



Huffines Institute, 356 Blocker Bldg.
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College Station, TX 77843
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Sydney and J.L. Huffines Institute for Sports Medicine and Human Performance FY2017-18 Faculty Research Seed Grant Program

Purpose

The purpose of the Huffines Institute Seed Grant program is to provide limited financial support to Huffines' Affiliate Faculty members for research that contributes to the mission of the Huffines Institute and that will provide data leading to proposals for extramural funding.

Eligibility

To be eligible, you must be a faculty affiliate member of the Huffines Institute of Sports Medicine and Human Performance (go to HuffinesInstitute.org to apply for Affiliate Status). These grants ARE NOT limited to faculty in HLKN or CEHD.

Limitations

- An Affiliate may **not** receive more than one Huffines Seed Grant in a two-year fiscal period.
- Funding is limited to direct costs associated with conducting research. Costs for the production of a research report and for computer equipment and software are not allowed.
- Travel requests must be clearly justified and linked directly to data collection. Requests for travel to professional meetings will not be considered.
- Huffines seed grants are limited to \$7,500 direct costs.
- Total funding budgeted for this program is \$15,000 (based on past demand for the program); however, the Institute reserves the right to fund fewer grants than budgeted.
- Funds from this award will begin July 30, 2017 and must be spent by June 30, 2017, or be returned to the Institute.
- Applications will be evaluated on scientific merit. The Huffines Seed Grants require applicants to provide a clear description of how seed funding will contribute toward the development of successful extramural research grant proposals.

Post Award Requirements

- Submit a written report of the research results by the end of the award period (i.e. 8/31/18). The report must document publications and external grant proposals supported by this award. Lack of external proposals from the grant will hinder consideration of the faculty member for further seed-grant opportunities.
- The Awardee will serve on the Huffines Institute's Internal Advisory Council for the period of the grant
- ***All publications and presentations of the results of the funded research must credit the Sydney and J.L. Huffines Institute of Sports Medicine and Human Performance.***

Submission Procedures

- Deadline for submission is **June 1, 2017** (late submissions not accepted).
- Grantees will be notified by letter as to the outcome of their application by July 15, 2017.
- Scan completed application form and required materials into one .pdf file and title the file: "your_last_name"_Faculty_research_2015.pdf
- Email the application file to: Huffines@tamu.edu

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**Sydney and J.L. Huffines Institute for Sports Medicine and Human Performance
Faculty Research Grant Application Cover Form**

Name Faculty Rank Phone # Date

E-mail: Unit/Department:

Research Project Title

Attach project description to this cover form (see attached pages for application specifics)

Required Signature:

Huffines Faculty Affiliate Applicant

Printed name of Applicant

FOR INSTITUTE USE ONLY:

Approved amount: _____

Approved date: _____

Signature of approval: _____

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Proposal Sections:

To facilitate use of this proposal for future external funding, the proposal will largely take the form of an NIH R03 application. The written proposal of the project should use 0.5 inch margins, 11 point Arial font, and consist of the following sections:

Section 1) Specific aims (one page);

Section 2) Research Strategy (6 page limit) – includes:

a) Significance

b) Innovation

c) Approach

Section 3) Detailed Dissemination and External Funding Plan (1 page limit)

Section 4) Budget (one page)

Detail proposed expenditures in the following categories: i) Equipment, ii) Supplies & Expendables, iii) Essential Travel for Data Collection, iv) Other;

Section 5) NIH Biosketch (limited to 3 pages).

Description of Proposal Sections:

Specific Aims – This section should include a brief introduction, the long-range goal of the investigator’s research program, the overall goal of the proposed research, the specific aims that will be used to fulfill the overall goal, the expected outcomes, and the potential significance of the results.

Significance – In short, this section should define the positive effect that the proposed research will have on the knowledge base in this area. As NIH defines it, this section answers the following questions: “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 practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventive interventions that drive this field?” (*SF424, Application Guide for NIH and Other PHS Agencies*). Whichever of the questions you answer in describing the significance of your project, you should understand that this section is critical in letting the reviewer know how your project ‘fits’ within current knowledge. This section should probably be about 0.5 – 0.75 pages long.

Innovation – This section really should describe how the approach you are taking is different/novel from the past attempts to answer this question. What is/are the new and different way(s) that this project approaches the fundamental question you are addressing? Again, NIH says: “Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by using novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense?” This section should be about 0.5-0.75 pages long.

Approach – This section will take up the rest of the proposal (about 3.5 pages) and should describe how you are going to fulfill the Aims you put forward earlier. This section has to be brief, succinct, and concise. In general, you want to focus more on your experimental design (i.e. how are you going to test your hypothesis?) versus details of your methods. However, you will need to give enough

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evidence that you can complete the methods you propose. **IMPORTANTLY**, this section should indicate the status of this protocol with the appropriate compliance committee (e.g. IRB, IACUC, IBC). If your protocol already has approval, please provide a copy of the approval notification. If your project is still pending approval and you are awarded a grant, you will not be able to expend any funds until you have final approval from the appropriate compliance committee.

Dissemination/funding plans – This section should lay out very specifically how you intend to disseminate the results (e.g. presentations, papers to what journals), an itemized timeline for this dissemination, and what external funding mechanisms are going to be pursued with these results. For example, if you were going to pursue NIH/NSF funding, you would want to clearly indicate which program you were applying to (e.g. R03, R21, R01) and the timeline by which you'll be applying. As noted earlier, the focus of this program is to provide financial support for seed results that will be used for external funding proposals. Thus, the detail in this section is important. Further, it will be helpful if you detail what papers and/or external funding proposals resulted from any previous funding you received from the Huffines.

Two-page NIH biosketch – NIH has (again) recently introduced a revised format for the biosketch; in particular, they significantly changed the publication section – which is now called the “Contribution to Science” section (plus, the “personal statement” section that was added about four years ago has been tweaked as well). Since the Huffines’ grants are for single-investigators, it is assumed that you are responsible for all aspects of the grant; thus, you should not include the “personal statement” section. Thus, please reduce the biosketch to three pages, and in particular, be detailed in the “other support” section, especially as it pertains to funding over the past three years. Here is a link to the new biosketch where you can find the form and an example:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/index.htm> - format

Reviewer Guidelines:

It is always nice to understand by what guidelines your effort will be judged. Thus, at least two external reviewers will be asked to comment on the following four core criteria of each proposal:

- a) Significance:** Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field?
- b) Investigators:** Can the individual do the project?
- c) Innovation:** Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies novel to the field?
- d) Approach:** Does the approach proposed provide the best chance for success?

The reviewers will score each of these core criteria on a scale of 1 (exceptional) – 9 (poor).

The reviewers will also give an overall priority score ranging from 1 (exceptional) – 9 (poor). This overall priority score **will not be** an average of the core criteria scores, but will be an overall score that considers the complete package and likelihood of success. Overall priority scores from the reviewers for each application will be averaged to give each grant an overall priority score and that average score will be multiplied by 10 for the final score.