



2027 AANA Research Grant Program

Program Overview

The Arthroscopy Association of North America (AANA) invites applications for the AANA Research Grant Program. All orthopaedic research projects are welcome. For 2027, AANA will offer multiple awards ranging from \$25,000 to \$50,000 per funded project. AANA may offer an award at a level different from the amount requested based on scientific merit, project scope, budget review, and available program funds.

The program supports rigorous, innovative work that advances orthopaedic knowledge, improves patient care, and strengthens the evidence base across the full spectrum of musculoskeletal practice. Proposals are not limited to military populations, federal priorities, arthroscopy or sports medicine.

AANA is the sole sponsor and administrator of this grant program. All applications will be reviewed by the AANA Research Committee.

Application Timeline

Applications Open	August 10, 2026
Applications Close	September 30, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. CST
Research Committee Review	Following the application deadline
Award Notification	No later than January 2027
Project Start	July 1, 2027

Eligibility

- The investigative team must include at least one AANA member in good standing. The AANA member may serve as principal investigator, co-investigator or faculty mentor.
- Residents, Fellows, early-career investigators, established investigators, allied health professionals, scientists and multidisciplinary teams may apply. Trainee-led applications must include an experienced faculty mentor and appropriate institutional oversight.
- Applicants may be based at academic institutions, hospitals, medical practices, research organizations or orthopaedic training programs that are able to receive and administer grant funds.
- The proposed project must be feasible within a maximum 12-month funding period and must have a clear orthopaedic focus.
- Projects may receive complementary support from other sources, but applicants must disclose all current and pending support. AANA funds may not duplicate expenses already covered by another award.
- The recipient institution must be able to execute the AANA research agreement, provide regulatory oversight, maintain appropriate financial records and submit required scientific and financial reports.

Research Scope

All orthopaedic topics, patient populations, anatomic areas and study designs are eligible. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Clinical outcomes, comparative effectiveness, patient safety and quality improvement

- Basic science, translational research, biomechanics, and implant or device evaluation
- Biologics, tissue healing, joint preservation and regenerative medicine
- Rehabilitation, return to activity, prevention and patient-reported outcomes
- Surgical education, simulation, skills assessment and workforce development
- Health services, implementation science, access to care and health equity
- Arthroscopy, sports medicine and reconstruction

Review and Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated by the AANA Research Committee through a confidential peer-review process. Reviewers will consider the following factors:

- 1. Significance and impact.** Importance of the problem and potential to improve orthopaedic science, practice, education or patient outcomes.
- 2. Scientific approach.** Rigor and appropriateness of the design, methods, outcomes, sample-size rationale and data analysis plan.
- 3. Investigative team and environment.** Qualifications of the team, defined roles, access to participants or data and institutional resources.
- 4. Feasibility.** Reasonableness of the timeline, recruitment plan, milestones and risk-mitigation strategies.
- 5. Budget.** Alignment of requested costs with the work proposed and the likelihood that the project can be completed within the award amount.

Application Requirements

Applicants must use the official AANA Research Grant Submission Template. The research narrative is limited to **6 pages maximum, not including references**. Incomplete applications or submissions that do not follow the required structure may be administratively withdrawn.

Research Template Structure:

- 1. Research Title.** Provide a concise, descriptive title.
- 2. Investigators and Site(s).** Identify the principal investigator, co-investigators, mentors, key personnel and participating institutions or study sites.
- 3. Specific Research Aims.** State the overall objective, specific aims and primary research questions or hypotheses.
- 4. Background and Significance.** Summarize relevant evidence, explain the clinical or scientific importance of the problem and establish the rationale for the proposed work.
- 5. Knowledge Gap or Innovation.** Describe the unmet need and explain how the project will add new knowledge, methods, evidence or capabilities within orthopaedics.
- 6. Preliminary Studies / Data.** Present relevant pilot data, feasibility work, prior experience or other evidence supporting the proposed approach. If no preliminary data are available, explain why the study remains feasible.
- 7. Research Design and Methods.** Describe the study design, population or specimens, inclusion and exclusion criteria, recruitment or sampling, interventions or exposures, outcomes, data collection, statistical analysis, power or sample-size rationale and potential limitations with alternative strategies.
- 8. Timeline.** Provide milestones and anticipated completion dates for the entire project.
- 9. Long-term Aim(s).** Explain how the project may lead to future research, clinical adoption, larger-scale funding, education or patient benefit.

- 10. Relevance to Orthopaedics.** Describe the project's anticipated contribution to orthopaedic knowledge, practice, training or patient outcomes.
- 11. References.** A list of references is required and is limited to 50 citations. References do not count toward the 6-page research narrative limit.
- 12. Principle and Co-Investigator Biosketches.** Submit a biographical sketch for the principal investigator and each co-investigator. Limit each document to 3 pages.
- 13. Outside Sources of Financial Support.** Identify all current, pending and anticipated outside sources of financial support. Applicants must state whether no outside funding will be received or describe the additional support.
- 14. Conflicts of Interest.** Disclose all actual or perceived financial and professional conflicts of interest for the study team.

Submission Format

- Submit the completed application through the AANA-designated submission system by the posted deadline.
- Upload the research narrative in Word (.docx) or PDF format, together with all required supporting materials.
- Use the section headings in the official template and do not omit required sections. Applicants may adjust space among sections while remaining within the overall page limit.

Funding and Grant Administration

- Each funded project may receive between \$25,000 to \$50,000.
- The project period may not exceed 24 months.
- The payment schedule will be established in the executed grant agreement. Release of later installments may be contingent on satisfactory scientific progress, timely reports and continued compliance with the agreement.
- Grant funds must be maintained in an account that permits project-specific financial tracking and review by AANA.
- At project completion, recipients must submit a final scientific report and a final expenditure report signed by the responsible financial official of the recipient institution.
- Any unused grant funds must be returned to AANA within 60 days of project completion.

Budget Overview

Budgets should include only direct expenses necessary to complete the proposed work.

Appropriate costs may include:

- Study-specific materials and supplies
- Research personnel support
- Patient-related costs
- Data collection and analysis
- Laboratory testing
- Essential project-specific instruments or services.

The following expenses are not approved:

- Institutional overhead or indirect/facilities and administrative costs
- Salaries of the principal investigator or co-investigators.
- Personnel travel, society dues or memberships
- Employee fringe benefits

Ethical and Regulatory Requirements

- Research must be conducted in accordance with applicable laws, institutional policies, accepted scientific standards and recognized standards for research integrity.
- Human-subject research requires appropriate IRB approval and informed consent, as applicable. Animal research requires IACUC approval. Required approvals must be in place before the corresponding research activities begin and before funds are released when specified by AANA.
- Applicants must accurately present methods, data, authorship, funding and conflicts of interest. Plagiarism, fabrication, falsification, image manipulation, selective exclusion of data or other research misconduct will not be tolerated.
- AANA may suspend or terminate funding for material noncompliance, inadequate progress, misuse of funds or violation of ethical requirements.

Publication and Acknowledgment

Recipients must acknowledge AANA support in all abstracts, manuscripts, posters, presentations, reports and other products resulting from the funded work. Unless AANA provides a different credit line in the award agreement, use: *“Supported by a research grant from the Arthroscopy Association of North America (AANA).”*

Questions regarding the AANA Research Grant Program should be directed to:

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