



Focused Projects Grant for Junior Investigators (Cycle 2)

ISSUE DATE:	May 19, 2025
APPLICATION DUE DATE:	June 30, 2025 by 11:59 pm ET
GRANT SELECTION NOTIFICATION	By October 31, 2025
PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:	1 year
AMOUNT OF GRANT:	Up to \$50,000 per grant
LINK TO APPLICATION:	https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=aasmf
CONTACT:	AASM Foundation 2510 N. Frontage Road Darien, IL 60561 Phone: 630-737-9724 E-mail: foundation@aasm.org

ELIGIBILITY

The following individuals are eligible to apply:

- Individuals with an MD, DO, DDS, DMD, DNP, DNSc, PharmD, PhD, or equivalent professional degree.
- Individuals within 10 years of their terminal degree, post-doctoral training, or clinical training.
- International applicants, who meet all the eligibility criteria and whose sponsoring organization can accept the payment of grant funds in U.S. dollars, are eligible to apply.

INELIGIBILITY

The following individuals are not eligible to apply:

- Individuals who have received independent research funding of more than \$250,000 are not eligible to apply. This does not apply to post-doctoral/ fellowship level training grants primarily covering the applicant's salary (e.g., NRSAs).
- Individuals who have a financial conflict of interest or have the potential to incur significant financial benefit from the proposed work and beyond the work itself are not eligible to apply.
- Current AASM and AASM Foundation Board of Directors members are not eligible to apply and cannot be listed as a PI, co-PI, key personnel, mentor (paid or unpaid) or paid consultant for one year after their term ends.
Note: In rare instances, AASM and AASM Foundation Board members may serve as unpaid consultants on an application, however, this requires Executive Committee approval prior to submitting the application.
- Individuals and organizations located in, or operating from, [countries subject to U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control sanctions](#) are not eligible to receive AASM Foundation funding.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

The Focused Projects Grant for Junior Investigators supports early career investigators dedicated to focusing their research on basic, translational, clinical, or population sleep and circadian science. This grant provides seed funding for mentored research projects to jumpstart an early career investigator's research career and provide the necessary support and resources needed to establish a track record of funding.

Research Focus

This Focused Projects Grant for Junior Investigators opportunity is only accepting applications for the following mentored and specific topic.

Diagnosis, Management and Treatment of Sleep Apnea: Open to mentored projects that address known research gaps in the diagnosis, management and/or treatment of OSA. There have been several publications that have noted the limitations, challenges, and gaps in research with diagnosing and treating OSA, examples of which include the [2022 Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Technology Assessment on positive airway pressure therapy](#) and the [2021 journal SLEEP publication on apnea-hypopnea index](#). Projects that address these gaps must advance the fields of sleep medicine and population sleep health. Only applications that address known research gaps in the diagnosis and/or treatment of OSA will be considered responsive. Priority will be given to projects that propose following outcomes for 6 months or longer. Examples of research topics of interest are provided below.

- Identifying patient-important outcomes and understanding how they are impacted with treatment (e.g., sleepiness, quality of life).
- Exploring novel ways to characterize OSA (e.g., new/alternative measures, new framework combining multiple measures).
- Building knowledge about personalized OSA care through endotyping, phenotyping, and biomarkers (e.g., identifying patients at most risk of clinically important OSA outcomes).
- Understanding patient preferences and satisfaction with different OSA treatment options.
- Understanding OSA treatment adherence (e.g., barrier to adherence, how adherence relates to outcomes, strategies to address barriers, predictors of adherence to treatment).
- Comparative effectiveness research, especially in special populations (e.g., pediatrics, women, older adults, people with comorbidities), of:
 - Alternate metrics for diagnosis or characterization of OSA severity
 - Interventions and delivery methods to treat OSA.
 - Interventions (e.g., technology, behavioral, psychological, pharmacologic) to improve OSA treatment adherence.

Mentoring

Since this is a Career Development Grant for early career investigators, individuals must identify a research mentor in the application with the skills, knowledge, and resources to provide mentorship to the applicant in sleep and circadian research. Applicants are encouraged to identify more than one mentor (i.e., a mentoring team) if expert advice is needed in all aspects of the project. In such cases, a primary mentor must be clearly identified in the application. The applicant must work with the mentor(s) to prepare the application.

Number of Applications and Scientific Overlap

Individuals may apply for multiple AASM Foundation grants, however, the same proposal (i.e., projects with budgetary and scientific overlap) may not be submitted for multiple requests for applications in a given cycle. Additionally, if an individual submits more than one application in a given Career Development Grant cycle, the AASM Foundation will only approve funding one grant should multiple proposals submitted by the applicant receive a competitive score.

Individuals who are the Principal Investigator on an open AASM Foundation research grant at the time of the application deadline can apply if they can demonstrate that there is no

budgetary or scientific overlap between their open grant and the new project they are applying for funding. If there is budgetary and/or scientific overlap between projects, the applicant must indicate their plan to close their open grant in the event their new application is selected for funding (e.g., relinquish the current grant or complete the current grant to start the new grant).

Additionally, individuals who are seeking funding from AASM Foundation research grants to support ongoing projects currently funded by another granting body or supplement ongoing work (e.g., enrolling additional subjects into an ongoing trial) are not eligible to apply. The principal investigator will be required to make a statement regarding any overlap in their Other Support page of the application.

Resubmission Policy

Past applicants of the Focused Projects Grant for Junior Investigators who were not funded and are responsive to the topic of the current funding opportunity are allowed a single resubmission within 12 months of receipt of the original application notification.

If resubmitting an original and unfunded application, the applicant must still meet all eligibility criteria listed under the Eligibility section of this request for applications. The resubmission must include a response to the reviewer's critique and a response to the original application's reviewers.

Resubmission of an original application for one grant program across another grant program is not permitted.

FUNDING INFORMATION

The Focused Projects Grant for Junior Investigators provides funds for one year and can be for up to \$50,000 per grant, depending on the research focus. There are no restrictions on the distribution of expenses, however, indirect costs are capped at 8%. The grant is issued as a contract between the AASM Foundation and the grantee's institution. A sample contract is available [here](#).

- Funding for this grant is made available through AASM Foundation general funds and ResMed.

Note: *ResMed will not be involved in any aspect of designing, conducting, managing, or directing the applicant's project. In addition, ResMed will not be involved in the AASM Foundation's grantmaking process, including the review process for applications, making funding recommendations or decisions, progress and final*

reporting, and post-award requests (no-cost extensions, reallocation of funds, change in scope or personnel, etc.).

REVIEW CRITERIA AND PROCESS

A grant review committee, appointed by the AASM Foundation Executive Committee, will evaluate and score all submitted applications. Factors that will be taken into consideration include:

- 1. Significance:** Strong scientific premise of planned research in addressing important problems or critical barriers needed to progress the sleep medicine field.
- 2. Mentorship and Career Development:** The planned mentorship and career development activities will facilitate the applicant's success by filling gaps in their knowledge, skills, and abilities. The mentors and key personnel are well-suited to support the project and the applicant's growth.
- 3. Approach:** Planned research (overall strategy, methodology, and analyses) is scientifically sound, plan addresses protection of human subjects from research risks and inclusion/exclusion of individuals justified (if applicable).
- 4. Environment:** Institutional support and availability of equipment and other physical resources for the planned research.

Only materials submitted within the application will be used in the evaluation of applications. The AASM Foundation Executive Committee will make final funding decisions based on the scientific grant review committee scores and critiques.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Payment #1 – Upon execution of contract	90%
Payment #2 – Upon receipt and approval of Final Report	10%

If unique circumstances are explained in the budget justification of the applicant's proposal, the Board of Directors will consider requests for an alternate payment schedule, with a maximum variance of 10%.

Note: Once a contract is executed for the grant, reallocation of funds of <10% does not require approval.

DELIVERABLES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Outcomes are an essential component of this grant. All proposals must identify the goals and appropriate outcome measures of the research. The outcomes should align with the goals and objectives stated in the applicant's proposal for this grant. As such, the following deliverables are required:

- The applicants must address the specific aims and any major modification requires AASM Foundation Board of Directors or Executive Committee approval.
- The AASM Foundation expects that the research funded by this grant will lead to the publication of original research in peer-reviewed journals, such as the [Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine](#), and submission of an abstract to the Associated Professional Sleep Societies (APSS) for presentation at the annual [SLEEP meeting](#). The plan and costs for these deliverables must be stated in the application.
- The applicant must submit progress and final reports during the project period and set deadlines, describing project activities and results, as outlined below. Failure to submit reports per the established schedule will result in withholding grant payments from the sponsoring organization and the grant recipient becoming ineligible to apply for future AASM Foundation funding until all outstanding reporting is up to date.

REPORTING SCHEDULE

Progress Reports	Every six months
Final Report	Within 90 days of grant completion

The due dates for progress and final reports are established after a grant contract is executed between AASM Foundation and sponsoring organization.

HUMAN/ANIMAL SUBJECT PROTECTION PLAN

If using human or animal subjects, the applicant will be responsible for obtaining Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Institutional Animal Care and use Committee (IACUC) approval. The IRB or IACUC letter of approval for the specified project must be on file with the AASM Foundation office prior to the execution of the contract. No funds will be released for the project without receipt of written approval by an IRB or IACUC. Failure to obtain IRB or IACUC approval will result in retraction of the grant.

APPLICATION

Step 1: AASM Foundation Grant Request registration

To apply for this grant, you must register on AASM Foundation [Online Portal](#). Please refer to the [AASM Foundation Application User Guide](#) for guidance on creating an account.

Step 2: Complete application

[ACCESS THE 2025 FOCUSED PROJECTS GRANT FOR JUNIOR INVESTIGATORS \(CYCLE 2\) APPLICATION](#)

New and resubmission applications must be completed and submitted through AASM Foundation [Online Portal](#). Instructions for required forms are available via the online submission system. The Application Checklist below shows required attachments to be uploaded. For an overview of the information that is requested on the application form, please download the [Focused Project Grant for Junior Investigators Application Template](#).

CHECKLIST FOR NEW APPLICATIONS

Form	Page/Word Limit
<input type="checkbox"/> Project Information	
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization Information	
<input type="checkbox"/> Authorized Representative	
<input type="checkbox"/> Research Plan and Goals A. Abstract B. Research plan and goals	A. 200 words, max B. 6 pages, excluding references
<input type="checkbox"/> Career and Mentoring Plan A. Career Plan B. Mentoring Plan	A. 2 pages, excluding references B. 2 pages, excluding references
<input type="checkbox"/> Project Personnel A. Contact Principal investigator: Biosketch and other support (required) B. Multi-Principal Investigator(s): Biosketch and other support (if applicable) C. Key personnel: Biosketch and other support (optional)	Biosketch: 5 pages per individual Other support: No page limit
<input type="checkbox"/> Letters of Support A. Primary Mentor and Co-Mentors B. Department Chair or Fellowship Program Director C. Additional Letters of Support (optional)	1 page per letter

<input type="checkbox"/> Budget and Budget Justification A. Budget B. Budget justification	
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Subjects/Animal Research Protection Plan	3 pages

CHECKLIST FOR RESUBMISSION APPLICATIONS

Form	Page/Word Limit
<input type="checkbox"/> Project Information	
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization Information	
<input type="checkbox"/> Authorized Representative	
<input type="checkbox"/> Research Plan and Goals A. Abstract B. Research plan and goals	A. 200 words, max B. 6 pages, excluding references
<input type="checkbox"/> Career and Mentoring Plan A. Career Plan B. Mentoring Plan	A. 2 pages, excluding references B. 2 pages, excluding references
<input type="checkbox"/> Project Personnel A. Contact Principal investigator: Biosketch and other support (required) B. Multi-Principal Investigator(s): Biosketch and other support (if applicable) C. Key personnel: Biosketch and other support (optional)	Biosketch: 5 pages per individual Other support: No page limit
<input type="checkbox"/> Letters of Support A. Primary Mentor and Co-Mentors B. Department Chair or Fellowship Program Director C. Additional Letters of Support (optional)	1 page per letter
<input type="checkbox"/> Budget and Budget Justification A. Budget B. Budget justification	
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Subjects/Animal Research Protection Plan	3 pages

<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Reviews A. Response Letter to Critiques B. Reviewer Critiques and Summary Statement	A. 1 page, excluding references
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GRANT QUESTIONS

Frequently asked questions for our grant programs can be found [here](#).

We encourage potential applicants to contact us early in the application process with questions. Eligibility questions may need to be reviewed by a member of the AASM Foundation Executive Committee, so please allow for at least a 1-week response time for eligibility questions. For all other inquiries, please allow a minimum of two business days for a response. Please note that inquiries submitted two business days prior to an application deadline may not be answered in time.