Combined Pilot Research Grant Program
Eligibility
Applicants must be a MD, DO, PhD or in training.
Applicants must be an ASPS or ACAPS member or Candidate for membership. If you are currently in your training, you may still apply to the program with sponsorship from an Active ASPS or ACAPS member.

Applicants may submit more than one grant application if the projects are scientifically different. Only one project will be funded per applicant.

The following criteria shall apply to this award

The ACAPS, in conjunction with The PSF, is seeking grant applications to fund research of interest to ACAPS. While we encourage research in any field related to academic plastic surgery and will consider all applications, ACAPS is particularly interested in research that can answer the following questions and topics:

1. What are the essential aspects of plastic surgery that all medical students should learn, and what is the best way to teach it to them?

2. How do we encourage the best students to pursue a career in plastic surgery, particularly those who are not exposed to plastic surgeons in their medical school?

3. How can simulation be used effectively in training plastic surgery residents?

4. How do we assess residents for mastery of the core competencies?

5. What is the best way to teach and assess the technical skills of plastic surgery, such as microsurgery?

6. In light of the changing support for residency programs and the increasing need for plastic surgeons, what is the best training format for plastic surgeons?

7. What is the value of plastic surgeons to a hospital?

8. Does protected time actually lead to increased plastic surgery scholarship?

9. What is the best way to retain academic plastic surgeons in an institution?

10. An assessment of how performance on the Plastic Surgery In-Service examination correlates to successful completion on the ABPS certification examination.

Amount: Up to $10,000 for a one year project to support the preliminary or pilot phase of scientific research projects. No salary support for the Principal Investigator will be provided.

The project is to be completed within the twelve (12) months following the receipt of the award. The Principal Investigator must provide The PSF with progress reports during the year. The first report is due at six (6) months and the second report is due at twelve (12) months.

The Combined Pilot Research Grant is not transferable to another individual within the Institution and not transferable to another institution OR to operating funds. If the Principal Investigator leaves the Institution, the Principal Investigator and the Institution must notify The PSF within thirty (30) days and all unused funds must be returned.

Appropriate and complete IRB/IACUC approvals must be on file in The PSF Executive Offices within ninety (90) days of written notification of the Combined Pilot Research Grant Award. If the approval is not on file within the ninety (90) day time frame, the Combined Pilot Research Grant Award will be rescinded by The PSF. All annual renewals of IRB/IACUC approvals must be sent to The PSF Executive Offices within thirty (30) days of receiving such renewal.

The Principal Investigator or faculty member applicant must provide an institutional assurance or documentation indicating specifically that the resources are available to execute the research plan for projects that require the use of laboratory or animal facilities.

Funding for this program will be available July 1.
Prepare the application as if you were preparing an application to the NIH with the following essential alterations:

A. Limitation on font size and document length:
   a. The minimum acceptable font size is 11 (Arial or Helvetica; no condensed fonts).
   b. The maximum number of lines per inch is 6; DO NOT PACK LINES BY SETTING LINE SPACING AT "EXACTLY".
   c. Use at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left and right) for all pages, including continuation pages. No information should appear in the margins including PD/PI name and page numbers.

B. Be sure to adhere to the following limitations and suggestions for each section of the Application.
   a. Face Page: After completing your application in proposalCENTRAL, you will need to print your Face Page (signature page) to retrieve your institutional signatures. Once you retrieve all signatures, please convert your Face Page to PDF and upload to your application in proposalCENTRAL. Please plan accordingly as obtaining the appropriate signatures may take time. Your grant submission will not be reviewed without institutional sign off. Note on resubmissions - resubmissions must be accompanied by a cover letter that summarizes the substantial additions, deletions or changes to the application. If you were provided a summary statement from your previous review, please also include a response to the issues raised in the summary statement.

b. Project Summary – not to exceed ½ page – This is the summary description of your research project. In language suitable for press release, describe the project’s broad, long-term objectives and its specific aims. Describe concisely the study design and methods, as well as the rationale, and techniques to be used to achieve the aims. In addition, in two or three sentences, describe the potential or real clinical impact this research is likely to have on the practice of plastic surgery.

c. Detailed Budget - complete all sections. Complete the Budget Justification Page immediately following your detailed budget. Please clarify and describe the purpose and need for each item listed on the Detailed Budget page, i.e., Personnel, Consultant Costs, Equipment, etc. Under Personnel, please be sure to explain the role of each person in the project. A maximum of TWO pages may be used for the budget justification. NOTE: Funding from The Plastic Surgery Foundation (The PSF) does not support indirect or administrative costs. The PSF will not cover PI salary support for the Pilot Research Grant.

d. Biographical Sketch – Submit an NIH biosketch (not to exceed FOUR pages) for ALL Key Personnel directly involved with the project. Include a biosketch for the Principal Investigator, Co-Investigators, Sponsor, and Collaborators. Research Fellows (who are not Co-Investigators or collaborators) and Technicians do not need to include a biosketch. Expand the space for educational training if necessary. If you are omitting publications due to space limitations, include the statement: “The following publications were selected from among a total of _____ (#).” DO NOT include publications “in preparation” on this list. For Item f, Other Support, list both completed and ongoing research projects for the past three years. Begin with projects most relevant to the research proposed in your application. Please include project title, total support received and source of funds. In addition, please include a list of all past PSF funded projects and any presentations or publications as a result.

e. Resources – limit the description of resources available to those identified on the form.

f. Other Support – Information on ALL active or pending support from any source is required for both the PI and each Co-Investigator. Any scientific or budgetary overlap between funding, and/or other overarching projects should be clearly indicated and explained. Collaborators, Consultants, Research Fellows, and Technicians do not need to provide these pages. For individuals with no active or pending support, please indicate NONE.

g. Narrative of Research Plan - Adhere carefully to the space limitations. The following sections in bold are to be addressed in the narrative. Start each section with the appropriate section heading - Significance, Innovation, Approach, etc. THE ABSOLUTE PAGE LIMIT FOR ITEM ii (Research Strategy) IS 6 PAGES, INCLUDING TABLES AND FIGURES.

i. Specific Aims – This section should include a brief introductory paragraph. The introduction should give a brief overview of the project and state its significance and central hypothesis. Each Specific Aim shall be comprised of a title, central hypothesis, experimental approach and summary sentence. Please do not exceed ONE page for this section. An example is provided at the close of this document.

ii. Research Strategy - Organize the Research Strategy in the specified order and using the instructions provided below. Start each section with the appropriate section heading - Significance, Innovation, Approach. Cite published experimental details in the Research Strategy section and provide the full reference in the Literature Cited section. Note that the total number of pages for this section may not exceed 6 pages.
(a) **Significance**
- Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress or gap in knowledge in the field that the proposed project addresses.
- Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields.
- Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.

(b) **Innovation**
- Explain how the application challenges current research or clinical practice paradigms.
- Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

(c) **Approach**
- Discuss the PI’s preliminary studies, data, and/or experience pertinent to this application.
- Discuss the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted as well as any resource sharing plans as appropriate. Please make sure to include discussion of your sample size justification and your power calculations, if applicable.
- Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims.
- If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high risk aspects of the proposed work.
- Point out any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and precautions to be exercised.
- State how the findings from this study will inform the next stage of research.
- State expected outcomes and any potential limitations/obstacles to obtaining results.

iii. **Human Subjects** – Include a summary of your safeguards for the use of human subjects, including specific references to adherence of accepted standards, and documentation of the project’s review by an appropriate IRB or hospital ethics board. This includes Protection of Human Subjects, Inclusion of Women and Minorities, Inclusion of Children, and Targeted/Planned Enrollment Tables for Race and Ethnicity. **PLEASE LIMIT THIS SECTION TO ONE PAGE**, do not include the entire IRB application. Include copies of all Approval Letters from the appropriate IRB Board(s), including BioSafety and/or Radiation Safety (if applicable). Upon receipt of approval, please upload this documentation to your application in proposalCENTRAL (if applicable). Please note: All complete IRB approvals must be on file in The PSF Executive Office within ninety (90) days of notification of award.

iv. **Vertebrate Animals** – Include a summary of your safeguards for the use of animals in scientific research, including specific reference to adherence to accepted standards (e.g. NIH publication No. 86 23), and upload the documentation of the project’s review by the appropriate institutional committee, including BioSafety and/or Radiation Safety, to your application in proposalCENTRAL upon approval. **PLEASE LIMIT THIS SECTION TO ONE PAGE** (if applicable). Please note: All complete IRB/IACUC approvals must be on file in The PSF Executive Office within ninety (90) days of notification of award.

v. **Literature Cited** – Please list all references in order of occurrence of their first mention in your proposal, in number or superscripted form. There is no page limit on this section.

vi. **Leadership Plan** – For applications proposing multiple PIs, or the applicant is an ASPS member sponsor a leadership plan is required. The governance and organization structure should be described, including communication plans and procedures for resolving conflicts. The shared administrative, technical and scientific responsibilities for the project or program should be delineated for the PI’s. Please limit this section to ½ page.

vii. **Consortium and Contractual Agreements** (If applicable) – Describe all research relationships required for this project carefully. There is no page limit on this section.

**Other Attachments**

**Sponsor Letter** - If you are not an ASPS or ACAPS member or Candidate member, an original letter from your ASPS or ACAPS Sponsor must be submitted. This letter must verify that the trainee will be present and fully available to carry out the proposed work during the allotted time period. Applicants, for which this eligibility requirement is not met, will not have their application reviewed. Please upload your Sponsor Letter as “Sponsor Letter” in the Research Plan & Other Attachments section of your application in proposalCENTRAL.

**Letters of Support** - All Co-Investigators and Collaborators must submit an original Letter of Support for their involvement in your research project. Please upload your Letters of Support as “Consultant/ Collaborator Letters” in the Research Plan & Other Attachments section of your application in proposalCENTRAL.

**Figures/Images** - Please upload any/all figures or images as “Appendix” items in the Research Plan & Other Attachments section of your application in proposalCENTRAL. This may include, but is not limited to, any/all figures or images associated with your research plan.
Aim 1: To conduct a systematic review of outcomes of finger replantation based on mechanism of injury, level of injury, and age of the patient.

Rationale: In cost-utility analysis, it is important to systematically review the literature to derive outcomes and complication rates for finger replantation and revision amputation. A systematic review will consolidate evidence from numerous series of patients published in the literature.

Hypothesis: Outcomes of thumb replantation (irrespective of zone) and finger replantation at zone 1 will have better outcomes than all other types of replantation procedures. Functional outcomes of replantation of avulsion injuries will have results similar to zone II flexor tendon repair and digital nerve repair.