

2025 AMSSM CRN Mentorship Award

Background and Summary: The mission of the AMSSM Collaborative Research Network (CRN) is to foster collaborative research among AMSSM members to advance the practice of sports medicine. Within the field of sports medicine, there is a need for higher-quality collaborative research to generate evidence to inform clinical care. A key component to the successful initiation, funding, and completion of high-quality research is directed mentorship, specifically around research proposal development. This specific type of mentorship can be challenging for researchers who are new or early in their careers and can take time to cultivate.

Objective: The purpose of this award is to create an environment that fosters mentorship and support for promising early-career physicians wishing to seek extramural research funding as part of their future career goals.

Award Benefits:

1. \$2500 award that can be used to foster mentoring relationships and/or research goals within the global sports medicine community over a two-year period
2. Access to AMSSM Collaborative Research Network Leadership team and resources
3. Assistance with future grant and manuscript review

Goals and Expectations: For awardees, long-term goals should be focused on achieving extramural funding and publication of impactful research. Awardees will be required to do the following:

1. Work with the AMSSM CRN to identify research and clinical leaders in your area(s) of interest. The AMSSM CRN will help facilitate connections and introductions to these leaders and will allow the awardee to independently foster a mentorship relationship, as desired.
2. Provide the AMSSM CRN with a reflection on specific areas of struggle and/or desired areas of growth related to achieving long-term research goals. This reflection will help inform the direction of CRN support over the 2-year period.
3. Provide a brief research progress report to the AMSSM CRN every 6 months
4. Apply for an extramural grant and submit manuscript publications within 2 years of award receipt.

Purpose of funding: The funding intends to enable awardees to enhance their research proficiency and independence. Examples of ways in which funding can be used include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Librarian support
- Technical Editor
- Statistical consultant
- Abstract submission
- Publishing fees
- Attending conferences geared towards research development
- Travel to present research
- Travel to mentor institution

There is flexibility on how the funds are used, but they should be used to increase the mentee's research capacity (e.g. travel, courses, research projects) and **may not be used to fund mentor or mentee time**. The mentee should receive approval from the CRN for the use of funds before incurring costs. Given the size of the funding, no indirect costs are allowable through this grant mechanism. Receipts will be required for reimbursement and should be sent to AMSSM Research Program Manager, Sarah Sund: xsund@amssm.org.

Qualifications: The AMSSM CRN will entertain applications from AMSSM researchers from a variety of backgrounds. The ideal applicant will be an early to mid-career physician with a true interest in research but limited background, training, or support to get their project(s) off the ground. The applicant should be interested in pursuing a career in high-quality research inclusive of seeking extramural funding from national organizations (e.g. AMSSM CRN grants) or private foundations and would benefit from targeted investment of time and energy to help them in reaching the next level of research. Examples of potential applicants include, but are not limited to:

- Recent Young Investigator Awardees (i.e., physicians within 10 years of fellowship who have demonstrated ability to garner national research awards)
- Mid-career investigators who have obtained smaller research grants (including AMSSM Foundation Grants), but would like to obtain larger levels of extramural funding
- Physicians in community settings whose research has been limited by access to mentorship and/or other academic resources

APPLICATION PROCESS

Overview: For this award, applicants will be required to submit the following:

1. Personal statement outlining (max 1 page):
 - a. Research background
 - b. Research goals
 - c. How this mentorship award will help them attain these goals
2. Mentorship list (max 1 page; please include emails and/or institutions if known)
 - a. List of current mentor(s), if any
 - b. Potential mentor(s) or experts in the field with whom you would like to connect (specific individuals - AMSSM or otherwise). If you don't have specific names in mind, please describe the types of individuals who may fit what you are looking for and why you selected them. The CRN will help identify additional mentors as warranted -- *required*
3. Proposed research career timeline (max 1 page) – The timeline can be formatted in a way that is most beneficial to the applicant. It should include, minimally, short-term goals (within the 2-year time frame of the award) and medium to long-term goals. When developing their research timeline, applicants should consider measurable growth within their field of research, personal goals within their research area, allotted professional time to conduct research, potential connections/collaborations, etc.

4. Curriculum Vitae
5. One letter of recommendation

Note: The application should be in one document in PDF format, 12-point font, and a minimum of ½" margins on all sides. Please number all pages.

Eligibility: AMSSM member in good standing and has completed sports medicine fellowship.

Review Criteria: To encourage consistent, fair, and reliable review of proposals, applications will be scored based on the following criteria (each criterion will be scored 1-5, with 1 being the highest). Applicants will be scored in comparison to other applicants at a similar career stage as:

- Research the potential and vision of the applicant
- Need for mentorship
- Demonstrated research experience (at the appropriate level based on the applicant's personal history)
 - Including evidence of any prior grants and/or publications

Additional feedback: Applicants who are not selected for the program will receive written feedback on their proposal and offered potential connections for informal research mentorship. To apply for the Mentorship Award, please submit the above application materials to the AMSSM CRN Research Program Manager, Sarah Sund: ssund@amssm.org. The deadline for applications is **Monday, April 7, 2025. Winners will be announced at the 2025 AMSSM Annual Meeting.**

All questions and clarifications related to this Mentorship Award, or the CRN can be directed to the AMSSM Research Program Manager, Sarah Sund: ssund@amssm.org, phone: 608-265-0027.