

Grant Program Walter Spohn Educational Fund

WSEF

OVERVIEW

The WSEF Grant Program is intended to encourage members of the International Anaplastology Association to pursue creative and innovative research or educational projects within the field of facial and somatic prosthetics that will benefit the field as a whole.

The WSEF Committee seeks to identify people of exceptional talent, focus, logic, and imagination who have ideas for research or educational projects that demonstrate one or more of the following ideas:

- Innovative developments in materials and techniques in anaplastology
- The potential to make a genuine difference in the lives of anaplastology patients
- New approaches to teaching and training students in the field of anaplastology
- Transdisciplinary, interdisciplinary, or multidisciplinary approaches to working with related professionals in healthcare, education, technology, and other fields

The number of grants awarded and their monetary amounts will vary each year based on the quality of applications and the size of the fund. However, the WSEF committee reserves the right to award no grant if the scientific committee is not satisfied with the quality of the proposals.

TIMELINE

The WSEF Committee:

- Invites all IAA members to submit their applications beginning 1 October and ending 1 December
- Distributes the applications to the WSEF Scientific Committee for ranking via a judging rubric provided by the WSEF
- Forwards the WSEF Scientific Committee's decision to the Vesalius Trust for Visual Communication in the Health Sciences for final approval at the Trust's spring meeting (early to mid February)
- Notifies the award recipient and all other applicants by 1 March

ELIGIBILITY

WSEF Grant applicants are required to:

- Be a member of the IAA in good standing and maintain that membership throughout the duration of their project
- Work in or be a student of a field that supports the rehabilitation of patients requiring anaplastology services
- Finish their project within 24 months (unless project clearly states why more time is necessary)
- Present the results of their project at an annual meeting of the IAA within 3 years after project completion

- If the applicant is a student member, they must have a project advisor who is a non-student member of the IAA and has been for at least 3 years.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING PROPOSALS

The following criteria are used to judge applications:

- The applicant must meet all eligibility requirements
- The application and all attachments must be properly filled out and submitted by the deadline
- The proposal should embody the mission of the WSEF: to advance clinical and practical education and scientific research in support of patient care in the field of anaplastology
- The scientific committee that judges applications is instructed to look for high quality research designs and methods and to consider diversity in projects from year to year

TYPES OF PROJECTS WE FUND

Acceptable projects are not limited to the examples given below. These examples are meant to give the applicant an idea of how he or she might work with other researchers or institutions to benefit the field as a whole.

- Research projects that test materials, techniques, or treatments or that collect and compare data on anaplastology practice from multiple sources, e.g. practitioners, institutions, countries, related healthcare fields
- Development projects to identify and create a protocol for new materials, techniques, or treatments
- Educational projects that offer continuing education or introduction to novel ideas in anaplastology in the form of a lecture series, workshop, or course material that is available free of charge to all IAA membership

RESTRICTIONS

The following restrictions apply to all applicants:

- No funds will be granted for travel; as a fund administered by the Vesalius Trust for Visual Communications in the Health Sciences, the WSEF observes the Trust's restriction on funding travel of any kind
- Proposed research projects must follow strict, high-quality research designs and methods and must demonstrate a clear benefit to the field; anaplastology, as a healthcare field, strives toward evidence-based practice, which requires well-designed and executed treatment studies, including randomized controlled trials as well as observational studies like cohort and case-control studies
- Funds shall not be granted for an individual seeking training or educational opportunities in anaplastology; any educational program funded by the WSEF Grant must be made available to all IAA members free of charge
- Applicants may not use this award to promote a commercial product in which they have a financial or controlling interest
- The applicant must be an IAA member not an institution or group; the WSEF Grant is a IAA member benefit, and the IAA member who applies for the grant is responsible for overseeing and reporting on the project, regardless of whether other researchers or institutions are involved or benefit financially