



## 2017 RESEARCH GRANT – INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

### 1. BACKGROUND

The International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO) is a multi-disciplinary organisation comprised of persons who have a professional interest in a broad range of clinical, educational and research aspects of prosthetics, orthotics, rehabilitation engineering and related topics. ISPO strives to promote high quality care for all people with neuromuscular or musculoskeletal disabilities requiring prosthetic and orthotic care.

A variety of activities are undertaken by ISPO including provision of advice to international and national agencies, improvement of services in developing countries through outreach activity, exchange of information through publication of professional and scientific reviews, provision of education through seminars, courses and conferences as well as facilitation of research in related areas. These activities enable ISPO to promote, encourage and support research, education and clinical training for professionals in prosthetics and orthotics, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, engineering, rehabilitation medicine and other disciplines involved in rehabilitation of people with neuromuscular or musculoskeletal disorders.

Australians join ISPO through the Australian National Member Society of the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics Inc (ANMS ISPO). To meet the Society's aims, ANMS ISPO undertakes various outreach projects and hosts scientific meetings, workshops or advanced instructional courses. These activities have been successful over the past two decades. To date, they have enhanced prosthetics and orthotics services in the South Pacific and have contributed to the improved quality of research and educational outcomes within Australia. Australians are now making their mark on the international stage as leaders in prosthetics and orthotics research and education.

Despite these achievements, there is increasing demand for improved research quality to strengthen the evidence supporting treatment. However, there are some factors limiting the development of prosthetics and orthotics care research in Australia. Limited funding is available to support researchers who could make a difference but might lack research experience and output necessary to attract grants from highly-competitive governmental funding bodies such as Australian Research Council (ARC), National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). It is important for these researchers to develop their skills and track record so that they can contribute to improving research output at a nationally and international competitive level.

To address these issues and encourage research activity among its community, ANMS ISPO has offered a biannual research grant since 2006. A number of professional including clinicians and researchers have successfully completed research funded through this scheme (e.g., practical solutions for groups of interest, publications in top-ranked journals, securing subsequent external funding). In this iteration of the grant, the Board of ANMS ISPO is seeking to further encourage research while attracting a large number of applicants interested in furthering the society's mission through research.

### 2. FIELDS OF RESEARCH SUPPORTED

Ultimately, ANMS ISPO is providing funding for projects of research that will, in the long-term, contribute to improve quality of life of individuals suffering of neuromuscular or musculoskeletal pathologies who might benefit from prostheses or orthoses.



For this round on funding, ANMS ISPO is seeking sizeable proposals that will specifically contribute to provide further evidence of the benefits of provision of prostheses and orthoses to individuals with neuromuscular or musculoskeletal pathologies treated in Australia.

Examples of such projects include studies that:

- Examine the efficacy or effectiveness of prosthetic or orthotic intervention,
- Describe the influence of prostheses and/or orthoses on function and/or outcomes,
- Provide a deeper appreciation of the needs of individuals with specific pathologies,
- Lead to an innovative device or build our understanding of disease to aid prevention or management.

### **3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

The research grant is open to a broad range of applicants regardless of their discipline including, but not limited to, academic, clinicians, engineers and technicians.

Investigators are encouraged to assemble a research team with complementary expertise and various level of research experience. However, investigators will have to demonstrate that the project will be conducted under the mentorship of a senior or experienced investigator. The team of national and international investigators should include:

- No more than 5 investigators,
- No more than 2 investigators based overseas,
- At least 1 investigator with a PhD,
- At least 1 investigator with 5 years of research experience,
- At least 1 investigator affiliated with an Australian research institution.

For this round of funding, ANMS ISPO will give preference to a team of investigators lead by the first investigator who is an early career research with a PhD graduation no more than 6 years ago, with academic employment history (e.g., Postdoctoral positions, research fellowships) and currently employed by an Australian research institution (e.g., university) or clinical site (e.g., hospital, rehabilitation centre).

It should be noted that applicants do not have to be an ANMS ISPO member to be eligible. However, all successful investigators will be required to become a member upon acceptance of the grant.

### **4. GRANT AMOUNT AND BUDGET**

For this round on funding, ANMS ISPO is seeking proposals for grants in amounts up to AUD\$20,000 to fund a one-time single proposal. The total amount awarded will be exclusive of GST if GST is applied by administrating research organisation.

The grant may not be used to support, or to duplicate, a project being funded from other sources for essentially the same research. However, ANMS ISPO understanding that funding could be provided to support an explorative sub-study of a current larger project currently undertaken by the team of investigator. In this case, the proposal will have to clearly indicate in which way it focuses on new and innovative component.

The funding is provided for one year. However, it is intended that successful applicants will complete their project within a two-year time frame. However, during submission of their application, individuals may put

forward a case to extend the duration of the project to a maximum of three years. No additional funding will be awarded.

In the budget breakdown, please specify amount required per annum while providing comprehensive breakdown of projected salaries, equipment, consumables and any other costs. Infrastructure and overheads costs so as administrative levies associated with preparation and receipt of the grant by an applicant's institution are not eligible items. Salaries of investigators are permissible as long as a case can be made for such expenditure. For example, a case may be made that relief from duties is essential in order to achieve a successful project outcome. When such a case is made, it should include a clear breakdown of salary and on-costs (e.g. superannuation).

Equipment purchased as part of the grant will be owned and will rest at the institution that received the grant unless the principal investigator relocates and the grant is transferred to follow that person. In such circumstances, the research equipment will follow the principal investigator.

This grant will be awarded biennially when meritorious applications are received. If, in a given round, no suitable applications are received, the grant will not be awarded in that year.

## 5. ETHICS

Ethics clearance must be obtained from an appropriate university or hospital committee and proof of this clearance must be made available to the Chair ANMS ISPO Research Grant Committee prior to money being paid to the grant recipient.

However, at the time of application, it is acceptable to state the body to which the application will be made. Research involving human subjects needs to be in accordance with the NHMRC Statement on Human Experimentation [<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/health-ethics>] and in accordance with the guidelines laid down in the NHMRC Code of Practice [<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines-publications/ea16>].

## 6. TIMEFRAME

Table 1. Key dates (Announcement date might be extended depending on the number of applications).

Event	Date (dd/mm/yyyy)
Announcement – Opening of the application	01/06/2017
Closing application by 5 pm (AEST time)	14/07/2017
End of review	01/09/2017
Announcement of outcome	15/09/2017

## 7. APPLICATION

All relevant documents for the application including Application form can be accessed from the ANMS ISPO web site <https://ispoaustralia.wordpress.com/science-education/>. The application form includes instructions and should be self-explanatory (see text in italic below heading), if not please contact the Chair of Science and Education Committee of the ANMS ISPO (see: Contact information on the last page of this document).

Please email the PDF version of the application including Cover page and Application form sections as well as any supporting information to the Chair of Science and Education Committee of the ANMS ISPO ([sci\\_ed@ispo.org.au](mailto:sci_ed@ispo.org.au)) and complete the online electronic form by 5:00 pm (AEST) on Fri 14/07/2017 (<https://www.timeanddate.com/time/zones/aest>). A “confirmation of receipt” e-mail will be sent following reception of the application by Wed 19/07/2017.

Applicants are required to complete the online electronic form using cut-and-paste from the Microsoft Word Application from on <http://9209.forms.mesearchr.com/form-2703606/RESEARCH-GRANT-2017Online-Form>. The information will be used only to facilitate data entry and scoring benchmark. Application will be considered incomplete until the online electronic form is completed.

Table 2. Scoring rubrics including items assessed (see Application form), evaluation domain and scoring points.

Item	Evaluation domains	Maximum score	
		(Pt)	(%)
<b>1. Proposal project details</b>		<b>600</b>	<b>40</b>
1.1	Context and Objectives of Project	100	7
1.2	Method and References	100	7
1.3	Significance of the Project	100	7
1.4	Innovation of the Project	100	7
1.5	Potential for Future Developments	100	7
1.6	Milestone	100	7
<b>2. Research team</b>		<b>300</b>	<b>20</b>
2.1	Key Research Performance indicators	150	10
2.2	Evidence of strength of the research team	150	10
<b>3. Individual track record</b>		<b>450</b>	<b>30</b>
3.1	Principal investigator (CIA)	225	15
3.2	Co-investigators	225	15
<b>4. Budget</b>		<b>150</b>	<b>10</b>
4.1	Budget Breakdown	75	5
4.2	Budget Justification	75	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>1500</b>	<b>100</b>

## 8. EVALUATION CRITERIA

All applications will be reviewed by the ANMS ISPO Research Grant committee lead by the Chair of Science and Education Committee and/or a nominated delegate in case of conflict of interest or unavailability. The Chair will be in charge of managing the review process, selecting reviewers and making a recommendation to the ANMS ISPO Board to fund the most meritorious application.

Typically, each of the application will be review by the Chair of the committee who will invite two or more independent and/or nominated independent national and international experts with extensive research and/or clinical expertise in the broad fields of the prostheses and/or orthoses. Reviewers will not be affiliated with any of the applicants (principal investigator, co-investigators or workplace colleagues). Reviewer will be provided Application Form section only and asked to make recommendations to the Chair based on qualitative and quantitative assessments of the application.

Assessment will reported using scoring rubrics detailed in Table 2. The assessment of item 3.2 related to the assessment of "Individual ability of the other investigators to support this project" will be adjusted so that the actual number of co-investigators has no effect on the score. Finally, it is important to indicate that scoring item and evaluation domains and weighting might be modified depending upon the breath of applications received.

## 9. UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

The decision of the ANMS ISPO Research Grant Committee will be final and no correspondence regarding the committee's decision will be entered into.

However, all applicants will receive written feedback regarding their application to assist them in further preparation of other grant applications.

## 10. SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

All applications will be ranked by increasing order of total scoring points. The first application will be then suggested to ANMS ISPO Board as the successful grant. Final decision about the grant recipient will be made after discussions between board members.

Grant recipients will be notified of their success in writing. Grant recipients will need to provide written acceptance to the Chair of the ANMS ISPO Research Grant Committee including details of how the grant monies should be paid to the nominated administrative research organization. Funding will be released upon:

- All successful fist investigator (CIA) become an ANMS ISPO active member,
- Copies of all relevant ethical approvals from the appropriate bodies have been received by the Chair of the ANMS ISPO Research Grant Committee,
- All investigators formally agree with reporting schedule including:
  - A brief memorandum every six months, from initial receipt of grant monies, evidencing satisfactory progress using a proforma made available to facilitate completion of this task,
  - A final report at the completion of the project, including a statement of receipts and expenditures using a proforma made available to facilitate completion of this task.



- All investigators formally agree to acknowledge the contribution of ANMS ISPO Research Grant in all scientific outputs (e.g., abstracts, manuscripts, book chapters, books) deriving from the grant mentioning the following extract under Acknowledgement and/or Financial support Sections: *“This work was supported by the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics Australian National Member Society (ANMS ISPO), through the Research Grant awarded in 2017. Opinions, interpretations, conclusions and recommendations are those of the author(s) and are not necessarily endorsed by the ANMS ISPO.”*
- All investigators formally agree that copies of journal articles and abstracts from conference presentations will be forwarded to the Chair of the ANMS ISPO Research Grant Committee upon publication either after or before submission of final report.
- All investigators formally agree that ANMS ISPO might promote their publication and achievement through websites, newsletters, social media and other public outlets.

During the project, in the event that the principal investigator is no longer in the position to continue the role, it is suggested that one of the investigators within the team will be nominated as CIA. In the event that the principal investigator relocates to another institution, the grant can be transferred so as to continue the research. Depending on the situation, funds may transfer to follow the principal investigator or the grant may be transferred to another member of the research team at the original institution. In all cases, approval from the Chair, ANMS ISPO Research Grant Committee is required before arranging the role and/or fund transfers.

The projects will consider completed upon acceptance of the final report from the Chair of the ANMS ISPO Research Grant Committee. However, an important part of conducting research is bringing the results to the attention of others, particularly clinicians and prosthesis/orthosis users. Consequently, it is expected that grant recipients will continue to present the results of their research work beyond the completion of the project, particularly thought publications in suitable journals.

## **11. CONTACT**

Adj / Prof Laurent Frossard (PhD)

Chair of the Science and Education Committee of the ANMS ISPO

Chair of the ANMS ISPO Research Grant Committee of the ANMS ISPO

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