

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
PEDIATRIC OTOLARYNGOLOGY (ASPO)

ASPO RESEARCH CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this award is to provide support for the research career development of otolaryngologists – head and neck surgeons who have made a commitment to focus their research endeavors on research oriented to pediatric otolaryngology (e.g. patient-oriented clinical trials, health services, outcomes research, translational research, basic science).

B. ELIGIBILITY

Otolaryngologists-head and neck surgeons who hold full-time medical school faculty appointments and who have made a commitment to focus their research endeavors on research oriented to pediatric otolaryngology may apply. A minimal effort of 40% for protected research time (not necessarily for just this grant application) will be required. This effort will need to be documented from a chairman's letter indicating institutional support for this amount of protected time. A research mentor will need to be identified, preferably someone with a track record of successfully mentoring physician-scientists. Applicants with an R01 or equivalent award will not be eligible. Applicants must clearly indicate in the "Other Support" section of the application whether support for the submitted project is being sought from other funding agencies or organizations. Applicants currently holding research career development awards from NIH or other funding agencies are eligible to apply, however, applicants must indicate how the supplemental funds from the ASPO's Career Development Award will be utilized.

ASPO will consider applications from both:

- (1) **Individuals:** If an investigator is unaffiliated with an institution his/her grant application would be made to the individual himself/herself. In the event of a grant award, an ASPO check would be drawn to the individual investigator. This could be considered as income to that individual and therefore subject to income tax. Individuals affiliated with institutions (i.e., universities) may apply individually if allowed by a university policy. In the event of a grant award, an ASPO check would be drawn to the individual investigator (See Signatures and Approvals).
- (2) **Institutions:** Must qualify as an organization exempt from income taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (other than a private foundation). Submission of a W9 form documenting 501(c)(3) status to the ASPO Treasurer will be required (US institutions only) prior to release of funds. Investigators affiliated with institutions (i.e., universities) who are not allowed, by university policy, to apply individually, may ask the university to submit the grant application for the investigator's project. Investigators in this category are considered institutional applicants. In the event of a grant award, an ASPO check would be drawn to the Institution (see Signatures and Approvals).

Applications submitted by ineligible PIs will NOT be reviewed by the CORE Study Section.

C. CONDITIONS

Research training supported by this award may be related to any research questions relevant to the specialty of pediatric otolaryngology, as long as it is demonstrated that the training will have a direct impact on the applicant's ability to pursue his/her long-range research objectives. Proposals which aim to introduce new knowledge and methodology from other disciplines to research in pediatric otolaryngology are encouraged. A career development plan including how this award will support the applicant's research endeavors will be required. The recipient is expected to submit an abstract to be considered for presentation at an ASPO meeting at the conclusion of the award period. Applicants must obtain letters of support/understanding from all key personnel including a mentor and the department chairman on the project. **If the applicant, department chairman, or at least one investigator is not an ASPO member, a letter of support must also be obtained from an ASPO member. The ASPO member does not need to be affiliated with the applicant's institution but must attest to the scientific merit of the application.**



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D. TERMS

1. **Amount:** \$40,000 maximum

2. **Period:** 12 months-24 months, at investigators discretion, non-renewable

3. **Use of Funds:** A detailed budget and budget justification constitute part of the application and will be evaluated for appropriateness as part of the review process. Funding may be used to support a portion of the Principal Investigator's salary during the period of the award. 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; laboratory supplies and services; and expenses related to publication of results directly related to the supported project, exclusive of reprint costs. Equipment and supplies purchased with this Award become the property of the recipient institution. ASPO 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 \$40,000.

4. **Review:** Applications will be reviewed by members of the Centralized Otolaryngology Research Efforts (CORE) Study Section, composed of ASPO members for the Study Section, representatives from each of the participating senior societies, and members of the AAO-HNSF Research Grants and Prizes Subcommittee. Based on these reviews, the ASPO Research Committee makes recommendations for funding which are presented to the ASPO Board at its COSM meeting. Final funding decisions are made by the ASPO Board.

5. **Notification:** Letters of notification will be sent by June of the award year. Please do not call the AAO-HNSF office prior to that time to inquire about results. Questions may be directed to the ASPO Research Committee Chair (see ASPO website at www.aspo.us for contact information)

6. **Start Date:** The award may be activated as early as July 1 of the award year, but no later than January 1, of the following year. The recipient of the ASPO Research Career Development Award will be announced publicly at the closest AAO-HNS Foundation Annual Meeting immediately following the award. Verification of human subjects approval and/or animal use approval, as applicable, as well as verification of tax exempt status must be received prior to release of funds. ASPO reserves the right to revoke an award if relevant approvals have not been obtained within 6 months of notification of a successful application.

E. Career Development Grants

This is a career development award. In addition to the *Significance*, *Innovation*, and *Approach* components of the Research Strategy, Career Development Award applicants must include:

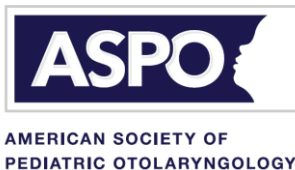
- Candidate's Background
- Career Goals and Objectives
- Career Development/Training Activities During Award Period
- Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research

More information is provided in the Research Strategy instructions, which will be accessible after approval of Letter of Intent.

F. FORMAT

Applications are in a similar format to the National Institutes of Health. All applications must be completed and submitted online through ProposalCentral at <https://proposalcentral.altum.com>. Visit <http://www.entnet.org/CORE> for more information on the application process.

G. SIGNATURES



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Applicants affiliated with institutions should consult their institution's office of research administration or sponsored projects for information on processing requirements for a grant application prior to its submission and should comply with the institution's policies.

- (1) **Individual** applicants who are affiliated with institutions should disclose the fact of the application to the institution with which he/she is affiliated; ascertain that acceptance of grant funds by an individual would be permitted by the institution; and obtain the signature on the Application Form of an institutional official indicating that, in the event of an award, the individual investigator is permitted by the institution to accept a check drawn to him/her.
- (2) **Institutional** applicants should provide, on the Application Form, the name of the institution to which a check should be drawn, in the event of a grant; and the title and address of the financial officer of that institution to which a check and letter of notification should be sent.

H. APPROVALS

If the proposed research involves human subjects or vertebrate animals at any time, 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 award. Investigators are strongly urged to obtain such approvals prior to submission to avoid revocation of grant funds due to inability to meet the January 1 start date. Any changes in the proposed work required by an IRB or IACUC to secure approval must be submitted to the ASPO with the follow-up certification, prior to review or after the work is in progress.

I. LETTER OF INTENT

All applicants must submit a Letter of Intent online no later than 11:59pm, Eastern Standard Time December 15, 2025. 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 ProposalCentral website (<https://proposalcentral.altum.com>) to begin the letter of intent process.

J. 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 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 11:59pm, Eastern Standard Time, January 15, 2026.

K. FOLLOW-UP

In carrying out its stewardship of research programs, ASPO 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.



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L. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Recipients of the ASPO Research Career Development Grant are required to complete an interim progress report at 6 months. Within 90 days of the completion of the project, the awardee must submit a final report suitable for publication in the abstract book of the annual ASPO meeting. The recipients are required to submit an abstract to be considered for presentation at an ASPO meeting at the conclusion of the award period. 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 ASPO Research Grant.

CONTACT

If you have questions regarding this funding opportunity announcement, please contact ASPO at ASPO@facs.org.