

# Emory Orthopaedics Seed Grants

Emory Orthopaedics provide seed grants to help **clinician scholars** and **residents/fellows** establish new and exciting both clinical and translational research, with the **aim** of enhancing the prevention and treatment of diseases relating to Orthopaedics care. The **expectation** is to obtain strong scientific data that would result in at least:

- 1) one publication in a peer-reviewed journal (minimal expectation for resident seed grant) and
- 2) subsequent application to other funding agencies (i.e. foundation, DoD and/or NIH)

Successful Seed Grants (resulting in publication and/or grants) may result in subsequent supplemental grants to foster and expand these research programs.

Grant cycle for Emory Fiscal Year 2023-2024:

RFA Posted	Application Due	Start of Funding
October 1, 2024	November 15, 2024	March 1, 2025

**Please submit your application in one pdf file to [Thanh.Doan@emory.edu](mailto:Thanh.Doan@emory.edu).**

## I. Criteria for Eligibility

- For **Faculty** initiated grants
  - Seed funding for a **maximum requested amount** of **\$15,000** will be available with possibility of **no cost extension** (NCE) **upon approval**, based on written progress report and justification for extension. If your proposal requires more funds, please include other secured funding source(s) that is available to successfully execute and complete the proposed project within the seed grant period. Faculty-initiated seed grant fund cannot exceed \$15,000.
  - The Initiating PI must hold a primary appointment in the Department of Orthopaedics and be a physician (MD and equivalent). The Initiating-PI may include other investigators (co-I), such as a basic/translational scientist, e.g. PhD partner; however, the PhD investigator cannot serve as the initiating PI.
  - Funds cannot be used for salary or fringe support for the PI or co-PI. The use of departmental or institutional core facilities is highly encouraged and budget should include these costs.
- For **Resident/Fellow** initiated grants
  - Seed funding up to \$5,000 will be available. If more funds are needed to complete the proposed project, please state other secured funding source(s). Resident/fellow-initiated seed grant fund cannot exceed \$5,000.
  - The resident or fellow must be from the Department of Orthopaedics and is the Initiating-PI.
  - The resident must identify an Emory Orthopaedic faculty member to serve as mentor for the project (letter of support is required). The mentor is not the initiating-PI.

- A faculty or resident/fellow-initiated PI may submit only one application per funding cycle. Any previously awarded seed grant to the Initiating-PI must be completed, i.e. funds reconciled, account closed and progress report submitted to Thanh Doan. Previous awardees that have not completed their proposed seed research and have not submitted a progress report are ineligible from applying.
- The proposal must be for an original project that has not been previously or currently funded by any agency. The proposal may represent a new direction or extension of a previous or currently funded research project without any overlap. The proposal should be completed within one year from time of NOA.
- The applicant(s) MUST clearly demonstrate their plans for dissemination (conference abstracts/presentations, manuscripts) and have specific targets and deadlines for subsequent grant submissions. A timeline of intended conference and grant submission is recommended.
- Multi-investigators proposals that foster and demonstrate interactions are highly encouraged, to strengthen intra- and inter-departmental relations. Collaborations with faculty at partnering institutions (GT, UGA, etc.) are allowed and likely strengthen the proposal.
- Failure to initiate the proposed work **within 90 days of the Notice of Award (NOA)** will result in retraction of the award and ineligibility for subsequent cycles.

## II. Application Procedure

Applicants should submit their grant as a **single pdf file** to Thanh Doan, [thanh.doan@emory.edu](mailto:thanh.doan@emory.edu), by the submission deadline.

- A. **Cover Letter** (2 pages maximum) from the principal investigator(s) using the following organization (i.e. A.1, A.2, etc.) to describe:

A.1. **Project Title**

A.2. **Principal Investigators:** Initiating-PI and co-PI's full name, contact email, primary appointment, co-investigators and/or mentor. Please specify grant mechanism, either faculty-initiated or resident/fellow-initiated.

A.3. **Significance** and **Innovation** of the proposed project, the long-term goals of such project, and potential scientific/medical outcomes associated with the project, and planned peer-reviewed journal for submission.

A.4. **Detailed Budget:** Clearly state upfront the amount requested of the seed grant program and provide any other secured funding source(s) and amount that are needed to complete the proposal. Please include names and roles for personnel needed to complete the work, materials, supplies, facility costs, etc. Please disclose any conflict of interest (e.g. funding from company, investment in company, etc.)

*\*Note: The seed funds cannot be used for salary and fringe support of initiating PI or co-PIs, for travel, for gift cards to trainers and assistants, or for purchase of equipment.*

A.5. **Expansion and Continuance:** Please state a specific plan for submission of work for extramural funding (i.e., grants from OREF or from other foundations, NIH, DoD, etc.). It is highly recommended that a time frame of submission be provided and how the data achieved in the proposed seed grant will contribute to the over-arching science program. Please explicitly include

if PI has a track record of submitting and/or receiving awards from agency. At least 1 paragraph should be devoted towards this plan.

A.6. **Declaration of any Conflict of Interest.** Please list any potential conflict of interest that may occur or arise from or during the proposed research. Explain how the conflict of interest will be mitigated and managed during the proposed research. If no conflict is anticipated, please state explicitly.

A.7. **Letter of Support:** For resident/fellow-initiated grant, a letter from a faculty mentor/advisor stating their support and involvement must be included in the application. The letter of support does not count towards the 2-page limit.

B. **Project Description** (2 pages maximum)

B.1. **Specific Aims** style page for the project (1 page limit)

B.2. **Approach** (1 page): Briefly and clearly describe the approach to accomplish the specific aims mentioned in B.1. This section must include and address statistical methods for sample size and analysis. If this is an under-powered pilot study, please state and provide justification as to the value added for such proof of concept and how this would enable a conference abstract, publication in peer-reviewed journal and/or data for future grant.

C. **Biosketch** of the initiating -PI, -resident or -fellow: NIH PHS format with personnel justification (guideline can be found at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>)

### **III. Selection and Funding Procedures**

Grants will be judged on four criteria, on a scale of one (best) to nine (worst):

- 1) Significance of the scientific question and innovative potential (A.3 and B.1)
- 2) Proposed aims and approach (A.4 and B.2)
- 3) Investigative team (A.2, A.5, A.6, A.7, A.7 and C.)
- 4) Plan for dissemination and subsequent funding opportunity. (A.5 and B.2)

Applications will be submitted for review by expert reviewers. A departmental executive committee will review scored applications and recommend for funding based on priority scores. All initiating PI's will be notified (favorably or unfavorably) upon completion of review process.

### **IV. Follow-up**

The initiated investigator (e.g., faculty or resident) must provide a one-year progress report, describing the outcome of the award, including any subsequent conference presentations, journal submissions or grant applications. Progress reports should be submitted as **a single pdf file** to Thanh Doan, [thanh.doan@emory.edu](mailto:thanh.doan@emory.edu). When requested, a NCE may be granted upon review of the progress report and its justification for incompleteness. Seed projects may be expected to be presented at the Annual Orthopaedics Kelly Day. Failure to submit a progress report will result in ineligibility for subsequent seed grants.