Health Services Research Pipeline Grant (HSRPG) **PREFACE**

The **Foundation for Physical Therapy Research (FPTR)** funds research and develops researchers to optimize movement and health.

The vision of **FPTR** is shaping the future of healthcare physical therapy research.

**HSRPG GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Grant Amount**

Maximum **HSRPG** amount is $40,000. Funds are available for research done in U.S. institutions only. **HSRPG** funds may be used in support of salary, fringe benefits and direct expenses. FPTR grant funding follows current NIH policies on investigator salaries caps. Please check with your Institutional Official to be sure your requests are in compliance with current limits. For reference, please see: [https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/salcap_summary.htm](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/salcap_summary.htm)

**NO OVERHEAD IS ALLOWED. Please make your institution fully aware of this restriction.**

**Grant Period**

A proposed project may have a Period of Performance of 1 year. **A grant year will begin January 1 and end December 31 unless another Period of Performance has been requested and approved by FPTR in advance of application submission.**

**Use of Funds**

Funds may be requested to meet any type of expense reasonably associated with the research project, including salaries and fringe benefits, purchase or rental of equipment, supplies, travel, publication costs, printing or postage, and special services such as computer time, photographic services, and secretarial or research assistant support.

**Areas of Study**

One **HSRPG** is to be awarded to support research that examines mechanisms by which patients obtain physical therapy-related health care, how much such care costs, and what outcomes are observed in these patients.

Research efforts should focus on the identification of the most effective ways to organize, manage, finance, and deliver high quality physical therapy-related care while potentially reducing medical errors and improving safety and quality for patients.

Research efforts should reflect the current scientific literature and evidence base, and should address Section V of the APTA Research Agenda.

**The Research Agenda may be found at:**


**This grant is made possible with generous support from the American Physical Therapy Association.**
HSRPG PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND FUNDING PRIORITIES

Statement of Intent for Funding

FPTR, like the physical therapy profession, is dedicated to the goal of improving the quality and delivery of patient care. FPTR accomplishes this goal by providing support to scientifically-based and clinically relevant research related to the effectiveness of physical therapist practice. Physical therapy Principal Investigators at any level, of any academic rank, are eligible to apply for HSRPG.

FPTR supports only those intervention studies in which the interventions are provided by physical therapists, or selected components of the interventions are provided by physical therapist assistants, under the direction and supervision of physical therapists.

The purpose of FPTR’s research grant program is to fund research studies in specified areas of physical therapy. Specific eligibility requirements and criteria for review and selection are contained in these guidelines.

Guidelines for distribution of funds and criteria for selecting recipients are established by FPTR’s Board of Trustees (BOT) and implemented by the Scientific Review Committee (SRC). Selected by FPTR’s BOT, the SRC is comprised of physical therapist researchers and others with experience preparing physical therapists and physical therapist assistants for research careers. The SRC reviews applications and makes recommendations to FPTR’s BOT for final approval.

Funding Objectives

The intent of FPTR is to fund the highest quality, scientifically based, and clinically relevant research with priority given to projects having the most immediate clinical application. Proposed studies should add to or refine the body of knowledge on which physical therapist practice is based using any of a variety of recognized investigative methods and are open to any type of research design. Proposed studies should begin to address the most critical questions regarding clinical research. The Research Agenda is provided as a guide to identification of those critical research questions.

Funding Priorities

Studies in health services research investigate how social factors, financing systems, health policy, organizational structures and processes, health technologies, and personal behaviors affect access to health care, the quality and cost of health care, and ultimately individual or population health and well-being. Similarly, this grant is designed to support fundamental, exploratory, and explanatory studies that investigate the impact of federal and state policies, quality reporting, education and/or payment models have on access, clinical outcomes, utilization, and/or distribution. Examples of HSRPG research areas of interest include, but are not limited to:

- **Cost effectiveness**: Evaluation of the comparative cost and/or cost-effectiveness of physical therapy interventions for pain management compared with pharmaceutical treatments.
- **Direct Access**: Evaluation of the impact of direct access on physical therapy utilization, patient outcomes and/or health care cost, including an examination of how direct access compares to referrals/services.
- **Distribution**: Examination of the distribution of physical therapist and physical therapist assistants by county, zip code and/or within U.S. medically underserved areas, including geographic distribution's impact on patient outcomes.
- **Education**: Evaluation of the impact of physical therapist residency education, fellowship education, and/or specialties on clinical outcomes.
- **Functional Limitation**: Description of patterns of functional limitation, within functional limitation reporting, and/or factors that contribute to variation.
- **Payment**: Examination of commercial payer reimbursement rates by procedure, visit, and/or episode of care for physical therapy.
- **Utilization**: Examination of physical therapy utilization, specifically looking at the impact policies (e.g. ACA) and/or payment structures (e.g. coinsurance or copayments) have on access, utilization, and/or treatment adherence.
Limitations of Use

- No funds will be approved to finance cost overruns or deficits on existing projects or to finance projects already in progress
- Support for purchase of major pieces of permanent equipment is limited to 20% or less of the total award

Other Support

All sources of support for the proposed project must be identified in the online application.

Payment of Funds

Funds will be sent directly to a designated official of the U.S. Sponsoring Organization/Institution for administration through its financial office. Funds are only available for research done at U.S. Institutions. The Sponsoring Organization/Institution must indicate at the time of application the fringe benefit rate, if any, that shall be applied to the HSRPG.

Schedule of Payment

For a 1-year HSRPG, funding will be delivered in two payments:

- $20,000 (50% of $40,000) January
- $20,000 (50% of $40,000) July

Any deviation from this schedule must be requested in the application and approved in writing by FPTR prior to the beginning of the HSRPG period of performance. Payment will be contingent upon receipt of Progress Report(s) indicating satisfactory progress has been made in completing work on the proposed timetable. Failure to supply Progress Report(s) will result in termination of the HSRPG.

Completion of Project

The potential for successful completion of the project is a major consideration in awarding the HSRPG.

Policy Governing Use of Subjects in Research

Vertebrate Experimental Animals: Studies proposing use of animals as research subjects are ineligible for the HSRPG.

**Human Subjects** If data is to be collected on human subjects, or if data used in the project contains identifiable private information that can be linked to human subjects, the plan must include specific procedures for review of the protocol and securing informed consent of subjects in compliance with federal policy on protection of human subjects.

Proof of IRB Approval is not required at the time of application. If your project is awarded, the first award payment will not be issued until proof of IRB Approval is submitted to the Scientific Program Administrator. It must be on the sponsoring institution’s letterhead and signed by the appropriate institution official. If the proposed project has more than one site, IRB Approval or Exemption must be obtained for every site in the project. Also, the institution sponsoring the project’s research must be covered by an assurance agreement indicating compliance with Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) regulations governing the protection of human subjects.

In addition, if data is to be collected on human subjects, or if data used in the project contains identifiable private information that can be linked to human subjects, the Principal Investigator and all key personnel involved in the conduct of the study must provide certificates demonstrating completion of a human subjects’ protection training course. You must provide training validity dates for your particular course as part of your application package and the training must be current according to the dates listed on the certificate.

The NIH Office of Extramural Research’s “Human Participant Protections: Education for Research Teams” training course (https://php.nihtraining.com/users/login.php) is an example of a course that meets this requirement. Also, the University of Miami offers online courses in Human Subjects Research training (https://about.citiprogram.org/en/homepage/), which also meets this requirement. In addition, Investigators can take such training courses at their home institution, if offered. The FPTR has no preference where investigators obtain their human subjects training, as long as the coursework is rigorous and up to current human subjects research standards.
FPTR will not accept a letter in lieu of a certificate indicating that a human subjects' protection training course has been taken.

Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information, the “Privacy Rule,” is a federal regulation under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 that governs the protection of individually identifiable health information from covered entities through collaborative or contractual agreements. Decisions about whether and how to implement the Privacy rule reside with the researcher and his/her institution.

Applicant Eligibility

Proposals may be submitted by an individual or a group of investigators through a U.S. Sponsoring Organization/Institution with which they are affiliated. Groups must designate one (1) member as the Principal Investigator responsible for directing the project. Other members of the group may be physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, or persons from other disciplines that are relevant to the proposed study.

Principal Investigator

HSRPG award is made only to eligible Principal Investigators. Continued funding is dependent upon the Principal Investigator maintaining eligibility. FPTR will make research awards only to a legal entity that will be accountable for both the performance of the approved project or activity and the appropriate expenditure of funds. FPTR will not make an award to an applicant who is not the Principal Investigator and/or does not have a substantive role in the project and would simply serve as a conduit for another entity.

Principal Investigators supported by FPTR research grants are required to meet one of the following criteria: 1) be a U.S. citizen; 2) have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the U.S.; or 3) have made an official application for permanent residence in the U.S. FPTR requires the applicant to demonstrate their residence status and visa status that will allow them to carry out the research. The applicant should contact the Scientific Program Administrator before applying if there is any question as to meeting one of the above three criteria.

FPTR expects grantee organizations to have policies, consistently applied regardless of the source of funds, to address this area. If a grant is awarded and an individual’s visa will not allow a long enough time to complete the project, FPTR may terminate the grant. FPTR reserves the right to impose specific citizenship requirement on grant programs as communicated in the guidelines for each specific grant program (e.g., grantor specifies that Principal Investigator must be a U.S. citizen). The determination of eligibility includes verification of the applicant’s status. The applicant may be required to provide proof of his/her status by submitting documentation; otherwise the authorizing organization signature on the application certifies that the applicant is eligible to apply for and receive an award. Please make sure the Sponsoring Organization/Institution is aware of this statement.

In addition to reviewing the organizational eligibility, FPTR may consider other factors relating to the applicant’s ability to responsibly handle and account for FPTR funds and to carry out the project. These factors include the applicant’s intended role in the project, the location where the project will be performed, the role of the Principal Investigator in the project, and the Principal Investigator’s employment and citizenship status.

The Principal Investigator must be employed by a domestic, public or private, non-profit or for-profit organization that is eligible to receive FPTR research grants. However, on the basis of statutory, regulatory, or published policy limitations, under certain programs or types of awards, FPTR may limit eligibility to, or exclude from eligibility, classes or types of entities.

In addition to the above, at the time of application the Principal Investigator must:

- Possess a license to practice physical therapy in the U.S. or in a U.S. jurisdiction; OR
- Have met all the requirements for physical therapy licensure in the U.S. or in a U.S. jurisdiction, including having received a passing score on the licensure exam; OR
- Possess a physical therapist assistant license in the U.S. or in U.S. jurisdiction; OR
- Have met all the requirements for licensure as a physical therapist assistant in the U.S. or in a U.S. jurisdiction, including having received a passing score on the licensure exam.

**If you are a physical therapist assistant who has graduate from a fully accredited physical therapist assistant program and reside in a state or jurisdiction that does not require licensure (Hawaii, Colorado, and Michigan), a copy of your certificate of completion of studies must be included in your application.**
Please note that the Principal Investigator’s responsibilities include:

- Fiscal accountability for funds awarded
- Direct oversight of the scientific process with accountability for the quality of the study as conducted
- Submission of all progress and final reports to the Foundation
- Dissemination of results of the study through peer-reviewed publications and public presentation

If the applicant is a current or prior FPTR funding recipient, he/she must be considered in GOOD STANDING with FPTR in order to be eligible to apply.

If award is made to an applicant that is currently supported by another FPTR funding mechanism at this mechanism’s application deadline but concludes before the Period of Performance begins (January 1st), then award is contingent upon the successful submission and approval of the current funding mechanism’s Final Report. Further, there can be no overlap between FPTR funding mechanism periods of performance.

Physical Therapist Assistant applicants, please note: FPTR supports only those intervention studies in which the interventions are provided by physical therapists, or selected components of the interventions are provided by physical therapist assistants under the direction and supervision of physical therapists.

Ineligible Requests

Animal model studies are ineligible for the HSRPG. Projects to be completed in fulfillment of requirements for an academic degree are not eligible to be funded by the HSRPG. A doctoral student in the latter stage of the dissertation phase of his/her program may submit an application, but must provide evidence of completion of the degree by October 15. If this evidence is not provided by this date, the proposed project will not be funded.

The proposed study must differ substantially from any thesis research being conducted by graduate assistant(s) to be supported by the HSRPG.

Projects sponsored by an organization or institution outside the United States are ineligible for the HSRPG.

Under no circumstances will funding be provided for expenses or debts incurred before the award date of the HSRPG. An applicant may not apply for the HSRPG if they are concurrently applying for another FPTR funding mechanism.

If the applicant is a current FPTR funding recipient and is operating under a No-Cost Extension (NCE) agreement, no pending applications for this funding mechanism will be considered. Further, there can be no overlap between FPTR funding mechanism periods of performance.

If the applicant is a current or prior FPTR funding recipient and has not complied with reporting or obligation requirements associated with the prior current or prior award, he/she will NOT be considered in GOOD STANDING with FPTR and is NOT eligible to apply for a FPTR funding mechanism.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF HSRPG

Non-Compliance

A grantee is defined as the Principal Investigator. Failure on the part of the grantee to comply with the policies governing the grant (including policies governing publications, presentations, and press releases) may be grounds for early termination of the grant and/or denial of any future consideration for funding from FPTR. Failure to comply with the policies governing this award will result in the grantee NOT being considered in GOOD STANDING with FPTR. If the grantee is NOT considered in GOOD STANDING with FPTR, the grantee is NOT eligible to apply for any other FPTR funding mechanism.

Should the grantee encounter problems during the HSRPG Period of Performance related to progress or other matters related to the grant, FPTR may request additional information from which a decision to continue or to terminate the HSRPG can be made. In cases of early termination of the HSRPG, the grantee and Sponsoring Institution will be notified in writing sixty (60) days before the grant is terminated.
Research Integrity

FPTR expects that the highest ethical standards and compliance with public laws and regulations will be adhered to by all recipients when undertaking any type of research supported by FPTR funds. It is expected that grantees will:

- Be intellectually honest in proposing, performing, and reporting research
- Be accurate in representing contributions in research proposals and reports
- Be fair in peer reviews
- Be collegial in scientific interactions, including communications and sharing of resources
- Be transparent in conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest
- Ensure the protection of human subjects in the conduct of research in compliance with the Department of Health and Human Services' regulations governing the protection of human subjects
- Adhere to the mutual responsibilities between investigators and their research teams

Reporting

Grantees shall provide reports to FPTR following the schedule guidelines described below. Failure to submit a report by the stated deadline will delay or jeopardize continued or future support by the FPTR. If the grantee fails to comply with reporting requirements, he/she will NOT be considered in GOOD STANDING with FPTR and will NOT be eligible to apply for any other FPTR funding mechanism. If funds are to be paid on an alternate payment schedule, the reporting schedule will be adjusted accordingly.

**Progress Report:** All grantees Progress Report(s) shall be submitted online through FPTR submission portal. See FPTR Grant Reporting Instructions. For a 1-year grant, one Progress Report is due 6 months into the grant year. A grant with a 2-year Period of Performance will require Progress Reports at 6 months, 12 months and 18 months. A Progress Report shall include:

1. A brief summary of work completed to date, including a discussion of major problems (if any) encountered, such as reasons for not being able to recruit sufficient subjects for the study (if applicable);
2. A plan to remedy the problems;
3. An explanation and justification for any deviation from the original plan of action; and
4. An explanation of any proposed changes to the plan.

In addition, the report(s) should include a list of presentations, abstracts, and articles published or submitted for publication related to this study.

The grantee is also required to submit electronic copies (hard copies are acceptable only when electronic copies are unavailable) of the following:

1. Copies of abstracts and articles related to this project;
2. Copies of any survey instruments developed or used in the course of the project;
3. Copies of measurement instruments developed or used in the project; and
4. Any other information pertinent to the research project.

Failure to submit a Progress Report on time may delay or forfeit the release of the next increment of funding. In addition, a sub-committee of the SRC may review Progress Reports and make recommendations for non-competitive renewal for Year 2.
**Final Report**: All grantees are expected to submit a Final Report to FPTR within thirty (30) days of completion of the HSRPG Period of Performance. Failure to submit a Final Report will be the grantee from any future FPTR funding as the grantee will NOT be considered in GOOD STANDING with FPTR. Further, any PENDING funding award from FPTR will be contingent upon the submission and approval of a HSRPG Final Report if there is overlap between the current Period of Performance and the other funding mechanism’s application deadline. The Final Report should be submitted electronically through the online portal.

**It must include:**

1. A detailed account of expenditures from the Sponsoring Institution (including but not limited to that portion paid for by the grant);  
2. Work completed during the course of the research;  
3. Explanation of any changes to the original plan;  
4. Plans for future research projects related to the study;  
5. Plans for dissemination of information related to the study; and  
6. Copies of abstracts and articles since the last Progress Report that are related to this project.

Grantees are also required to update the electronic abstract with the following information and e-mail it to the Scientific Program Administrator at the time the Final Report is submitted:

1. **Findings**: Results from the project  
2. **Lay Language Summary**: An updated description of the project in terms a non-physical therapist can understand that includes a summary of the project findings, suitable for distribution and publication by FPTR.
3. A complete list of all presentations, abstracts, and articles submitted, in press, or published that are related to this study.

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**Request for Approval of Changes**

**Changes to the Budget**: A budget shall be submitted by the grantee and approved by FPTR prior to the commencement of any research. The grantee must obtain written approval from FPTR if expenditures are expected to deviate significantly (see below) from the distribution in the approved budget. If the deviation is significant, a revised budget must be submitted to FPTR for consideration. **FPTR shall have thirty (30) days to review any request for approval of a revised budget.** FPTR may approve or not approve changes at its discretion.

**Changes less than 20%**: FPTR does not require pre-approval of a departure from budgeted amounts as long as the departure does not exceed twenty per cent (20%) in any line item. However, any departure from the original budget must be explained fully in the progress and yearly reports.

**Changes greater than 20%**: Transfers between line item in excess of twenty per cent (20%) and requests for expenditures in categories not initially included in the approved budget may be interpreted as representing changes in the overall plan of action. Accordingly, prior FPTR approval is required for all changes in line items of greater than 20%.

**Changes to the Plan of Action**: The grantee must obtain written approval from FPTR before making any material change in the plan of action, timetable for completion (including no-cost extensions), acquisition of subjects, etc. Requests for changes to the plan must be made in writing. **FPTR shall have thirty (30) days to review such requests and respond in writing to the grantee.** If the request is made less than thirty (30) days prior to the next scheduled payment, the monies may be held until approval of any changes is given.

**Extension of Study**: A request for additional funding to extend work on an approved HSRPG will be treated as a new application in response to a request for proposals. A written request for extension of reporting deadlines with no additional funding, a no-cost extension (NCE), must outline in detail the reasons for the request. **The request must be received by FPTR thirty days (30) prior to the expiration of the original grant Period of Performance.**

In the event that a NCE is granted, no PENDING applications for another FPTR funding mechanism from the grantee will be considered until the term of the extension has expired and the grantee has met the reporting and obligation requirements of the award.
Changes in Status of Grantee: The grantee must notify FPTR upon becoming aware of any changes or pending changes (e.g., changes in key personnel) that may prevent accomplishment or substantially alter the goals and objectives of the research program. Such notice must be received by FPTR within five (5) days of the grantee’s becoming aware of any such change or pending change. FPTR may request additional information from which a decision to continue or to terminate the HSRPG can be made. FPTR, in its sole discretion, shall determine whether the change jeopardizes the Principal Investigator’s ability to complete the research program and whether funding of the project shall continue. In cases of early termination, the grantee and Sponsoring Institution shall be notified by FPTR in writing sixty (60) days prior to the termination of the HSRPG. The Sponsoring Institution should be aware that if the decision is made by any party to terminate the grant, any unpaid award increments may be forfeited or pro-rated and/or unused funds already awarded will be requested to be returned to FPTR.

If the grantee fails to notify FPTR at all or not within the specified time period, they will NOT be considered in GOOD STANDING with FPTR, and will NOT be eligible to apply for any other FPTR funding mechanism.

Ownership of Equipment

Title to all apparatus, equipment, material, instruments, and products purchased, built, prepared or fabricated by an agency with FPTR research grant funds will normally vest in the grantee, with the understanding that such equipment will remain in use for the specific project for which it was obtained.

For items of equipment having a unity acquisition cost of $1,000 or more, the award letter may reserve the right to transfer title to FPTR or to a third party named by FPTR when such third party is otherwise eligible.

FPTR Credit Acknowledgement

To ensure that support provided by FPTR is adequately reflected, all publications, presentations, and press releases prepared in connection with the research program must include an appropriate credit line as follows:

“This research has been supported in full/part by a Health Services Research Pipeline Grant from the Foundation for Physical Therapy Research through a generous donation by the American Physical Therapy Association.”

Posters must display the FPTR logo and presentations must use the FPTR funding acknowledgement slide provided at time of award.

The Letter of Agreement will specify the endowment or group responsible for funding the HSRPG, which should be added to the acknowledgement as well.

FPTR may not consider future funding requests from the Sponsoring Organization/Institution and will deny future funding to the grantee if credit acknowledgment is not included.

Publications Resulting from HSRPG:

- Publications are not subject to FPTR approval but the grantee is encouraged to submit a publication to the Physical Therapy Journal.
- The Sponsoring Organization/Institution or grantee shall notify FPTR of the intention to release for publication the results of FPTR-funded research.
- One (1) copy of all submitted papers should be sent electronically to FPTR at the time of submission.
- One (1) copy of all published papers and/or abstracts relating to the funded study should be sent to FPTR electronically immediately upon publication.
- For a period of five (5) years following the completion of the project and submission of the Final Report, upon request, the grantee is required to submit information to FPTR electronically regarding all submitted, in press or published papers; and submitted or accepted abstracts related to the HSRPG.
**Presentations Resulting from HSRPG:**

- Presentations are not subject to FPTR approval.
- The Sponsoring Organization/Institution or grantee shall notify FPTR of the intention to present the results of FPTR-funded research.
- The grantee is required to submit results from the completed project to a national or international conference (preferably the American Physical Therapy Association) for a poster of platform presentation within two (2) years after completion of the HSRPG.
- One (1) copy of all poster presentations and exhibits relating to the funded study should be sent to FPTR immediately following presentation.
- For a period of five (5) years following the completion of the HSRPG and submission of the Final Report, the grantee is required to submit summary information to FPTR at least annually regarding each poster presentation and/or exhibit presentation related to the funded research project.

**Press Releases Concerning HSRPG:**

- Press releases prepared by the grantee are not subject to FPTR’s approval.
- For a period of three (3) years following completion of the HSRPG and submission of the Final Report, the grantee shall provide FPTR with an electronic informational copy of all announcements to the media related to the grantee and/or the work to be done or work accomplished under the HSRPG.
- FPTR may use the abstract from the original grant proposal and information contained in the electronic abstract and the Progress and Final Reports in preparing announcements to the media and other efforts to promote public awareness and appraise potential FPTR funding sources of work in progress.

**Royalties/Patent Policy**

Any invention that has been accorded FPTR support shall herein be referred to as a FPTR Invention. The grantee shall notify FPTR in writing within thirty (30) days of the filing by the Sponsoring Organization/Institution or grantee of any application for a patent, and of any invention first introduced into practice with the financial support, in whole or in part, of FPTR.

**Title:** Title to any FPTR Invention shall belong to the Sponsoring Organization/Institution or grantee and not to FPTR.

**Patent Abandonment:** No patent application or patent shall be abandoned by the Sponsoring Organization/Institution or grantee without first notifying FPTR in writing and affording FPTR the opportunity to take title to FPTR Invention and pursue the patent process at FPTR’s expense.

**Revenue Sharing** It is expressly understood that FPTR shall share 50/50 in the Net Royalty Income derived from a FPTR Invention. Net Royalty Income is defined as gross royalty income generated by FPTR Invention less the direct, out-of-pocket patent costs of the Sponsoring Organization/Institution or grantee. FPTR shall have the right to accounting with respect to the determination of Net Royalty Income.

Upon notification of the filing of a patent application, the Sponsoring Organization/Institution or grantee shall enter into a written agreement (the Revenue Sharing Agreement) with FPTR wherein the sum certain, method of payment, and duration of FPTR’s participation shall be scheduled. Any disputes between the parties related to the Revenue Sharing Agreement shall be settled in arbitration by a majority of three arbitrators.

FPTR and the Sponsoring Organization/Institution or grantee shall each designate one arbitrator, and the two so selected shall select the third arbitrator. Any such arbitration proceeding shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association.

**Patent Assignment:** In the event the Sponsoring Organization/Institution or grantee or licensee, if any, has not taken effective steps to bring FPTR Invention to practical application within three (3) years after the issuance of a United States patent on such a FPTR Invention, the Sponsoring Organization/Institution or grantee agrees to assign said patent to FPTR. Notice of such right of assignment to FPTR shall be included and agreed to in any licensing agreement entered into between the Sponsoring Organization/Institution or grantee and third party licensee. FPTR shall have the right to cancel any licenses issued under said patent upon exercising the right of assignment.
**Government Agencies**: Notwithstanding the foregoing, if any FPTR Invention is made with joint support of FPTR and any agency or department of the United States Government, FPTR may defer to the patent policy of that agency or department if such deference is a required condition of support provided by the agency or department.

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**CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF APPLICATION**

FPTR’s SRC has responsibility for reviewing applications for the HSRPG and recommending to FPTR BOT which proposal(s), if any, will qualify for funding. The SRC, in evaluating applications, will take into account the following:

**Overall Impact**: The project’s overall impact on the field will be considered, weighting the review criteria and addressing the strengths and weaknesses of the application in terms of the five review criteria. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have a major scientific impact, and thus, deserve a high merit rating. For example, an investigator may propose to carry out important work that by its nature is not innovative, but is essential to move a field forward or improve clinical decision or outcome.

**Significance**: Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical technologies, treatments, services, or preventative instructions that drive this field be changed? Does the project address an APTA Health Service Research Pipeline Area of Interest or Section V. of the APTA Research Agenda question? If so, which question(s)? Does the proposed methodology enable the investigator to answer the question(s)?

**Approach**: Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analysis well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility and will particularly risky aspects be managed? Is the sample size appropriate? Are the recruitment and retention plans well thought out? Are the assessment and outcome measures to be used appropriate? If the project involves clinical research, are the plans for 1) protection of human subjects from research risks and 2) inclusion of minorities and members of both sexes/genders, as well as the inclusion of children justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed? Does the study carry greater than minimal risk? Does the study have the likelihood of IRB Approval?

**Investigators**: Is/are the Primary Investigator, collaborators, and other researchers well-suited to the project? Do they have appropriate experience and training? If established, have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)?

**Innovation**: Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of practice or novel in the broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?

**Environment**: Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Are the institutional support, equipment, and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed? Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements?
V. Health Services Research/Policy

1. Perform economic evaluation of specific physical therapy interventions.
2. Evaluate the effect of physical therapy service delivery models on economic and patient/client outcomes and consumer choice.
3. Determine the relationship between documentation and payment.
4. Evaluate the comparative cost and/or cost-effectiveness of specific physical therapy interventions compared with or in combination with other interventions.
5. Investigate factors that influence patient/client choices when selecting a health care provider or making treatment decisions.
6. Develop and evaluate new methods for incorporating patient/client values and expectations into the decision-making process.
7. Evaluate the effectiveness of shared clinical decision-making schemes between the patient/client and therapist on clinical outcomes and costs.
8. Establish the extent to which physical therapists deliver services in accordance with recommended guidelines for specific conditions and its impact on outcomes.
9. Determine disparities in the access to and provision of physical therapy and their impact on outcomes.
10. Examine the interaction among access, culture, and health literacy on physical therapy outcomes.
11. Examine the cultural competence of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants and its impact on intervention.
12. Develop innovative medical informatics applications for physical therapy and assess their impact on clinical decision making.
13. Investigate the influence of health policies on practice patterns and outcomes.
14. Evaluate methods to enhance adherence to recommended practice guidelines.
15. Assess the impact of continuity of physical therapy services on outcomes.
16. Describe patterns of physical therapy use and identify factors that contribute to variation in utilization.