

Application Deadline: January 12, 2009



RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM Instructions/Guidelines

SECTION I - Introduction

The American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery (ASLMS) supports research projects designed to foster the development and use of lasers and other related technologies in medical and surgical applications. ASLMS may award up to \$350,000 to appropriate research initiatives each year. While the best research projects will be given priority for funding, a concerted effort will be made to award a minimum of 50% of the research grant funds to non-dermatologic laser application research proposals.

SECTION II - Eligibility

Any individual or organization desiring to conduct research which fosters the development and/or use of lasers in medical or surgical applications is eligible to apply for an ASLMS research grant. Individuals who are applying for research grants can submit either as a student or non-student researcher. Prior to being awarded a research grant, all non-ASLMS members will be required to apply for and be accepted into ASLMS membership. Non-members must submit a membership application as part of the grant application process.

Applicants

Research grants are limited to \$70,000 annually. Individuals applying for a research grant are required to use the ASLMS Research Grant Application form provided. Two-year research grant proposals will be considered, with the second year of funding dependent upon satisfactory progress in the first year of the grant. Applicants applying for two year grant consideration are asked to include in their application, separate budgets, and objectives for each of the two years of the project. Satisfactory progress will be determined based on the completion of the objectives identified for the first year of the project. For ASLMS research grant application purposes, an Applicant is defined as an individual who is a post-graduate student and/or employed by an organization in a capacity to conduct research.

Student Applicants

A maximum of four student research grants may be awarded each year, and each grant will be limited to \$5,000. Students cannot serve as the primary investigator for non-student research proposals. Student grants will be awarded for a one year period. Individuals applying for a student research grant are required to use the ASLMS Student Research Grant form provided. For ASLMS research grant application purposes, a Student is defined as all undergraduate students and/or any individual who is employed by an organization in a capacity or classification due primarily to their student status.

SECTION III - Purpose and Use of Grant Funds

The primary purpose of the ASLMS Research Grant Program is to conduct research which can be applied to medical and surgical care of patients. Preference will be given to proposed research projects which have a direct implication for medical or surgical applications. Grant funds may be used for all costs associated with the research project. Equipment requests included as part of a proposal will be reviewed thoroughly to determine the necessity of the equipment for the proposed research. Proposals which include equipment requests that are superfluous to the proposed research project will reduce the likelihood that the project will be considered for funding. Indirect costs (IDC or F&A) cannot exceed 10% of the direct cost of the project.

SECTION IV – Review Criteria

Each ASLMS Research Grant Reviewer will use the following criteria as their guideline for their assessment and ranking of applications. Each of these criteria has been determined to be important, however, some elements have greater weight in determining the fundability of an application.

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM POINT VALUE
I.	Proposed research is aligned with the intent of the ASLMS research program which is to investigate and/or develop medical and/or surgical applications of light based and related technology which have a direct and timely implication for improving patient care.	30
II.	Is determined to be feasible based upon evidence of past research, literature, review and/or other evidence provided in the application.	15
III.	Includes appropriate methodologies for the proposed research project.	10
IV.	Includes appropriate project evaluation methodologies.	10
V.	Enlists the expertise of primary investigator(s) whose capabilities/qualifications are aligned with the proposed research and identifies facilities necessary to successfully complete the project.	15
VI.	Includes plans/capabilities to continue the research project beyond the ASLMS funding cycle.	5
VII.	Is endorsed by other reputable researchers and/or is supported by other direct financial support and/or in-kind support from other sources.	5
VIII.	Applicant proposes to research a new and/or an innovative idea and/or conduct an innovative/novel approach to research.	10
TOTAL WEIGHTED POINT VALUE		100

SECTION V – Review Committee

A Review Committee will determine which research proposals will be awarded grants. The Committee's decision will not be appealable. The Committee will use the following general criteria as the primary basis for its selection of grant recipients:

- 1) The proposed research project's alignment with the ASLMS Mission and intent of the ASLMS Research program.
- 2) The implications for clinical management of patients.
- 3) Project feasibility with the available resources.
- 4) Appropriate research and project evaluation methodologies.
- 5) The primary investigator(s) experience, qualifications, and capabilities.
- 6) Evidence of future plans and support to continue the research beyond ASLMS funding.
- 7) Appropriate institutional support for the research project.

SECTION VI – Application Structure

Page Limits - All applications must be self-contained within specific page limitations as identified within the application sections unless otherwise indicated. Not adhering to the pre-established standards will result in rejection of an application. Note: Sections 30 – 35 of the Grant Application have a 10-page combined maximum.

Margins - Left and right margins must be kept at 1" and top and bottom margins kept at 0.5".

Font - Nothing smaller than an 11 pt Arial Black Font is allowed. A symbol font may be used to insert Greek letters or special characters; however, the font size requirement still applies.

Line Spacing - Double and/or single spacing is acceptable.

References, Citations, Figures, Graphs, Photos, Charts, Diagrams, Tables - A maximum of two pages may be attached as an Appendix for references, citations, figures, graphs, diagrams, charts, tables, or photos. All items placed in Appendix must be referenced within the body of the application. The additional two page Appendix must conform to the font typeface requirements described above. Any attachment exceeding the maximum two page allocation will not be included in the research grant review process.

Curriculum Vitae - Use the format provided within the Grant Application. Other C.V. formats from similar grant applications will not be accepted as attachments and could result in automatic rejection of the application.

SECTION VII – Required Letter of Support from ASLMS Member

A letter of support from an active ASLMS member *who is not directly involved in the research project* must be submitted with the grant application no later than Monday, January 12, 2009 at 12 Midnight Central Time. The ASLMS member providing the letter of support must be on the member's official letterhead. Letter of support may not come from the grant applicant. Individuals providing a letter of support should stress the importance and feasibility of the proposed research, and endorse the applicant's ability to successfully complete the research project.

SECTION VIII – ASLMS Membership Requirements

Grant applicants who are not currently members of ASLMS must complete and submit an ASLMS membership application at the same time they submit the grant application. To apply for ASLMS membership, log-on to www.aslms.org and click on "Join ASLMS Today" to complete and submit the Membership Application. Research grants will only be awarded to individuals who are accepted into membership of ASLMS.

Post-graduate students applying for membership shall be classified as "Associate Members" on the ASLMS Membership Application.

SECTION IX – IRB / IACUC / FDA Approval

Grant recipients who do not have prior IRB, IACUC or FDA approval, will have 60 days after the award has been made to provide evidence they are aggressively pursuing approval. Each grant recipient's situation will be monitored and evaluated individually, and at a point in time that it appears approval will not be given, or the applicant is not diligent in pursuing approval, the grant award will be withdrawn. Grant funds will not be disbursed until IRB/IACUC/FDA approval is obtained and sufficient documentation is submitted to the ASLMS Central Office for review and authorization by the Research Grant Committee Chair.

International applicants may not be familiar with or have requirements comparable to the United States IRB and/or IACUC processes. If an international applicant's country requires comparable processes, then they should complete the form with the requirements of their country in mind. If comparable processes are not required in their country, foreign applicants should not complete that section of the first page of the application. Additional proof of compliance with institution guidelines may be requested by the Review Committee, especially if this section is not completed.

SECTION X - Primary Investigator

Individuals can be identified as the primary investigator on no more than one ASLMS research application. If more than one application is submitted with the same primary investigator, only the first received application will be considered for funding. Students cannot be listed as the primary investigator on a non-student grant application. For ASLMS research application purposes, a student is defined as all undergraduate students, and/or any individual who is employed by an organization in a capacity and/or classification due primarily to their student status.

SECTION XI – Abstract / Presentation / Publication / Other Requirements

Abstract Submission / Presentation Requirements

Grant recipients will be required to submit an abstract and present their findings as part of an ASLMS Annual Conference. Recipients must use the same title used on the Grant Application during the abstract submission process. Research grant recipient, primary investigator, and/or key investigator identified within the Grant Application must be listed as the abstract's author and be in person to present the abstract at the ASLMS Annual Conference.

Publication Requirements

Grant recipients will be required to submit a manuscript describing the funded research for publication in the ASLMS Journal *Lasers in Surgery and Medicine* within two months of the completion of the grant.

Other

Grant recipients will be required to give appropriate acknowledgement to ASLMS with each reporting and/or publication of the funded research project.

SECTION XII – Research Grant Funding Distribution/Cycle

Research grant funds will be available beginning July 1st of the grant application year. Payment of student grants will be issued to the student's supervising professor.

SECTION XIII – Award Notification

Grant recipients will be notified during the first two weeks in March 2009. In addition, grant recipients will be announced at the ASLMS Annual Conference to be held April 1 – 5, 2009 in Washington, D.C. Award recipients are not required to attend the 2009 Annual Conference.

SECTION XIV – Indemnification Requirements

Recipient and ASLMS shall each indemnify and hold harmless the other and the other's members, officers, directors, agents and employees from any and all claims and liabilities which may arise out of or in connection with this grant award to Recipient by ASLMS. Recipient and ASLMS shall provide prompt written notification to the other of any claim or matter subject to indemnification under this agreement and any occurrence which may give rise to such claim or matter. Recipient and ASLMS shall each also afford the other the opportunity to defend any such claim and shall cooperate fully in such defense.

SECTION XV – Disclaimer / Discrimination Policy Statement

ASLMS encourages anyone interested in fostering the development of lasers and related technology to submit grant request proposals. ASLMS reserves the right to accept and/or reject all research grant applications without a prerequisite justification for such action.

No grant will be awarded to any person if the award would be contrary to any United States law, including but not limited to trade embargoes administered by the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control.

ASLMS does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, marital status, ancestry, sexual orientation, arrest record, conviction record, membership in the armed services, or use of lawful products away from work (such as tobacco or lawful use of prescription medications), in any aspect of its operations, including, but not limited to, the provision of services, membership on the Society's governing board or committees, and attendance at or participation in the Society's programs, meetings, and events, and awarding of research grants.

- 1) Research grant application and supporting material must be submitted to Barb Brown via e-mail barb@aslms.org by **Monday, January 12, 2009 at 12 Midnight Central Time**.
- 2) Submitting the application as a PDF is preferred; however, submitting the application in its original format as a Word document is acceptable.
- 3) Applicants must complete and submit all of the following material either in one combined PDF or in one e-mail with two attachments in the following order:
 - a) A letter of support from an active ASLMS member who is not directly involved in the research project, on the member's official letterhead.
 - b) Completed grant application form.
- 4) Submit membership application. Membership application (non-ASLMS members) must be submitted using the on-line [Membership Application](#) form and process. Membership application should not be submitted with the grant application.

QUESTIONS?

For additional information or questions regarding the grant submission process, please contact Barb Brown via e-mail barb@aslms.org or by calling the ASLMS Central Office (715) 845-9283.