



NASS 2015 Research Grants

1 - Introduction

The North American Spine Society (NASS) is a premier multidisciplinary medical organization with over 8,400 physician and affiliated healthcare members in 99 countries dedicated to fostering the highest quality ethical, value-based and evidence-based spine care through education, research and advocacy. NASS membership includes over 30 spine-related specialties including orthopedics, neurosurgery, physiatry, pain management, research and other disciplines, including allied health professionals.

NASS strives to be a leading force in promoting and supporting spine research. Since 1989, NASS has funded more than \$3.4 million in multidisciplinary spine-related research.

NASS relies on the generosity of its membership, nonmember donors and the spine industry to provide funding for its research funds in support of the highest quality, peer-reviewed research. NASS supports basic, clinical and translational science performed with integrity. The goal is to improve quality spine care for patients and understanding of underlying disorders. One way NASS achieves these goals is by funding grants and fellowships.

2 - Scope

Research Grants

NASS research grants provide funding for promising research projects by qualified investigators in the field of spine. Funding amount and number of grants are at the discretion of the NASS Research Project Management Committee based upon merit of applications and amount of funding available each year. It is recommended that approved grant budgets not exceed \$50,000 per year.

Young Investigator Grants

One to two Young Investigator Grants may be awarded each year. Principal investigators may be any age. MD applicants must be within five years of completion of training at the time of application; PhD applicants must be within five years of their post-doc training. Applicants may not have received previous grant funding from the NASS Research Project Management Committee. It is recommended that approved grant budgets not exceed \$50,000 per year.

Nontraditional, Nonsurgical Treatment Grants

This grant supports research of disc-related and/or neuropathic back pain by nonsurgical techniques. These funds must be used for new, nontraditional methods of nonsurgical treatment of such back and neck pain and radiculopathy. If TNF-inhibitors other than etanercept are used in research and/or treatment funded, comparison studies using perispinal etanercept in at least as many research subjects or patients should be done. Funding amount and number of grants are at the discretion of the NASS Research Project Management Committee based upon merit of applications and amount of funding available each year. It is recommended that approved grant budgets not exceed \$50,000 per year.

Clinical Traveling Fellowship

The Clinical Traveling Fellowship spans at least one month to be spent in three to five different medical centers

studying spine techniques. The centers selected by the applicant should agree in writing to accept the applicant if he/she receives the Fellowship. The Fellowship primarily covers the costs of travel and housing and typically ranges from \$3,000-\$7,000.

Research Traveling Fellowship

The Research Traveling Fellowship spans at least five months at one medical center (other than the facility at which the applicant currently practices). The center selected by the applicant should have appropriate research facilities and agree in writing to accept the applicant if he/she receives the Fellowship. The Fellowship primarily covers the costs of travel and housing and typically ranges from \$3,000-\$7,000. If funding for the actual research project is needed, please apply for one of the research grants.

3 - Eligibility

Applicants do not need to be NASS members. Any qualified applicant in any specialty will be considered. International applicants are welcome to apply. Medical residents are eligible with the condition that they have a mentor/faculty support to work with them.

- NASS strongly encourages new investigators to apply.
- Any principal investigator or co-investigator that receives a research grant from NASS will not be eligible to apply for grant funding again until three years after the date of the previous award.
- Multiple grants will not be funded simultaneously to any principal investigator or co-investigator. The Letter of Proposal may be submitted in only one category; not multiple categories.
- Funds are for work to be performed or works in progress, not works already completed.
- NASS does not support research for independent manufacturers, industry development or personal business financial gain. NASS will be sensitive to this issue.

4 - Duration

Grants are awarded for one to two years at the discretion of the Research Project Management Committee.

5 - Budget

There is no limit to the amount that may be requested for funding. However it is recommended that approved grant budgets not exceed \$50,000 per year in the case of research grants, young investigator grants and nontraditional treatment grants. The costs of travel and housing and typically ranges from \$3,000-\$7,000 in the case of clinical travel and research travelling fellowships.

6 - Deadline

- VHIR deadline is 26/01/2015
- The official deadline is 02/02/2015 for the receipt of Letters of Proposal and 04/05/2015 for invited full applications.

7 - More information

More information can be found at [LINK](#)

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