

Peer Review Guidelines

The Research Foundation of Cerebral Palsy Alliance Grants Program

A. General Overview (20%)

- Overall quality of writing and concept development, whether the application is complete, coherent, well planned, structured, etc.
- Family and consumer involvement in the project, what is the role of consumers in the research cycle.
- Relationship or plan to engage any industry partners for the research.

B. Rationale for Research (20%)

- Addresses a significant issue that is important to the field of cerebral palsy research.
- The aims, research questions and hypotheses are clearly stated, build on existing knowledge and address a knowledge gap.
- Challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts and approaches, or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
- High likelihood for the research to make important scientific contribution to the field of cerebral palsy research.

C. Design and Methods (20%)

- Design, methodology and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project.
- Comprehensive and feasible study design that is achievable within the timeframe.
- Appropriate study design to address the objectives of the research.
- Awareness of statistical considerations/technical or population issues/practicalities.
- Potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success are presented.
- Proposed budget is appropriate for the scope of the research.

D. Research Impact (20%)

- There is a clear plan, including strategy and timing, for engaging relevant stakeholders (such as next-or end-users) throughout the research process.
- Applicant has clearly identified all outputs (including but not limited to publications) and knowledge translation activities which will support uptake and impact of the research.
- Consideration has been given to how these outputs and activities should be tailored for the target users and beneficiaries.
- Feasibility of achieving anticipated outputs and activities has been considered.
- Anticipated outcomes stemming from use of the delivered outputs or activities are clearly articulated.
- Longer-term potential outcomes and impacts of the work are clearly stated, and pathway to achievement is clear and logical.
- Beneficiaries are clearly identified, and how they will benefit is specified.

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E. Expertise and Diversity of the Research Team (20%)

- Appropriate qualifications and experience.
- Capability to perform research in the current research environment.
- Fostering upcoming researchers/students – junior researcher involvement in the project.
- Diversity of the team: different stages of career, multidisciplinary expertise, and FTEs.
- Networks/collaborations.