support of the same research from other funding sources, and who are notified of an award from both another agency and from DRF must choose only one of the awards.

C. CONDITIONS

Research supported by this award should be specifically directed toward the clinical identification, diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of diseases, disorders, or conditions of the ear. While not specifically required, proposals which aim to introduce new knowledge and methodology from other disciplines to research in otology or neurotology, or which demonstrate collaborative effort with members of other related disciplines are encouraged. Projects must be designed to yield useful information within the period of award, but priority will be given to projects that are also innovative with promise to develop into new long-range or expanded research programs capable of attracting funding from other sources.

The grant application **must** be accompanied by letters of support from the Chair of the candidate's academic department. These letters are to indicate a general level of support of the applicant, and to demonstrate the fact that the department will make time, space, and other resources accessible for completion of the project. Applicants must obtain letters of support/understanding from all key personnel on the project.

D. TERMS

1. **Amount:** \$25,000 maximum
2. **Period:** *12 months, non-renewable*
3. **Budget:** A detailed budget and budget justification constitute part of the application and will be evaluated as part of the review process. Allowable expenses include consultant fees (e.g. statistician); salary support for research assistants or other technical personnel; computer software or hardware; patient incentive costs; and expenses related to publication of results, exclusive of reprint costs. Funding may not be used to support the applicant's normal salary during the period of the award. Patient care costs that can be considered within the ordinary and accepted standard of care and which are eligible for third-party payment may not be charged to the grant. Equipment and supplies purchased with this Award become the property of the recipient institution. The DRF prefers not to pay institutional (indirect) costs for this very modest award; if the institution is unwilling to waive such costs, however, they are limited to **no more** than 10% of the Total Direct Costs (sum of amounts requested for personnel, consultant costs, equipment, supplies, patient/animal care costs, and other expenses). The Total Costs (direct + indirect) may not exceed \$50,000.

4. **Review:** Applications will be reviewed by members of the Centralized Otolaryngology Research Efforts (CORE) Study Section, composed of DRF members designated for the Study Section, and members of the AAO-HNSF CORE Study Section Subcommittee. Recommendations for funding of the DRF Centurion Clinical Research Grant Award must be approved by the DRF.
5. **Notification:** Letters of notification will be sent in June of the award year. Please *do not* call the AAO-HNSF office prior to that time to inquire about results.
6. **Start Date:** The recipient of the DRF Centurion Clinical Research Award Grant will be announced publicly at the closest AAO-HNS Foundation Annual Meeting immediately following the award. The award may be activated as early as July 1 of the year of award, but no later than January 1 of the following year.

E. FORMAT

Applications are in a similar format to the National Institutes of Health. All applications must be completed and submitted online through Proposal Central at <https://proposalcentral.altum.com>. See the AAO-HNSF website (<http://www.entlink.net/research/grant/Foundation-Funding-Opportunities.cfm>) to begin the application process.

F. SIGNATURES

The Principal Investigator, Department Chairman, and Institution official are required to sign the original grant application (all signatures must appear on copies). The DRF Centurion Clinical Research Award Grant is legally awarded to the institution with which the Principal Investigator is affiliated, *not to the investigator or his/her Division or Department*. For this reason, it is very important that applicants comply with their home institution's policies on pre-submission processing of grant applications. This can take time, so it is wise to plan ahead, allowing adequate time for processing and approvals. Applicants are advised to consult their institution's offices of research administration or sponsored projects for information on processing requirements for an application prior to its submission.

G. APPROVALS

If the proposed research involves human subjects at any time, the project must be reviewed and approved by the appropriate Institutional Review Board (IRB). This approval should be obtained prior to submission and submitted with the application. If such approval is unavoidably delayed, enter "pending" instead of the approval date. Grant applications which are not supported by evidence of the appropriate IRB or IACUC approvals will not receive funding until such approval letters are submitted. In no case may the project start be delayed beyond January 1st of the project year. Any changes in the proposed work required by an IRB or IACUC to secure approval must be submitted to the Foundation with the follow-up certification, prior to review or after the work is in progress.

H. LETTER OF INTENT

All applicants must submit a Letter of Intent online no later than December 15th. The letter of intent is completed online and includes the title of the project, the principal investigator, and an abstract of the work. This will facilitate planning review requirements. See the AAO-HNSF website (<http://www.entlink.net/research/grant/Foundation-Funding-Opportunities.cfm>) to begin the letter of intent process.

I. RECEIPT DATE

Allow yourself enough time to have the appropriate individuals review your application. Once your application is complete, print your cover page and have all of the necessary individuals sign. Keep in mind that it may take a few days to obtain all of the necessary signatures. The CORE grants program is paperless, so no hard copies of the signature page are to be mailed. Once all signatures have been obtained, you should scan the document and upload the .pdf to the system and retain the original for your files if needed. Once the signature page had been uploaded run the checks within the system and click 'SUBMIT.' You will receive a confirmation email indicating that your proposal has officially been submitted.

ALL materials must be submitted online by midnight, Eastern Standard Time, January 15.

J. FOLLOW-UP

In carrying out its stewardship of research programs, the DRF may request information essential to an assessment of the effectiveness of this program. Accordingly, the recipient is hereby notified that s/he may be contacted after the completion of the award for periodic updates on various aspects of employment history, publications, support from research grants or contracts, honors and awards, professional activities, and other information helpful in evaluating the impact of the program.

K. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Recipients of the DRF Centurion Clinical Research Award Grant are required to complete an interim report at 6-months. Within 30-days of the completion of the project, the awardee will submit a final report suitable for publication. A final financial report must be submitted within 90 days of the close of the project. Any publications resulting from a project supported with the award shall acknowledge the contribution of the DRF Centurion Clinical Research Award Grant.

GRANT CHECK LIST

Visit <https://proposalcentral.altum.com>

TIP: When completing the LOI and Application, be sure to save each page before selecting 'Next.'

I. CREATE/UPDATE PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

- Contact Information
- Degrees
- Research Interests
- Personal Data for Application
- Biosketch
- Enable others to access your profile
- Account information (link to existing or create Institutional Profile)

II. CREATE LETTER OF INTENT (LOI)

- 1) Project Title *(Do not exceed 80 characters)*
- 2) Grant access to key personnel from your institution
- 3) Applicant/PI *(Pre-populated from your Professional Profile)*
- 4) Institution & Contacts *(Pre-populated from your Professional Profile)*
- 5) Abstract *(2,000 characters max, including spaces. Text only. No special characters or formatting)*
- 6) Select key words to describe your project *(this assist us with selecting appropriate reviewers)*
- 7) Validate that everything has been completed for the LOI
- 8) Submit. Receive confirmation email entitled 'LOI to American Academy of Otolaryngology has been Submitted'

SUBMIT LOI BY DECEMBER 15, 2009

III. COMPLETE APPLICATION

1. Receive email entitled 'LOI to American Academy of Otolaryngology has been Approved.' This is your signal that you can begin the on-line application.
2. Title Page *Some information pre-populated from the LOI*
 - a. Is this a resubmitted application from a previous year? If yes, explain what has been changed.
 - b. Other sources of funding? If yes, identify sources.
 - c. Total amount being requested for the entire project?
 - d. Proposed start and stop dates
3. Download Instructions and Templates to help guide you through the application process
4. Enable other users to access the application
5. Applicant/PI *Most information pre-populated from Professional Profile*
 - a. % effort proposed for PI on this project.
6. Institution & Contacts *Some information pre-populated from Institutional profile*
 - a. Email for Signing Official
 - b. Email for Financial Officer
 - c. Email for Department Head
7. Key Personnel
8. Abstract *Already completed as part of the LOI*
9. Assurances & Certifications (use of Human Subjects, Vertebrate Animals or involvement of Recombinant DNA?)
10. Research Plan & Other Attachments
 - a. Research Plan not to exceed 10-pages
 - b. Budget & Budget Justification not to exceed 4-pages
 - c. PI Biosketch
 - d. Resources & Environment
 - e. Abstract
 - f. Department Head Letter
 - g. Other support (letters of support from all key personnel)
11. PI Private and Demographic Info *Pre-populated from Professional Profile*
12. Print Grant Cover Sheet and have it signed by the appropriate signing officials and upload the signed signature page to the application
13. Run checks within the system to ensure the application is complete
14. Click 'SUBMIT'

SUBMIT APPLICATION BY JANUARY 15, 2010