PSF Directed Research Grant – Breast Surgery (Aesthetic or Reconstructive)

Grant Application Guidelines and Eligibility

Submission Deadline: Tuesday, December 1, 2026

Grant Description: This grant is intended to support studies designed to research a meaningful topic that advances understanding and patient outcomes in reconstructive or aesthetic breast surgery, including, but not limited to topics on breast implant safety. We seek proposals that generate evidence that contributes to improved clinical outcomes, patient safety, or surgical innovation in breast surgery. Basic, translational, and clinical research studies are all within scope. Project duration may be up to 2 years. Applications will be evaluated based upon the importance of the study question, soundness of study design, demonstration of study feasibility through preliminary/pilot data, the quality of the investigator team, and use of appropriate statistical and analytic methods.

Award Amount: Up to $50,000
Project Duration: Up to 24 months

Earliest Start Date: July 1, 2027
Award Announcements: June 2027

Eligibility Requirements:
Applicants must…

- be a MD, DO, or PhD
- hold a full-time clinical or research position where the research will be conducted.
- be an Active, Candidate, International, or Associate member of ASPS or obtain sponsorship from an Active ASPS member at your institution. **ASPS dues must be current at the time of grant application.**
    - This is a requirement if you are currently in your training.
    - For multiple PIs, a sponsor is required for only the applying PI.
    - ASPS Associate Members may apply with identified ASPS Sponsor. **ASPS dues must be current at the time of grant application.**

Note: PSF President, PSF President-Elect, and ASPS/PSF Board Vice President of Research are not eligible to apply.

Evaluation Criteria: The PSF is dedicated to fostering the growth of research in Plastic Surgery. In order to ensure The PSF is successful in building a diverse, committed, inclusive, and self-sustaining plastic surgery research community, applications may also be evaluated on whether the PI is currently funded by The PSF, the PI has an open no cost extension by The PSF, or whether there are multiple grant submissions from the same lab at the same institution. The PI or their Sponsor's donation history to the PSF may also be considered in the review of the application.

Preparing to Apply

Online Application: All Applications must be submitted online through proposalCENTRAL. (proposalcentral.altum.com)

Deadline: Grants **must be submitted in proposalCENTRAL by 11:59 P.M. (EASTERN) on or before December 1, 2026. NO late submissions will be accepted. Corrections of oversights/errors discovered after the deadline will not be allowed. For technical support please contact pcsupport@altum.com or call (800) 875-2562 from 8:30 am-5 pm ET.**

Multiple Submissions: Applicants may submit more than one grant application ONLY if they are scientifically different, but only one research project may be funded.

Application Templates Check List with Page Limits

Templates: Bio-sketch, Other Support, and Resources templates are provided on the Research Plan & Other Attachments section in proposalCENTRAL.

Formatting Requirements:

- The minimum acceptable font size is 11 (Arial or Helvetica; no condensed fonts).
- The maximum number of lines per inch is 6; DO NOT PACK LINES BY SETTING LINE SPACING AT "EXACTLY".
- Use at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left and right) for all pages, including continuation pages.

Information Entered Directly into proposalCENTRAL.

- ☐ **Project Summary** (2,500 characters max, including spaces)
- ☐ **Impact Statement** (800 characters max, including spaces)
- ☐ **Biography** (1,500 characters max, including spaces)
- ☐ **Budget**
- ☐ **Budget Justification**

Templates to Download- Page Limits will be Strictly Enforced

- ☐ **Other Support**
- ☐ **Resources**
- ☐ **Biosketch**

Documents to Upload- Page Limits will be Strictly Enforced

- ☐ **Signed Face Page**
- ☐ **Cover Letter for Resubmissions***
- ☐ **Biographical Sketch** _____ **5 PAGES each** (Please upload separate Biographical Sketch and Other Support documents for each required individual)
- ☐ **Other Support**
- ☐ **Resources**
- ☐ **Research Plan:** (Please upload each section separately)
  - ☐ **Specific Aims** _____ **1 PAGE**
  - ☐ **Research Strategy** ___ **6 PAGES** (Tables/ figures must be included within page limit)
  - ☐ **Human Subjects and Vertebrate Animals** _____ **1 PAGE** (upload N/A on blank page if necessary)
  - ☐ **Literature Cited** _____ **NO LIMIT**
  - ☐ **Leadership Plan** _____ **1/2 PAGE**
  - ☐ **Consortium/Contracts***
- ☐ **IRB /IACUC Approval Documentation*** (Required within 90 days of award notification)
- ☐ **Sponsor Letter***
- ☐ **Letters of Support***
- ☐ **Appendix*** _____ **NO LIMIT** (Upload any/all images as "Appendix" items)

** Submit if applicable – all other documentation is required*

Key Personnel

Documentation is required from the following personnel.

Personnel	Role Description	Bio-sketch	Other Support	Letters of Support	Sponsor Letter
PI (Applicant)	Applies for and writes the grant. Oversees and directs the research.	✓	✓		
Multiple-PI "Co-PI"	Shares equal responsibility with PI. Does not need to be from the same institution as the PI.	✓	✓	✓	
Co-Investigator	Highly involved in the scientific development or execution of the project. Contributes measurable effort. Does not need to be from the same institution as the PI.	✓	✓	✓	
Collaborator	Moderately involved in the scientific development or execution of the project. Contributes measurable effort. Typically, from the same institution as the PI.	✓		✓	
Sponsor	Required for non-ASPS applicants and those in training. Can also serve another role on the grant but is not required to.	✓	*	*	✓
Other	Research Fellows, Research Assistants, Technicians, Paid Consultants, etc.	*	*	*	

**Not required unless also serving in another role, example: Co-Investigator or Collaborator, then follow those guidelines.*

Application Deliverables

Enter the following information directly into your application in proposalCENTRAL.

Project Summary: This is the summary description of your research project. In language suitable for the public, please 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.

Impact Statement: In language suitable for the general public, describe the potential of real clinical impact this research is likely to have on the practice of plastic surgery.

Biography: In language suitable for the general public, please include a professional biography.

Budget: *Complete all sections of the budget following these limitations:*

- Budgets can **NOT** include indirect costs, administrative costs, travel, publications costs, or capital equipment*.
  - **Capital Equipment is defined as any asset having a useful life of more than one year. Examples include but are not limited to (laptop computers, iPads, software, cameras, cryogenic systems, incubators, dry boxes, cell counters, etc.) Rental of capital equipment is permitted during the term of the grant only.*
- Budgets can **NOT** include salary support for PI, Co-PI, Co-Investigators, or Collaborators.
- Budgets **CAN** include salary for research assistants and lab technicians who are also not serving in other key personnel roles (see Key Personnel Chart above).

Budget Justification: Please clarify and describe the purpose and need for each item listed on the Budget page, i.e., Personnel, Consultant Costs, Supplies, etc. Under Personnel, roles for each person should match what you have entered into proposalCENTRAL. For a study that requires more resources than this grant provides, please describe any institutional or other support you have.

Upload these deliverables in the Research Plan & Other Attachments section of your application in proposalCENTRAL.

Face / Signature Page: After completing your application in proposalCENTRAL, you will need to print your Face Page (Signature page) to obtain your institutional signatures. Once you obtain 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. You will also have an option to send for e-signatures via proposalCENTRAL this year.

Biographical Sketch (5 PAGES): Submit an NIH bio-sketch for those directly involved with the project (see chart above for required personnel). 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 ____ (#)." List selected ongoing or completed (during the last three years) research projects. Begin with the projects that are most relevant to the research proposed in this application. Include the project number, dates, source of funds, project title, your role in the project and briefly indicate the overall goals of the research project. Do not list award amounts or percentage effort in projects. See example provided within the proposalCENTRAL Templates page. Each biosketch is to be uploaded separately. Do not upload all biosketches as one PDF.

Other Support: Please provide information on all active or pending support from any source (see chart above for required personnel). Include the project number, dates, source of funds, project title, award amounts, percent of effort in months, and briefly indicate the overall goals of the research project. Indicate and explain any scientific or budgetary overlap between funding, and other overarching projects. For individuals with no active or pending support, please indicate NONE. See example provided within the proposalCENTRAL Templates page. Each other support document is to be uploaded separately. Do not upload all as one PDF.

Resources: Limit the description of resources available to those identified on the form.

Upload each section of the Research Plan as separate PDFs into proposalCENTRAL even if you are indicating N/A.

Research Plan (A - G)

A. Specific Aims (1 PAGE): 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, rationale, and hypothesis **and not rely on a previous specific aim**.

B. Research Strategy (6 PAGES): 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 this section and provide the full reference in the Literature Cited section. Tables and Figures should be included within the text of this section.

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.

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.

Approach

- Discuss the PI's preliminary studies, data, and/or experience pertinent to this application.

- Provide detailed plans for analysis including statistical methods, control, and experimental groups, as well as expected outcomes.
- Describe 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.
- Cite relevant publications to support your approach.
- Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims. Provide detailed pitfalls and alternative strategies. Consider and discuss how negative data will be used or interpreted.
- 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.

C. Human Subjects and Vertebrate Animals (1 PAGE): If applicable, briefly summarize 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. Do not include the entire IRB application. In addition, if available include copies of all Approval Letters from the appropriate IRB Board(s), including Biosafety and/or Radiation Safety (if applicable). Indicate N/A if you are not using Human Subjects within your research. If applicable, briefly summarize the use of animals in scientific research, including specific reference to adherence to accepted standards (e.g., NIH publication No. 86 23). In addition, if available upload the documentation of the project's review by the appropriate institutional committee, including Biosafety and/or Radiation Safety. Indicate N/A if you are not using Vertebrate Animals within your research. Upload N/A on a blank page if necessary.

D. Literature Cited: Please list all references in order of occurrence of their first mention in your proposal, in number or superscripted form.

E. Leadership Plan (1/2 PAGE): For applications proposing multiple PIs, or the Applicant has an ASPS Sponsor, a leadership plan is required. The governance and organizational 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 PIs. Indicate N/A if you are not required to submit a leadership plan.

F. Consortium and Contractual Agreements: If applicable, describe all research relationships required for this project carefully. Indicate N/A if this is not required.

IRB/IACUC: Institutional IRB/IACUC approval letters must be on file in The PSF Executive Offices within ninety (90) days of written notification of the Award. If the approval is not on file within the ninety (90) day time frame, the 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.

Sponsor Letter: If the applicant is in training or is not an ASPS member, an original letter from your ASPS Sponsor must be submitted (see chart above for requirements). This letter must verify that the Applicant 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.

Letters of Support: All Co-PIs, Co-Investigators and Collaborators must submit an original Letter of Support for their involvement in your research project (see chart above for required personnel). Letters of Support are addressed to the applicant and should describe the Co-PI/Co-Investigator/Collaborator's credibility, intended contribution, role, commitment, and provide support for the work being proposed. If the Sponsor is also serving as a Co-PI, Co-Investigator or Collaborator, then the Sponsor Letter and Letter of Support can be combined. The Sponsor should indicate that they are also serving as a Co-PI, Co-Investigator or Collaborator for the project. A separate letter from each Co-PI/ Co-Investigator/ Collaborator is required.

Additional Information

Resubmissions: *IMPORTANT* IF YOU PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION TO PSF FOR AN UNFUNDED PROJECT, AND THIS SUBMISSION IS A REVISION OF THAT PRIOR SUBMISSION, IT WILL BE TREATED AS A RESUBMISSION, EVEN IF IT WAS PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TO A DIFFERENT GRANT MECHANISM. In addition to resubmitting all required application documents, 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 point-by-point discussion of the issues raised in your summary statement critiques. Please upload your Cover Letter in the Research Plan & Other Attachments section of your application in proposalCENTRAL. Note: Only those resubmitting a grant application must upload a Cover Letter.

Reporting: Progress reports (technical and financial) are due at six (6) months, twelve (12) months, eighteen (18) months, and final reports (technical and financial) are due at twenty-four (24) months. Details on reporting requirements will be sent to the PI once awarded.

No-cost extensions: Written requests for extensions must be received ninety (90) days before the expiration of the original grant period and are subject to approval by the Chair of The PSF Research Grants Committee. An approval of an extension DOES NOT include the award of additional funds. In addition, the Principal Investigator must provide The PSF with additional progress reports (technical and financial) six (6) months and twelve (12) months past the original project end date. A maximum of **one** NCE could be awarded per grant, if approved in advance by PSF leadership.

Additional Funding: The Principal Investigator may apply for additional funding. Those who want to expand upon their project at the end of the original time period will need to re-apply for additional funding.

Transferring Institutions: This grant is NOT transferable to another individual within the Institution and NOT transferable to another institution OR to operating funds. If the Principal Investigator or Sponsor leaves the Institution, the Principal Investigator, Sponsor, and the Institution must notify The PSF within thirty (30) days and all unused funds MUST be returned.

Budget Changes: A certain degree of latitude to re-budget within and between budget categories to meet unanticipated needs is allowable. If your expenses fall outside of your original approved budget categories by a degree of more than 10% of your total award, prior written approval will be required, along with a revised budget and a justification for why the changes are necessary to complete your project. In addition, inclusion of any budget category that was not included in the original approved budget must also be approved by The PSF. All reallocation requests are subject to the current grant guidelines and must be approved by The PSF.