



**2019 DPAF Physician Assistant Research Grant Program  
Prospectus**

## Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	3
Application Instructions.....	4-8
Appendix A: Application Cover Sheet.....	9-10
Appendix B: Application Evaluation Criteria.....	11

Dear Dr. Mendelsohn<sup>[RL1]</sup>,

The Dermatology PA Foundation (DPAF) is honored to submit this proposal for the establishment of the first ever PA specific research grant program organized and administered by the DPAF. The Dermatology PA Foundation (DPAF), a 501c3 non-profit organization, is the official philanthropic arm of the Society for Dermatology Physician Assistants (SDPA). The DPAF's mission is to fund and promote education, research, and philanthropy to advance the field of dermatology. We strive to inspire hope and achieve progress in the field of dermatology by funding education for dermatology PAs, supporting research, and promoting philanthropy for the dermatology patient in the communities we serve.

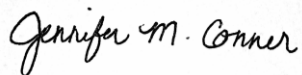
In the subsequent pages we have outlined the structure and components of our proposed grant program which would serve to award at least, and potentially more than, 14 grants focusing on various topics of interest to the DPAF and the dermatology community as a whole. These grant would serve to develop a platform for PA led research while simultaneously furthering field of dermatology.

Below you will find the specifics of our program including research areas under which we will accept grant proposals from applicants, the application process, recommended proposal structure, and other details. We propose this program to begin accepting applications within two (2) months of funding approval and receipt. The first research grants will be awarded during the Society for Dermatology Physician Assistants (SDPA) 2019 Annual Summer Dermatology Conference in Washington D.C.

Not only would this grant opportunity increase Sun Pharma's visibility, but Sun Pharma would be the first pharmaceutical partner to fund a research grant program specifically designed to support research and scholarly activity among dermatology PAs.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you might have. We are open to further discussion and adjustments to the proposal if requested. We would be thrilled to welcome Sun Pharma as our sponsoring firm for this exciting endeavor.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Conner  
Chair, DPAF

On behalf of the DPAF Board of Trustees

**Contact Information:** To contact the Foundation about this grant program, please contact the DPAF Research Committee at [research@dermpafoundation.org](mailto:research@dermpafoundation.org) or the DPAF Chair, at [jconner@dermpa.org](mailto:jconner@dermpa.org).



## **2019 DPAF Physician Assistant Research Grant Program Applicant Instructions**

### **Introduction**

The Dermatology PA Foundation (DPAF) invite dermatology PAs and PA faculty to submit proposals to the DPAF Physician Assistant Research Grant Program, a new grant program made possible by a generous contribution from Sun Pharmaceutical. The program is intended to support patient-focused research and increase research and scholarly activity among dermatology PAs and PA faculty.

For the 2019 application cycle, funding will be prioritized for research projects that address novel research questions that aim to evaluate the impact of dermatology PAs on patient outcomes and are consistent with the DPAF's seven priority goals:

1. The impact of the Dermatology PA on patient outcomes and patient care for skin, hair and nail diseases and disorders (e.g. access to care, decreased wait times, patient education, etc.).
2. The Dermatology PA impact, involvement, and accuracy of: skin cancer and melanoma detection, treatment and prevention.
3. Skin cancer prevention through the training of non-healthcare skin professionals (hair dressers, barbers, nail technicians, massage therapists, tattoo artists, cosmetologists, etc.).
4. The efficiency and efficacy of PDT vs alternatives methods of care (e.g. topical field treatment and liquid nitrogen) on skin cancer treatment and prevention.
5. The screening, diagnosis and treatment of psoriasis and associated comorbidities; the screening, diagnosis, treatment of other inflammatory skin conditions and associated comorbidities (e.g. Rosacea, Acne, Eczema, Hidradenitis Suppurativa, Lichen Planus, etc.).
6. The role of the Dermatology PA in the diagnosis, treatment and education of Atopic Dermatitis patients to reduce their comorbidities (e.g. decreased sleep, inability to concentrate, behavioral impact at school, potentially lower grades) and the impact to their families (e.g. decreased sleep, stress).

## 2019 DPAF Physician Assistant Research Grant Program Applicant Instructions

7. The development and implementation of a practical and useful mental health screening (e.g. depression, anxiety, bullying, impact on relationships and work, quality of life) in patients with chronic skin, hair, nail diseases and disorders (e.g. waiting room survey, specific questions, etc.).

In 2019, DPAF will award approximately 7 one year grants in amounts of up \$25,000 per award, with a total possible allotment of \$180,000. The 2019 application cycle opens January 30, 2019 and closes tentatively September 31, 2019, with consideration for more applications if all funds are not distributed. All funds must be spent by the end of the project year (June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020); exceptions regarding spending beyond the project year will be considered on a case-by-case basis.<sup>[RL2]</sup>

## About the Dermatology PA Foundation

The Dermatology PA Foundation (DPAF) was established in 2015 in order to help dermatology PAs expand their leadership and contribution to the field of dermatology. The DPAF is led by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Society of Dermatology Physician Assistants (SDPA). Established exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, the DPAF is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The purpose of the DPAF is to engage in research, scholarships, educational activities, and philanthropy designed to improve the practice of dermatologic patient care by PAs and other medical professionals.

The DPAF's mission is to fund and promote education, research, and philanthropy to advance the field of dermatology. The Foundation strives to inspire hope and achieve progress in the field of dermatology by funding education for dermatology PAs, supporting research and promoting philanthropy for the dermatology patient in the communities we serve.

## Award Description

### **a. Description**

The 2019 DPAF Physician Assistant Research Grant Program is intended to increase research and scholarly activity among dermatology PAs and PA faculty. Applicants are encouraged to develop innovative research projects that aim to examine the impact of dermatology PAs on patient outcomes. Funding will be prioritized for projects that address one of DPAF's seven priority goals. Additionally, projects that involve collaboration and mentorship among senior and junior researchers will also be given special consideration.

### **b. Amount and Effective Date**

The 2019 DPAF Physician Assistant Research Grant Program will provide a maximum of \$25,000 in support per grantee for one project year. DPAF recommends allocating no more than 30% of budget for personnel costs and a minimum of 70% for program implementation. Indirect costs may not exceed 10% of total award. Maximum indirect cost rates and limitations apply to the primary applicant organization and any sub-grantees. Funding for year one of the award will be effective October 1, 2019.

## 2019 DPAF Physician Assistant Research Grant Program Applicant Instructions

### **c. Award Eligibility Requirements**

This award is designed to increase research and scholarly activity among dermatology PAs. The specific principal investigator eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Be a dermatology physician assistant or PA faculty member
- Be employed for a minimum of 10 hours per week
- Agree submit a 6-month progress report to DPAF administrators
- Agree to complete the research portion of the project within 12 months of receiving the award
- Agree to submit a final project report to DPAF administrator within 30 days of the end of the study
- Have at least 10% of time and effort committed to research
- Have proof of Institutional Review Board (IRB) submission, approval, or exemption
- Submit the research findings for presentation at the SDPA 18th Annual Fall Dermatology Conference
- Agree to submit results for publication in the Journal of the Society of Dermatology Physician Assistants of the end of the study
- Acknowledge SDPA, DPAF, Sun Pharmaceutical, and the DPAF Physician Assistant Research Grant Program in all scholarly work resulting from the funded project (e.g., presentations, publications, or posters)

Special consideration will be given to projects that demonstrate collaboration between practicing dermatology PAs from different practices/institutions or between practicing dermatology PAs and more experienced researcher/PA faculty member. Multiple applications from the same practice/institution may be submitted; however, only one application per practice/institution will be accepted.

### **d. Selection Criteria**

Recipients will be selected by DPAF's Scholarship Review Committee. Members of the Scholarship Review Committee will evaluate each application based on the defined proposal contents.

### **e. Formatting Details**

Proposal and all attachments must be submitted as Microsoft Word documents, with the exception of IRB documentation. Proposals must be in 12-point Times New Roman font, left justified, with 1.5 line spacing, and 1-inch margins. A maximum of 10 pages will be accepted for the research proposal, excluding appendices. Content should be formatted as follows:

#### **1) Award Application**

- a) Cover Page: Download from DPAF's website ([www.derpmafoundation.org](http://www.derpmafoundation.org)). Complete the form and obtain the required signatures. This will be page 1 of your application package.

## 2019 DPAF Physician Assistant Research Grant Program Applicant Instructions

- b) Abstract (200-word limit)
  - c) Research Proposal
    - i) Background and brief review of literature
    - ii) Research question(s) and/or problem
    - iii) Specific aims
    - iv) Research methods, including information regarding sample size, data collection methods, analytic plan, projected timeline, and IRB approval
    - v) Dissemination plans and anticipated impact on PA education or the PA field
    - vi) References/Literature Cited in AMA format
  - d) Institutional Review Board (IRB) Documents: research involving human subjects must include approval by an accredited academic or private IRB as stated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services
  - e) Budget
    - i) Itemized budget line items and appropriate justification for each line item
    - ii) Time commitment of all individuals participating in the project
- 2) Appendices (no page limit)**
- a) Letter of support from the supervising physician and/or department chair
  - b) PI's complete and current CV
  - c) Description of any collaborative efforts with other PAs and/or PA faculty including specific details regarding each member's roles and contributions to the present study
  - d) Copy of survey instruments, if applicable.

Your complete application must be sent electronically by 11:59 p.m. EST, September 31, 2019 to DPAF at [Research@dermpafoundation.org](mailto:Research@dermpafoundation.org). The subject line of your email must contain the following: **"DPAF Physician Assistant Research Grant Application: Last Name, First Name."** DPAF will send a reply email to confirm receipt the week of April 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Questions

Should you have any questions regarding the application process, please feel free to contact DPAF staff are [Research@dermpafoundation.org](mailto:Research@dermpafoundation.org) or by visiting [dermpafoundation.org](http://dermpafoundation.org) for contact details.

**2019 DPAF Physician Assistant Research Grant Program  
Cover Sheet**

Please provide demographic information for all investigators affiliated with this proposal. Use the definitions below to identify each investigator's role and briefly describe their contributions to the proposed research project.

- **Principal Investigator (PI):** Primarily responsible for the preparation, conduct, and administration of the proposed research grant, and completion and reporting of the project if funded. This person will also serve as the primary point of contact and must have a major role in the conceptualization, design, and execution of the project. *Each proposal may only have a single PI.*
- **Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI):** Shares the responsibilities detailed above with the PI. This person must also have a major role in every aspect of the project.
- **Co-Investigator (Co-I):** Should contribute to the development and execution of select portions of the project, but is not responsible for every aspect of the e of the project.



**Appendix A: DPAF Physician Assistant Research Grant Application Cover Sheet**

**Title of proposed project:**

**Principal Investigator**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Credentials: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address for correspondence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Practice affiliation name and address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you a PA educator? Yes  No   
If yes, Institution affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_ Academic rank: \_\_\_\_\_  
FTE: \_\_\_\_\_ Years as a PA educator: \_\_\_\_\_  
Years as a researcher: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contributions to project: \_\_\_\_\_

**Co-Principal Investigators and Co-Investigators**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Credentials: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address for correspondence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Practice affiliation name and address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you a PA educator? Yes  No   
If yes, Institution affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_ Academic rank: \_\_\_\_\_  
FTE: \_\_\_\_\_ Years as a PA educator: \_\_\_\_\_  
Role (check one): Co-Principal Investigator  Co-Investigator   
Contributions to project: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Credentials: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address for correspondence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Practice affiliation name and address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you a PA educator? Yes  No   
If yes, Institution affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_ Academic rank: \_\_\_\_\_  
FTE: \_\_\_\_\_ Years as a PA educator: \_\_\_\_\_  
Role (check one): Co-Principal Investigator  Co-Investigator   
Contributions to project: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix B: DPAF Physician Assistant Research Grant Application Evaluation Criteria

### DPAF Physician Assistant Research Grant Application Evaluation Criteria

**Proposal Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Review Committee Member:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1) Background, Research Question, and Specific Aims (15 points)**

- a. The research question(s) are adequately and clearly articulated, detailed, and testable.
- b. The research question(s) are aligned with DPAF's five priority goals.
- c. The project addresses novel problems or research question(s) relevant to the impact of dermatology PAs on patient outcomes
- d. The background information was appropriately researched and referenced
- e. The background information demonstrates the significance of the research question(s)
- f. The application includes a clear statement of the specific aims(s) of the study

**2) Research Methods (20 points)**

- a. The research methods are appropriate to the objective
- b. The methods are likely to yield high-quality, meaningful data
- c. The analytic plan is outlined effectively and in detail
- d. The proposed analyses appropriately address the research question(s)
- e. The variables of interest and potential confounders are clearly defined

**3) Research Outcomes (20 points)**

- a. The project can be completed within 12 months of funding
- b. The project is likely to result in a peer-reviewed publication or presentation to the scientific community

**4) Analytic Plan and Dissemination (15 points)**

- a. The proposal provide evidence that the applicant can effectively evaluate the outcomes
- b. There a detailed plan for dissemination of the project's results

**5) Budget (15 points)**

- a. The budget is appropriate for the proposed research methods and sufficiently detailed
- b. The budget line items are well-justified

**6) Overall Quality (15 points)**

**7) Special Consideration/Bonus (15 points)**

- a. The project demonstrates collaboration between a practicing dermatology PAs with limited research experience and more experienced researcher or between practicing dermatology PAs from different practices/institutions.
- b. The PI has been involved with PA-related research for fewer than five years