# Grant Program
# Guidelines for Applicants

## Purpose

The purpose of HPA-The Catalyst's Grant Program is to stimulate, encourage, and support research activities that enhance the body of knowledge related to health policy, clinical administration, global health, and the use of technology in physical therapist practice. The grant program is intended to support emerging investigators, or senior investigators who are embarking on a new research agenda.

## General Information

***Grant Amount***
Maximum amount is $15,000. Funds are available to HPA-The Catalyst members only. **NO OVERHEAD OR INDIRECT COSTS ARE ALLOWED.** Please make your institution/organization fully aware of this restriction.

This grant is generously supported through HPA-The Catalyst.

**Deadline**
Proposals are due December 31 of each year. Notification of the funding will occur by the end of March with a start date of May 1.

**Grant Period**
Proposed projects should have a Period of Performance of 1 year. The grant year will begin May 1 and end April 30 unless another Period of Performance has been requested and approved by HPA-The Catalyst Research Committee. **Institutional Review Board documentation must be provided before the funding will be released**.

**Use of Funds**
Funds may be requested to meet any type of expense reasonably associated with the project, including salary support and fringe benefits, supplies, publication costs, printing or postage, and support services (e.g., research assistant, information technology).

**Limitations of Use**
No funds will be approved to finance the cost of overruns or deficits on existing projects or to finance projects already in progress.

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**Payment of Funds**

Funds will be sent directly to the Principal Investigator or his/her designee.

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**Completion of Project**
It is expected that research findings will be disseminated through appropriate channels such as *Physical Therapy or PTJ-PAL* and APTA-sponsored continuing education programs within 18 months after funds are released. In addition, grant recipients will be expected to serve a 3-year term on HPA-The Catalyst's Research Committee beginning in February of the following year.

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**Reporting**
The Principal Investigator will be required to send a final report to the executive director of HPA-The Catalyst and the chair of the research committee. Please note - the individual designated as the Research Committee Chair changes every year. It is the responsibility of the award recipient to ensure they have up-to-date contact information for all reporting.

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**Areas of Study**
1-2 HPA-The Catalyst grants may be awarded for research or development projects that enhance the body of knowledge related to health policy, clinical administration, global health, and the use of technology in physical therapist practice.

## Funding Priorities

Guidelines for distribution of funds and criteria for selecting recipients are established and implemented by HPA-The Catalyst's Research Committee. The committee is comprised of physical therapist researchers who have received an award through HPA-The Catalyst's Grant Program.

**Types of grants**
Although two types of grant proposals will be considered, a priority will be given to Research grants (Type a)

a. Research grant **-** A grant to support a stand-alone research project or a part of a larger series of projects
b. Development grant - A research development award to assist in the development of research projects that will be submitted to an institution or public or private agency for

funding. The purpose of the award is to provide seed money to fund the development of a competitive grant proposal. (Money can be used for faculty release time to do pilot work, hiring of consultants or purchasing supplies.)

**Relevant Research Topics**

A number of existing APTA clinical research agenda items are relevant to HPA-The Catalyst. In addition to these, the Section has identified additional topics that may be suitable for funding through this mechanism. Priority will be given to studies that are consistent with these items, have sound research design, and are likely to serve as the foundation for future grant funding. The list below is not meant to be all-inclusive, but to provide examples of objectives that align with the Section's research mission.

### Health Policy

- Investigate the influence of health policies on practice patterns and outcomes
- Identify factors that influence payor reimbursement for physical therapist services
- Influence of cost-effectiveness analyses on policy
- Effect of prevention and health promotion programs on client outcomes, PT utilization, and healthcare expenditures
- Effect of state/federal regulations on client outcomes
- Best practices to promote health policy education and advocacy

### Health Services Research

- Incidence, prevalence, and natural course of health conditions commonly seen in physical therapist practice
- Relationships between levels of functioning and disability, activity limitations, and participation restrictions across health conditions commonly managed by physical therapists
- Factors that contribute to variation in service access and utilization, and client outcomes
- Impact of prevention and health promotion interventions involving physical therapists on client outcomes
- Role and impact of physical therapists in contemporary healthcare delivery models
- Effectiveness of clinical decision support tools on physical therapist behaviors and client outcomes
- Shared decision making and its influence on client outcomes
- Comparative and cost effectiveness of specific physical therapy interventions
- Effect of alternative service delivery and payment models on healthcare expenditures, service utilization, and client outcomes
- Factors that influence client choices when selecting a health care provider or making treatment decisions
- Use of medical informatics in physical therapist practice for the promotion of clinical/shared decision making and population health

### Clinical Leadership and Administration

- Best practices for disseminating research findings in physical therapist practice

- Best practices for promoting behavior change in physical therapist practice
- Effect of staffing patterns and PT care extenders (aides and assistants) on client outcomes, healthcare quality, and healthcare costs
- Alternative measures of productivity, comparisons to existing models, and factors that influence productivity
- Characteristics and cost of quality documentation systems
- Effects of changing entry-level demographics on practice and management
- Impact of residency education on client outcomes
- Influence of leadership mastery by clinicians on healthcare quality
- Best practices for fostering career development and leadership
- Best practices for documentation, reimbursement, and population health promotion
- Adherence to recommended practice guidelines
- Understanding the impact of expanded scope of practice on supply and demand, and forecasting future workforce demands
- Recruitment and retention of clinicians across practice settings and geographic regions
- Relationships between service distribution and population health outcomes
- Factors that influence career pathways (eg, participation in residency, fellowship, research training)

### Global Health

- Relationships between cultural humility, clinical decision making, and client outcomes
- Best practices in developing cultural humility and engaging in global health initiatives locally and internationally
- Global health education and advocacy
- Addressing health disparities through physical therapist education, practice, and research
- Community-based participatory research that addresses health care disparities
- Interactions between culture, health literacy, decision-making processes, and health outcomes
- Developing valid and reliable measures of cultural humility in physical therapist practice

### Technology

- Influence of technology on physical therapy education and practice, and client outcomes
- Use of technology in physical therapist practice and research to determine client classification
- Developing core competencies for technology in physical therapist practice
- Use of integrated health systems and medical informatics in physical therapist practice, and their influence on clinical decision making and client outcomes
- Use of technology (eg, ultrasound, gene array, magnetic resonance) to measure the effects of injury/disease and physical therapy intervention on body structure and function
- Effects of using telehealth on healthcare utilization, cost, and client outcomes

## Eligibility

All HPA-The Catalyst Section members are eligible to apply. Collaborative research with non-section members is permissible as long as the principal investigator is a member of HPA-The Catalyst Section. Eligible applicants may submit only one proposal per year in which he or she is listed as the Principal Investigator. Although entry-level masters and doctoral PT students who are Section members are eligible to submit proposals, priority will be given to researchers at the post-professional level (PhD or ScD candidates, post-doctoral fellows, or researchers).

Investigators who submit a proposal that is not funded are eligible to resubmit one time at the next grant cycle if they believe they can adequately address issues raised by the review committee. Resubmissions are not reviewed separately, but rather are considered in the pool of applications for the grant cycle.

## Acknowledgment

To ensure that support provided by HPA-The Catalyst is adequately reflected, all publications, posters, and presentations prepared in connection with the proposed research must include an appropriate credit line as follows:

"This research has been supported in full/part with an HPA-The Catalyst Research Grant".

## Criteria for Evaluation of Application

HPA-The Catalyst's Research Committee has responsibility for reviewing applications and selecting which proposal(s), if any, qualify for funding. In evaluating applications, the committee will take into account the following criteria:

**Overall Impact**
The project's overall alignment with HPA-The Catalyst and impact on the field will be considered, weighting the review criteria and addressing the strengths and weaknesses of the application in terms of the five review criteria. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have a major scientific impact, and thus, deserve a high merit rating. For example, an investigator may propose to carry out important work that by its nature is not innovative, but is essential to move a field forward or improve clinical decision or outcome.

**Significance**
Does the project address a problem or critical barrier to progress that is relevant to HPA-The Catalyst? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical technologies, treatments, services, or preventative instructions that drive this field be changed? Does the project address a Research Agenda question? If so, which questions? Does the proposed methodology enable the investigator to answer the Research Agenda question?

**Approach**
Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analysis well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility and will particularly risky aspects be managed? Is the sample size appropriate? Are the recruitment and retention plans well thought out? Are the assessment and outcome measures to be used appropriate? If the project involves clinical research, are the plans for 1) protection of human subjects from research risks and 2) inclusion of minorities and members of both sexes/genders, as well as the inclusion of children justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed? Does the study carry greater than minimal risk? Does the study have the likelihood of IRB Approval?

**Investigators**
Is/are the Primary Investigator, collaborators, and other researchers well-suited to the project? Do they have appropriate experience and training? If established, have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)?

**Innovation**
Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of practice or novel in the broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?

**Environment**
Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Are the institutional support, equipment, and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed? Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements?

**Scoring**

| Overall Impact or Criterion Strength | Score | Descriptor |
|---|---|---|
| High | 1 | Exceptional |
| | 2 | Outstanding |
| | 3 | Excellent |
| Medium | 4 | Very Good |
| | 5 | Good |

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|---|---|---|
| | 6 | Satisfactory |
| Low | 7 | Fair |
| | 8 | Marginal |
| | 9 | Poor |
| **Other Designations for Final Outcome** | | |
| CF | Conflict of Interest | |
| ND | Not Discussed | |
| NP | Not Present | |
| NR | Not Recommended for Further Consideration | |