

AOCMF: Guidelines for research grant applications

Anti-osteoclastic drugs and their impact on maxillofacial surgery - diagnosis, prevention, surgery, and treatment modalities (ARONJ)

Applications which do not conform completely to the website application format or ignore or fail to comply with any part of the guidelines may be returned to the applicant. They will not be considered unless resubmitted by the deadline.

General information

The AOCMF Research and Development Commission is pleased to announce a third call for applications in the field of 'Anti-osteoclastic drugs and their impact on maxillofacial surgery - diagnosis, prevention, surgery, and treatment modalities (ARONJ)'.

Background

Bisphosphonates (Alendronate, Zoledronate, Pamidronate and others) and additional anti-osteoclastic drugs such as RANKL inhibitors (Denosumab) are among the most prescribed drugs in the world today.

26 million prescriptions for Alendronate in the US alone are used for treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis and 250,000 patients with metastatic bone cancer are treated with high dose intravenous bisphosphonates.

These drugs have been noted to have profound influences on oral and orthopedic health including exacerbation of dental diseases, osteonecrosis of the jaw requiring ablation, spiral fractures of the femur, bone pain, and spinal and other foraminal stenosis. These medications have also been associated with a marked decrease in femoral neck fractures, compression fractures of the spine and other osteoporotic fractures such as wrist and humerus.

Research questions

The risks of the exposure to these medications with regard to the outcome of orthopedic, oral and maxillofacial procedures is not well established and has only been reported in case series. Optimal means of treating fractures, managing infection, performing ablative surgery or reconstructing patients with exposure to these drugs has not been established.

For example:

- Is vascularized tissue transfer beneficial in jaw bone reconstruction in this subgroup?
- Can free grafts be used in trauma reconstruction in the patient exposed to these drugs?
- Should bone fixation be modified in fractures occurring in patients taking anti-osteoclastic drugs

Focus	<p>The focus of the research projects includes prevention of anti-osteoclastic drug osteonecrosis of the jaw (ARONJ) as well as treatment modalities and risk factors</p> <p>The proposed projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be epidemiological, and/or therapeutic. • May focus on clinical research • May include imaging and planning aspects of the above-mentioned diseases and injuries. • Can be related to tissue biology/tissue engineering, implant development, documentation, diagnosis and treatment. • Should improve educational content for courses that address anti-osteoclastic bone issues.
Type of research	This open call is suitable to clinical research.
Peer review	All applications will be independently peer reviewed. Projects will be selected based on the novelty, feasibility and significance of the proposal; attributes of the candidate, including potential for independence; evidence of institutional commitment; and the research environment.
Details of grants	<p>We invite grant applications for this call to be funded in 2016.</p> <p>The deadline for submission is: January 8, 2016, by 17:00 hours (GMT).</p> <p>Applicants should be aware that the total amount available for this program is limited, and that all applications will be rigorously scrutinized with regard to their finances as well their scientific merit.</p>
Application form	<p>The application must be submitted in English using the AOCMF application form for applications in the field of 'Anti-osteoclastic drugs and their impact on maxillofacial surgery - diagnosis, prevention, surgery, and treatment modalities (ARONJ)'. Do not exceed the indicated number of characters and pages. This allows adequate evaluation regarding relevance, quality and cost of the projects.</p> <p>Applications which are incomplete or do not comply with our guidelines may not be considered.</p> <p>The following topics must be covered in the application under these headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Information: at least 3 keywords must be chosen from the provided pdf list • Abstract of the research project • Outline of the problem • State of the art in this field • Past research of the applicant in this field • Hypothesis, open questions, aim of the project • Detailed research plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Study subjects, specimens or materials → Effect and outcome variables → Methods for taking measurements, data management and analysis → Estimation of sample size and power • Relevance of the project • Time schedule • Relevant literature by the applicant and by other authors <p>The application must be e-mailed as an unprotected Word-document.</p>

Funding policy

Duration: up to 3 years

Salaries

Salaries for the principal applicant and co-applicants will not normally be approved.

If the project is only possible with some funding for the applicants, it must be clearly shown that the funding requested is essential, project specific and well documented, and that the individual has no other source of grant or income.

Written and signed confirmation is required with the application from the PI and the head of his/her institution, indicating that no alternative source of income (including salary, stipend or grant) is available. This confirmation must indicate how this/those individual/s are currently employed and paid. Applications which fail to provide this information will be returned to the applicant.

International conference

AOCMF will organize an international conference on the study subject in 2018. Participating and presenting interim results will be mandatory. All travel-related expenses must be covered by this grant award.

Travel expenses

Only project specific travel expenses will be granted. A maximum amount of CHF 1,500 for one conference a year to present results will be covered. This amount includes the expenses for the AOCMF conference.

Indirect costs

No overhead contributions are made to the submitting organization.

Additional funding

Additional funding from other AO institutions or any other source must be disclosed in detail. If other funding is available, it must be made clear how this will affect the overall budget of the project if the AO grant application is successful.

Conditions

Support can only be granted if the funding contract is signed by the principal applicant/s and the head of the submitting institution within two months after receipt. Please note that the contract is not negotiable.

Notification

The applicant will receive a confirmation e-mail from AOCMF within a week regarding receipt of the application.

Decision

Decisions will be communicated within approximately six months after the submissions' deadline. Applications should not be resubmitted unless the applicants are requested to do so.