Tamarack Mentored Pilot

2026 Fall Grant Program Manual

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Tamarack Orthotics Mentored Pilot Grant

Tamarack Habilitation Technologies, Inc. continues to give back to the OP&P profession and advancement of orthotics practice and education with their generous support of a targeted Orthotics Mentored Pilot Research Grant.

This one time special program provide a one-year grant of $10,000 to support early career scientists and emerging investigators including master's and doctoral students, O&P residents, and practicing clinicians, as they complete an orthotics focused research project under the guidance of an experienced research mentor.

Projects must demonstrate strong scientific merit, clear clinical relevance, and alignment with Live in Motion Foundation's research priorities.

This program is designed to strengthen early research skills, foster meaningful mentorship, and generate preliminary data that can support future, larger-scale funding opportunities and development for the investigators.

Research Priorities

Funded research should address one or more of the core elements (Triple Aim) of value-based care:

- Patient (Population) Outcomes
- Patient Experience of Care
- Cost of Care (per capita/per population)

AND one or more of the defined six AHRQ Quality Domains

- Safe. Avoiding harm to patients from the care intended to help them. This includes preventing medical errors, adverse events, and ensuring safe practices are embedded in all care processes.
- Effective. Providing services based on scientific knowledge to all who could benefit and avoiding unnecessary or ineffective care. This domain addresses both underuse and overuse of treatments.
- Patient-Centered. Respecting and responding to individual patient preferences, needs, and values, ensuring that patient values guide clinical decisions.
- Timely. Reducing waits and harmful delays for both patients and providers, ensuring care is delivered when needed.
- Efficient. Avoiding waste of resources such as equipment, supplies, ideas, and energy, while delivering care without unnecessary costs.
- Equitable. Providing care that does not vary in quality because of personal characteristics such as geographic location, socioeconomic status, or race

Live in Motion Foundation does not fund:

- Research from non-US based institutions as primary site applicant

- Research focusing on engineering/device prototyping and/or pre-commercialization testing

Eligibility Requirements

PI and Research Team

- The PI must be a currently enrolled masters or doctoral student,* a current O&P resident, or a practicing orthotics, prosthetics, and/or pedorthics clinician. The PI may not have a doctoral degree or have equivalent research experience.
- The selected mentor for this research must have attained a doctoral degree or have equivalent research experience as outlined in the submitted bisketch
- The proposed research must include an active clinician trained and certified in orthotics, prosthetics, and/or pedorthics as the PI or co-investigator.

Project

- The primary research site must be located in the United States.
- The primary research site may be a for-profit or a non-profit organization/entity.
- The proposed research must meet the requirements outlined in the Live in Motion's research priorities.
- For the Tamarack Orthotics Mentored Pilot Research Grant, the proposed research must be clinically relevant to orthotics practice.

** If a trainee is unable to serve as PI due to institutional requirements, the trainee must be identified as the Co-PI. Additional submission items are required in this case, reference Co-PI applicant requirements for more information*

Submission Requirements

☐ **Letter of Intent (LOI)**

- Applications will not be reviewed without the submission of an LOI.
- Feedback will not be provided in response to the LOI.
- The LOI is used only to assemble a review committee with appropriate expertise.
- The LOI must briefly describe the proposed research.
- The LOI must include the names of all collaborators.
- The LOI must state the specific award program being pursued.
- The LOI should be a maximum of two pages (12 pt font single spaced).

☐ **Application Cover Page**

- Applicants will complete the cover page in the Live in Motion Foundation online portal.

- The Application Cover Page is also available for review/download on the Live in Motion Foundation website

Proposal Sections

The proposal should be uploaded as a PDF document with a maximum of 4 pages (12 pt font, single spaced, 1" borders, 8.5" x 11' page size). This page limit only includes the sections with an asterisk (*).

☐ **Abstract**

- Up to 300 words

☐ **Specific Aims***

- Provide a concise statement of the goals of the proposed research.
- List succinctly the specific objectives of the proposed research (e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, solve a specific clinical problem, challenge an existing paradigm, address clinical barriers, or develop new technology). Describe how these objectives address the Live in Motion research priorities
- If applicable, state testable hypotheses. If hypotheses are not appliable (e.g., the proposed research is qualitative or exploratory in nature), describe the expected outcomes.
- Describe the clinical relevance to OP&P rehabilitation

☐ **Background and Significance***

- Provide rationale for proposed research, relevant background history, and the need for the research. Identify how this work is novel, unique, or original, and the knowledge gap that this research addresses.
- Indicate how the proposed research relates to current literature on the topic.
- Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress that will be addressed by the proposed research.
- Address clinical relevance by describing how the concepts, treatments, services, or interventions that drive OP&P will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.

☐ **Previous Research** (if applicable)*

- Describe previous research (e.g., pilot data) conducted that supports the proposed study.

☐ **Methodology***

- Describe the overall study design and research strategy that will be used to accomplish the specific aims of the proposed research.

- If the proposed study is human subjects research, describe the sample, including proposed sample size, eligibility criteria, and sampling processes.
- Clearly describe and justify outcome measures used in the study and describe how data will be collected.
- Clearly describe how data will be analyzed, and interpreted to address the study aims. If applicable, describe any confounding variables and/or effect modifiers and how they will be accounted for in the analysis.
- Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims.

☐ **Project Timeline** (include milestones and deliverables)*

- Depict the project timeline with a graphic that shows the timing and duration of each aim and task within the proposed research.
- Include the anticipated start and end dates in your timeline.
- Indicate when each milestone/deliverable is to be achieved.

☐ **Anticipated Results***

- Summarize the expected outcome(s) of the proposed research
- Describe the potential impact that the results of the proposed research will have on the O&P field and/or clinical practice.
- Please reference the Live in Motion research priorities in this description.
- Demonstrate commitment to the impact of this work by describing future plans for this line of research and/or how findings will be disseminated to the clinical community.

☐ **References**

- Include a list of references used within the application to support the need, rationale, and approach for the proposed research.
- Format your citations and references using an accepted citing/referencing style (e.g., AMA or Vancouver).

☐ **Budget, Justifications, and Facilities Description**

- Provide a budget that itemizes the cost of each item to be paid for with the award. Present this information in a table format.
- A budget justification should accompany the budget and should provide a narrative description of the costs included in the research budget to include individual line items leading to the total cost of the project.
- Provide a brief description of the facilities and resources that are available to the research team that will facilitate successful completion of the project.
- No indirect (i.e., facilities and administrative) costs will be allowed under this program.
- No tuition expenses will be allowed under this program.

- Publication fees are allowable.
- *Dissemination fund available for conference/presentation travel, therefore dissemination-related fees should not be budgeted in the proposal.

☐ **Current or Pending Support**

- Indicate any current or pending funding support related to the proposed research.
- Pending support refers to any applications for funding that have been submitted and for which the outcome is not yet known.
- Indicate what overlap may exist with funding that has already been received or is pending for the proposed research.

☐ **PI and Collaborators**

- NIH-type biosketch for the principal investigator and the project mentor.
- List of collaborators (including a brief descriptive bio for each)
- Provide a detailed description of the role, scope, and activities of the trained and certified orthotist, prosthetist, and/or on the proposed project

☐ **Mentor Letter of Support**

- Include a letter from the selected mentor in support of the proposed research

☐ **Mentorship Plan**

- Up to 500 words
- The mentorship plan should clearly outline how the mentor(s) will support the applicant's research, professional development, and long-term growth in OP&P rehabilitation.

<u>The Mentorship Plan should address the following:</u>

- The mentor's relevant expertise and relationship to the proposed project
- How the mentor will provide guidance throughout the project (e.g., research design, methodology, clinical translation, dissemination, professional development, networking, career advising, etc.)
- Planned mentorship activities and frequency of interaction (e.g., meetings, progress reviews, shadowing, collaborative work, manuscript development, conference participation)
- How the mentor and applicant will evaluate progress and success throughout the project period

☐ **Mentee Statement**

- Up to 500 words

- Discuss your professional goals related to OP&P research.
- Describe how the research project and mentored research experience will contribute to professional development as a researcher or evidence-based clinician in OP&P rehabilitation.

* **Co-PI applicants** (if applicable- additional submissions items required)

☐ **Institutional Policy Letter**

- The applicant will be required to submit a letter from the institution outlining their policy pertaining to students and/or residents not being able to serve as PI on research projects and requiring a faculty PI.

☐ **Mentor and Mentee Statements**

- The statements required for the submission should clearly outline how the trainee would be empowered to take leadership on the project and provide a detailed plan for their engagement in gaining experience in managing the research activity/project.

Mentored Pilot Grant Program | Fall Funding Cycle

The following are key dates and deadlines for Live in Motion Foundation's Fall 2026 Mentored Pilot Grant Program. Applicants are responsible for ensuring all materials are received by the due dates.

Program Opens.....September 1st, 2026
LOI submissions.....October 6th, 2026
Proposal submission deadline .....November 2nd 2026 Award notification* .....December 2026

**Award notification date is approximate and based on anticipated number of submitted applications. A greater number of submissions than expected may delay notification. Applicants will be notified if delays occur.*

Grant Disbursement

- Grant funds may be paid directly to the award recipient or the host institution
- If grant funds are paid directly to the individual, the grant award will be treated as taxable income by the IRS
- Any financial or tax liabilities associated with accepting the award will be the responsibility of the recipient.

- The grant period begins when the first disbursement of funds is made.
- Grant funds will be disbursed in two installments

- The first installment of 50% of the total award will be disbursed upon commencement of the award and the second installment of 50% of the total award will be disbursed at approximately 6 months after commencement of the research.
- Disbursement of the second installment is contingent upon a satisfactory progress report as evaluated by The O&P Foundation Research Committee Chair.
- No indirect (i.e., facilities and administrative) costs will be allowed under this program.
- No tuition expenses will be allowed under this program.

- If the proposed research involves human subjects or animals, award recipients must provide written confirmation of approval from the appropriate Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC/ACUC) prior to any disbursement of grant funds.
- IRB/IACUC approval is not required at the time of application submission; however, approval documentation must meet the following conditions to be eligible for fund disbursement:
- The approval must be issued by the award recipient's host institution.
- The approval date must be within six (6) months of the Award Letter date.
- Approval documentation must explicitly correspond to the funded project scope.
- Grant funds will not be released until acceptable IRB/IACUC approval documentation is received and verified by the Live in Motion Foundation. Failure to obtain or submit qualifying approval within this timeframe may result in delayed disbursement, modification of the award timeline, or forfeiture of the award, at the discretion of the Live in Motion Foundation.

Complimentary Funding/Support

- The Mentored Pilot Grant applicants are required to identify existing and/or pending funding related to the application.
- If complimentary funding is obtained by the investigator prior to award announcement or during the award period, award recipients are required to inform the Live in Motion Foundation Research Committee Chair in writing.
- When contacting the Research Committee Chair, investigators are encouraged to submit a modified budget that reflects the complimentary support obtained for the proposed research.
- The Live in Motion Foundation reserves the right to modify the provided funding based upon the receipt of alternative support received by the investigator(s).
- Decisions regarding the modification of funding will require approval of the Live in Motion Foundation Board of Directors.
- If a modification to the funding amount is made after disbursement of funds, the Live in Motion Foundation reserves the right to request that funds be returned.

Grant Reporting

☐ **6 Month Progress Report**

- The PI must submit a 6-month progress report at least six months after the initial funds are received by the host institution.
- The PI is responsible for the timely submission of the progress report.
- The report should be typed and single-spaced using 10–12-point font
- The report should describe progress over the first 6 months of the award period and any challenges encountered.
- Legible figures may be included in the report.

☐ **Final Report**

- The PI must submit a 2-page final report no later than 30 days after the award ends.
- The PI is responsible for the timely submission of the progress report.
- The report should be typed and single spaced using 10–12-point font
- Legible figures may be included in the report.
- The final report should detail the work performed during the study period, summarize the expenditure of the award budget, and include a list of any submitted and/or anticipated publications and further research directions, including additional grant opportunities that may result from Live in Motion Foundation funded research.

Dissemination Fund

- The Live in Motion Foundation maintains a fund to support recipients of the Mentored Pilot grant with an additional $2000 for the costs associated with broad dissemination of the results of the research conducted under this program.
- These expenses include but are not limited to: conference registration, travel, accommodations, and/or publication fees.
- These funds are available by request and are for use by the PI for a period of up to three years following the initial receipt of the grant.

Review Process

- All submissions will be reviewed by a Review Panel composed of Live in Motion Foundation Research Committee members and ad-hoc members, as needed.
- Composition of the panel will be determined by the type and number of award submissions.
- The Mentored Pilot Research Grant Program Manager will serve as the Review Chair and as the point-of-contact for the awards program.

Review Panel

- The function of the Review Panel is to evaluate applications, including the clinical relevance of the research topic, the merit of the research design, and the appropriateness of the personnel and environment.

- The Review Panel will score the Mentored Pilot Grant applications using a standardized review form.

Review

- Complete applications will be assigned to two or more Review Panel members for review.
- Proposals will be evaluated and scored on scientific merit and clinical relevance using a standardized review form
- All submissions will be given a numerical score by each reviewer, and a consensus score will be generated.
- Blinded consensus scores, summary comments, and written reviews will be provided to all applicants upon completion of the review process.
- The Live in Motion Foundation reserves the right to reduce the terms of the award, both in time and in funds, as deemed appropriate by the scope of the proposed research.
- The Review Panel may also request that applicants respond to reviewer comments regarding any part of the submission prior to rendering a final award decision.

Conflict of Interest Procedures

- The Review Panel is required to maintain confidentiality regarding all aspects of the grant review process, the proposed research, and the identity of award applicants.
- The Live in Motion Foundation will strive to review all submissions fairly and without bias.
- In cases where a proposal is submitted by (1) a member of the Review Panel; (2) a Review Panel member's organization (3) a Review Panel member's student, resident, or mentee; or (4) a Review Panel member's colleague who lists the Review Panel member as having any responsibility or involvement in the research being reviewed or who collaborates or currently associates with the panel member in other capacities, which may or may not involve the application under consideration, the Review Panel member in question will be excused from review of the proposal.
- When this situation applies to the Chair of the Research Committee, the Chair will turn over management of the review of the application in question to another Research Committee member. That Committee member will be responsible for identifying suitable reviewers; receiving from reviewers Live in Motion Foundation Conflict of Interest, Confidentiality, and Non-Disclosure Statement and Review Forms; and chairing the portion of the any review meeting during which the application in question is discussed. Furthermore, if the application in question is successfully funded, the Chair of the Research Committee will turn over management of the funded project to another member of the Research Committee. That Committee member will then be responsible for receiving and reviewing reports, confirming IRB approval (if applicable), and handling requests from the award recipient, as well as any issues that might arise with that grant.
- Reviewers for each application are required to complete Live in Motion Foundation Conflict of Interest, Confidentiality, and Non-Disclosure Statement) prior to review.
- If a submission includes proprietary or confidential information, this should be noted on the cover sheet and relevant sections of the proposal.

Notification of Applicants

- All applicants will be notified of the status of their application following review.
- Notification will include the blinded consensus scores, summary comments, and written reviews.
- For the successful applicant, notification will include an Award Letter, Terms and Conditions of Acceptance and process for funds disbursement.
- Award funds may be contingent on requests for additional items or clarification from the Program Manager.

Ownership of Work

- Ownership of intellectual property arising from Live in Motion Foundation sponsored funding is vested in the award recipient
- The Live in Motion Foundation reserves the right to publicize all materials received while funding a particular research project; (e.g., proposals, progress reports, final reports, etc.), except for materials marked “confidential” or “proprietary.”
- Award recipients are required to acknowledge Live in Motion Foundation funding in any publication or presentation of the funded research by including the following statement:

> “This presentation/work was supported (or “supported in-part” if the project was also supported by other sources) through funding from the Live in Motion Foundation"

No-Cost Extension

- A one year no-cost extension may be applied for by investigators who have been awarded a Mentored Pilot Grant if their project requires additional time to complete.
- A written request for a no-cost extension must be submitted to the Live in Motion Foundation Program Administrator or Research Committee Chair 30 days prior to expiration of the current award.

Resubmission

- Proposals that are not awarded the Mentored Pilot Grant may be resubmitted for another award cycle.
- A maximum of two resubmissions following the original submission will be accepted.
- The cover page should indicate that the proposal is a resubmission, and a separate document should indicate any changes made to the proposal in response to reviewer concerns from the previous submission.
- This supplemental document should be no more than one page in length (page count is not included in the submission page limit).

Portal Instructions

- Applicants will create an account in the Live in Motion online application portal
- Once an account has been created in the portal, applicants may select the Fall Mentored Pilot program and follow the prompts for application and proposal submission.
- Applicants can invite collaborators to the application and can track completeness and status of their submission in the portal.
- Emails generated from the Live in Motion Foundation portal may be routed to spam mail, ensure you receive emails from our system.

Contact Information

Questions about the Mentored Pilot Grant may be directed to the program administrator at info@liveinmotion.org or to the Research Chair directly research@liveinmotion.org