

# RESEARCH

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## I. COMBINED SECTIONS MEETING ABSTRACT REVIEWS

### A. Call for Abstracts

- i. The Research Section of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) is responsible for distributing the Call for Abstracts for the Combined Sections Meeting. The Chair of the Research Committee of the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy (AOPT) communicates with the Chair of the Education Program Committee of the AOPT to ensure the Chair of the Research Committee is the contact person for individuals submitting research abstracts for the AOPT.
- ii. The Chair of the Research Committee communicates with the AOPT office to ensure that the call for abstracts is posted on the AOPT web site and in *Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Practice* and JOSPT.
- iii. Individuals do not need to be an APTA member to submit an abstract, but they MUST be sponsored by an APTA member. This is identified in the APTA online submission form.

### B. Reviewer Assignment

- i. The Vice-Chair of the Research Committee is responsible for recruiting AOPT members to review abstracts. All assignments are performed online through the Scholar One program. The Vice-Chair provides Scholar One with registration information for each reviewer and Scholar One technicians enter reviewers into the system.
- ii. The Vice-Chair assigns 2-3 reviewers for each submitted abstract. Review instructions and criteria for scoring are disseminated to the reviewers by the Vice-Chair.
- iii. All members of the Research Committee are expected to review abstracts for CSM as part of their committee responsibilities.

### C. Accept/Reject Decisions

- i. The Vice-Chair of the Research Committee makes the final decisions on acceptance or rejection of an abstract for either platform or poster presentation.
- ii. The decision is based on the average score given by the 2 - 3 reviewers. Abstracts are accepted based on the number of platform or poster presentations available. Abstracts are accepted starting with the highest scores and then continued until the available numbers of abstracts have been accepted.

### D. Scheduling Abstract Presentations

- i. The Vice-Chair of the Research Committee is responsible for submitting the schedule for platform presentation sessions to the AOPT office in time for printing in CSM conference publications.

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1  
2 ii. The Vice-Chair of the Research Committee does not schedule poster presentations. Poster  
3 presentations are handled by the APTA.  
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## 5 E. Moderating Abstract Platform Presentations

6 i. The Vice-Chair is responsible to recruit and schedule individuals to serve as moderators for  
7 the abstract platform presentations at CSM. Instructions for moderating are disseminated to  
8 the moderator by the Vice-Chair.  
9

10 ii. All members of the Research Committee are expected to serve as a moderator for one  
11 abstract platform presentation at CSM, if they are attending CSM and asked by the Vice  
12 Chair to serve as moderator.  
13

14 iii. The Vice-Chair is expected to attend CSM and is responsible to coordinate the moderators  
15 and session for the abstract platform presentations at CSM.  
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## 18 **II. RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM**

### 19 A. Announcements

20 i. The request for applications will be published in the Spring issue of *Orthopaedic Physical*  
21 *Therapy Practice*, JOSPT and posted on the Section's web site.  
22

23 ii. The Chair of the Research Committee is responsible for communicating any updates of the  
24 request for applications to the AOPT office prior to posting of the announcement.  
25  
26  
27

### 28 B. Deadlines

29 i. The deadline for grant application submission is November 15<sup>th</sup>.  
30

31 ii. The deadline for preliminary review is due December 20<sup>th</sup>.  
32

33 iii. The deadline for external review is 2 weeks prior to the first day of CSM.  
34

35 iv. The deadline for notifying applicants of a decision is April 15<sup>th</sup>.  
36  
37

### 38 C. Preliminary Review

39 i. All grant applications will undergo a preliminary review by members of the research  
40 committee.  
41

42 ii. During the preliminary review, committee members will screen all applications to ensure  
43 they are complete, that they meet eligibility standards, and have enough scientific merit to  
44 justify further review by the external review board. Some applications may be rejected at  
45 this stage.  
46

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1  
2 iii. The committee members will return their reviews to the Chair of the Research Committee  
3 by December 20<sup>th</sup>. The Chair will make final decisions for continued review of the  
4 applications by the external review board.

5  
6 ' External Review

7  
8 L An External Grant Review Board consisting of 3-12 researchers, independent of the  
9 Research Committee, will be recruited by the Chair of the Research Committee to conduct a  
10 thorough scientific review of grant applications that were deemed acceptable in the  
11 preliminary review. The number of committee members will fluctuate, depending upon the  
12 number of grants submitted each year.

13  
14 LL Each member of the external review board will review and score assigned grants according  
15 to the guidelines provided to them by the Chair of the Research Committee.

16  
17 ; Accept/Reject Decisions

18  
19 L A conference call or face-to-face meeting at CSM of the External Grant Review Board will  
20 take place to discuss the grant reviews and scores, and then to rank the grants for funding  
21 priority.

22  
23 LL The External Grant Review Board ranks the grants and makes recommendations for the  
24 funding cut line.

25  
26 LLI The Chair of the Research Committee makes the final decisions on recommendations made  
27 to the AOPT Board of Directors for acceptance or rejection of a grant application.

28  
29 LY The decision is based on the average score given by a minimum of three reviewers.  
30 Applications are accepted based on the amount of funding available in the budget for any  
31 given year. The highest scored acceptable grants are accepted first until all available slots  
32 have been filled.

33  
34 ;, Funding Decisions

35  
36 L The Chair submits a recommendation for funding of grants to the Board of Directors for  
37 final approval.

38  
39 LL Total small grant funding is \$110,000 per year (2 unrestricted grants at \$40,000/each; 1 new  
40 investigator grants at \$30,000 each)

41  
42 LLI Total career development grant funding is \$25,000 per year (1 Career Development at  
43 25,000 per year for two years)

44  
45 LY Total post-doctoral career development award funding is \$25,000 per year (renewable for an  
46 additional year at \$25,000 based on successful completion of predetermined metrics. \$237

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1 will offer the award every other year such that the maximal AOPT expenditure for this  
2 award would be \$25,000 per year.

- 3
- 4 v. Total Clinical Research Network (CRN) grant funding is \$30,000 per year (1 CRN grant at  
5 \$30,000 per year)
- 6
- 7 vi. Final funding decisions are determined by the Board of Directors.
- 8
- 9 vii. The Board of Directors will take a proactive and strategic perspective when considering  
10 future Foundation for Physical Therapy requests such that overall Section research support  
11 is considered. Given this, the Board will use a “nonbinding” limit of \$32,000 per year for  
12 future Foundation support to allow for ongoing Section funded research grants and  
13 initiatives.
- 14

## 15 G. Research Recipients and Study Outcomes

16 A list of research grant recipients, title of the study and an abstract of the study will be posted  
17 to the AOPT web site along with the outcome of their study.

## 18 H. Management of Awarded Grants

- 19
- 20 i. The Chair will manage the awarded grants, ensuring that grant criteria are complied with  
21 prior to release of funds, to include Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, IRB  
22 consent form, budget that adheres to grant criteria guidelines, and summary abstract of the  
23 awarded grant to be posted to the AOPT website.
- 24
- 25 ii. The Chair will review for approval all progress reports, final reports, requests for changes  
26 and requests for no-cost extensions.
- 27
- 28
- 29
- 30

## 31 **III. AWARDS**

### 32 A. Rose Excellence in Research Award

- 33
- 34
- 35 i. The Chair of the Research Committee will seek nominations for the award from members of  
36 the research committee and from AOPT members. Announcements for nominations will be  
37 posted in *Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Practice* and on the AOPT’s web site.
- 38

39 B. Eligibility: Any peer-reviewed research article related to orthopaedic physical therapy, in which  
40 the first author is a member of the APTA and licensed to practice physical therapy in the United  
41 States, published September 1 of the previous year through August 30 is eligible for this award.  
42 E-pub, in press articles do not qualify. Should the journal containing an otherwise eligible  
43 article experience a delay in releasing its August issue, the article must be available to the  
44 general public no later than September 1, to be considered.

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- 1           iii. The Chair of the Research Committee disseminates all nominated articles to the Research  
2           Committee for review and scoring.
- 3
- 4           iv. The article with the highest average score from the committee members review is selected  
5           as winner.
- 6
- 7           v. The Chair of the Research Committee and the Research Committee members are ineligible  
8           for the award.
- 9

## 10           B. Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Research Poster Award

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- 12
- 13           i. The poster abstract must 1) represent an original research investigation, 2) have the potential  
14           to be published in a peer-reviewed journal, 3) have the potential to impact orthopaedic  
15           physical therapy practice.
- 16           ii. The 15 highest scored eligible poster abstracts which meet the above criteria will be invited  
17           as nominees for the award.
- 18
- 19           iii. All nominees for the award must agree to present the poster at CSM, confirm PT licensure  
20           in the United States or be eligible for licensure, and be a member of the APTA.
- 21
- 22           iv. The Research Committee will evaluate and score the nominated posters at CSM based on  
23           the following criteria 1) research design, 2) clinical relevancy, 3) clear presentation of the  
24           study, and 4) effective use of visuals.
- 25
- 26           v. All nominated posters will be presented and reviewed by the research committee on the first  
27           full day of CSM.
- 28
- 29           vi. The award will be presented to the investigators of the best CSM Orthopaedic Section  
30           Poster selected by the AOPT's Research Committee.
- 31
- 32           vii. The award will be presented during the AOPT reception at CSM.
- 33

## 34           C. JOSPT Awards

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- 36           i. The Chair of the Research Committee is asked to serve on the award committee for JOSPT  
37           to select the best research paper and the best clinical paper of the year for JOSPT.
- 38
- 39           ii. The Chair of the Research Committee may designate another member or members of the  
40           Research Committee to serve in his/her place on the JOSPT award committee.
- 41
- 42

## 43           **IV. FUNDING SOURCES**

### 44           A. Link Funding Sources on Web Site

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1 A link to the AOPT on Research, the Foundation for Physical Therapy, and other applicable  
2 web sites for funding of orthopaedic physical therapy research will be maintained and  
3 updated by the Research Committee on the AOPT web site.  
4  
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## 6 **V. RESEARCH SURVEYS**

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### 8 A. Requests for AOPT to Disseminate Survey Research Investigations to AOPT Membership

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- 10 1. The Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy does not endorse individual survey  
11 research investigations; however, the Section is willing to provide a conduit for  
12 dissemination of electronic research surveys for AOPT members through OsteoBLAST.
- 13 2. AOPT staff will work with the website developers to secure the membership directory to  
14 prevent the mass download of membership e-mails while allowing for targeted e-mail  
15 searches by AOPT members.
- 16 3. Create a mechanism for orthopaedic researchers who are AOPT members and who meet  
17 the criteria for Osteoblast distribution to send a mass e-mail to AOPT members that is  
18 generated by staff with a link to the survey instrument. A nominal fee of \$50 for AOPT  
19 members will be required to offset staff time. This service would only be provided to  
20 approved AOPT members.
- 21 4. All requests by AOPT members pertaining to research surveys will be sent to the  
22 Research Chair for review.
- 23 5. Following review by the Research Chair, the request will be sent to the AOPT President  
24 and Vice President for final approval.
- 25 6. Once final approval is given by the AOPT President and Vice President, a link to the  
26 survey instrument will be included in an OsteoBLAST to Section membership.
- 27 7. Criteria for review by the Research Chair
  - 28 a. The principle investigator or a co-investigator must be a member of AOPT.
  - 29 b. The survey must be IRB approved or determined to be “exempt” research by the  
30 investigator’s host institution. Documentation of IRB review and approval must  
31 accompany the request.
  - 32 c. A link to the final version of the survey instrument must be available for review  
33 by the Research Chair.
  - 34 d. The survey instrument must include a self-contained research cover letter.  
35  
36  
37

### 38 **B. Survey request policy statement and procedures**

39

40 The AOPT remains committed to its membership and the pursuit of scientific endeavors to improve  
41 clinical practice. AOPT provides a mechanism for dissemination of electronic research surveys  
42 for AOPT members through *OsteoBLAST*, AOPT's periodic e-mail newsletter sent to all section members.  
43 This mechanism is designed to support scientific endeavors while protecting the privacy and interests of our  
44 members.  
45

46 For researchers interested in polling our members via e-mail, there are two options for dissemination.  
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## 1 *Option 1: Survey invitation in OsteoBLAST:*

- 2 1. The principle investigator makes a formal written request by e-mail for polling the AOPT members.  
3 The request must include the following elements:
  - 4 a. A three sentence statement why you want to poll the AOPT membership
  - 5 b. The study purpose and significance
  - 6 c. A link to the final version of the survey instrument
  - 7 d. Proposed text for *OsteoBLAST* subject line, i.e. title, a short description of the study, and the  
8 *research cover letter*.
  - 9 e. Statement confirming IRB approval
- 10 2. After receipt of the request, the following review procedure will be followed
  - 11 a. All requests by AOPT members pertaining to research surveys will be sent to the Research  
12 Chair for review who will use the following criteria for reviewing the request.
    - 13 i. The proposed research is relevant and important to the members of AOPT.
    - 14 ii. The principle investigator or a co-investigator is a member of the AOPT.
    - 15 iii. The survey must be IRB approved or determined to be “exempt” research by the  
16 investigator’s host institution.
  - 17 b. Following review by the Research Chair, the request will be sent to the AOPT President and  
18 Vice President for final approval.
  - 19 c. Once final approval is given by the AOPT President and Vice President, a link to the survey  
20 instrument will be included in an OsteoBLAST to AOPT membership.
- 21 3. There is no cost from the investigator for this service from AOPT.  
22

## 24 *Option 2: Separate e-blast invitation*

- 25 1. The principle investigator can pay a \$200.00 administration fee for a **separate e-blast invitation** to the  
26 AOPT. The AOPT will send a separate e-mail message requesting participation by the membership on  
27 behalf of the Principle Investigator.
- 28 2. The criteria for **Option 1** must be satisfied.  
29

30 Approved e-blast invitations will include a disclaimer that AOPT is disseminating the research survey on  
31 behalf of the principal investigator as a service of our organization, but endorsement is not implied nor  
32 explicitly given for this research endeavor.  
33