

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this award is to foster research on hearing and its disorders through collaborations between Fellows of the Knowles Hearing Center at Northwestern University and non-Knowles-Fellow scientists or physicians.

B. ELIGIBILITY

Candidates for this award should be scientists (Ph.D.) or physicians (M.D.). Previous Knowles Hearing Center 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 the Knowles Hearing Center, must choose only one of the awards.

C. CONDITIONS

Applicants for this award must work in collaboration with a Fellow of the Knowles Hearing Center at Northwestern University (for a list of current Knowles Fellows, see http://www.communication.northwestern.edu/departments/csd/research/hugh_knowles_center/people.php). The applicant and Knowles Fellow are to act as a team in the development of the application and in the execution of the project. Research supported by this award should be specifically directed toward understanding hearing and its disorders. While not specifically required, proposals that aim to introduce new knowledge and methodology from other disciplines to research in hearing are encouraged. Projects must be designed so as to yield useful information within the period of the award, but priority will be given to projects that also are innovative and hold 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 ensure that the department will make time, space, and other resources accessible for completion of the project. Applicants also must obtain letters of support/understanding from all key personnel on the project.

D. TERMS

1. **Amount:** \$30,000 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; purchase and maintenance of experimental animals; participant 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 Knowles Hearing Center 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 \$30,000.
4. **Review:** Applications will be reviewed by members of the Centralized Otolaryngology Research Efforts (CORE) Study Section, composed of Knowles Hearing Center members designated for the Study Section, and members of the AAO-HNSF CORE Study Section Subcommittee.

Recommendations for funding of the Knowles Hearing Center Collaborative Grant must be approved by the Knowles Hearing Center.

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 Knowles Hearing Center Collaborative Grant will be announced publicly at the 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> . The last page of this document is a general outline of what is required for the application.

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 Knowles Hearing Center Collaborative 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 process 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 or vertebrate animals, the project must be reviewed and approved by the appropriate Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). 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 1 of the year following the year of the award.. 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 electronically 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 proposal CENTRAL website (<https://proposalcentral.altum.com>) 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 and have all of the necessary individuals sign your cover page. 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 has 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 16, 2012.

J. FOLLOW-UP

In carrying out its stewardship of research programs, the Knowles Hearing Center 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 Knowles Hearing Center Collaborative Grant are required to complete an interim report 6 months after the award is activated, and a final report within 30 days of completion of the project. 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 support of the Knowles Hearing Center through a Knowles Hearing Center Collaborative 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, 2011

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 Strategy
 - a. Research Strategy not to exceed 6-pages
 - i. Significance
 - ii. Innovation
 - iii. Approach
 - 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 16, 2012