MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY (MWU)
OSTEOPATHIC POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING INSTITUTE (OPTI)
CLINICAL RESEARCH INTRAMURAL GRANT PROGRAM

Supported by the MWU
OFFICE OF RESEARCH & SPONSORED PROGRAMS (ORSP)

Purpose: To provide intramural funds to support performance of clinical research projects involving OPTI residents and/or interns that could not otherwise be undertaken. Typical proposals may be submitted to offset the cost of supplies and laboratory support services, but cannot be used for travel or principal investigator (PI)/trainee compensation.

Eligibility: Clinical faculty involved in training MWU/OPTI residents and/or interns.

Award Amount: Typical awards will not exceed $2,000.

Funding Cycle: The application deadline is April 15th. Notification of award will occur by June 1st. The funding cycle will run from July 1st to June 30th each year. Funds from the ORSP cannot be rolled over beyond June 30th, which requires most funds be spent by the beginning of June. Applications received after April 15th will be considered throughout the year only if unspent funds remain. Contact the MWU ORSP to determine whether a late proposal should be submitted.

Procedure: Proposals should be submitted by April 15th to the ranking official (JWoods@Midwestern.edu) in the ORSP office via e-mail as an MS Word attachment. Submission of all proposals from the OPTI must be consistent with all OPTI missions and policies. The research proposal (written in 12 point font) should include:

- Title
- PI (must be a clinical faculty member)
- Trainee(s) name(s)
- Abstract
- Research Plan (this section should be at least 4 pages in length)
  - Specific Aims
  - Background
  - Significance/Impact
  - Preliminary studies (if applicable)
  - Research Design and Methods
  - References
- Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval status (if applicable)
- Budget/budget justification
- Identification of other key resources/collaborators (if applicable)
- Future plans for this data (please address whether there is an intention to publish and the likelihood of this project leading to an extramural grant submission)

Review: Proposals received by the ORSP will be reviewed by a committee appointed by the ranking official of the ORSP. Proposals will be considered for clarity, feasibility, methodology, design and likelihood of leading to an extramural publication and/or grant submission. The ranking official in the ORSP will consider the committee’s recommendations and will make all final funding decisions.
When preparing an application, note the following criteria that will be used to evaluate all proposals:

- **Significance**: Extent to which the project, if successfully completed, will make an original, important and/or novel contribution to the relevant field
- **Approach**: Extent to which the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses are properly developed, well-integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project
- **Feasibility**: The likelihood that the proposed work can be accomplished by the investigators, given their documented experience and expertise, past progress, preliminary data, requested and available resources, institutional commitment (if appropriate), and documented access to special reagents (if appropriate), or technologies and adequacy of plans for recruitment and retention of subjects
- **Submission**: Plan for submission of results for publication in a scholarly journal and expected submission date and/or plan for an extramural grant submission

The following questions may be helpful in addressing the criteria described above.

- Will the information be relevant to the field, represent novel research or have apparent applications?
- Will results allow the investigator to be more competitive in generating extramural research funding?
- Are the concepts and rationale easily understood for someone outside of your field?
- Are the hypothesis, objectives and experimental approach concise and logical?
- Is there a clear relationship between all sections of the proposal, i.e. the background, the objectives of the project, and the methods used?
- Is the one year time frame realistic for what the PI wants to accomplish?

**Final Report:**

A final report must be submitted to the ORSP one month after conclusion of the funding cycle (typically 1-2 pages). Requests for continued support will be considered along with new projects during the annual review cycle. Clinical faculty or their trainees are required to present the results at the next MWU Kenneth A. Suarez Research Day. Clinical faculty and/or their trainees are strongly encouraged to:

- Submit completed results to an appropriate professional meeting
- Submit results to a peer reviewed journal
- Use the results as preliminary data for an extramural grant