



ATA Innovative Grants Research Program

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Grant Application Opens: March 11, 2021

Grant Application Closes: May 1, 2021

The American Tinnitus Association (ATA) is committed to advancing the tinnitus research field through the following goals:

- (1) attracting more researchers nationally and internationally to the field of tinnitus,
- (2) encouraging innovative research,
- (3) advancing the careers of early investigators in the field of tinnitus.

The ATA encourages a multidisciplinary approach to solve the complex and variable experience within tinnitus research, clinical care, and patient outcomes.

Application Instructions

Instructions must be followed exactly or the application will be returned.

*The deadline for submitting the application is May 1, 2021, 5:00pm ET. (www.ata.org/research-toward-cure)
No pre-application is required.*

Policy Governing the Adherence to Research Grant Application Instructions

1. Within three business days of ATA's receipt of a grant proposal, the proposal will be reviewed by ATA's Scientific Grants Program Officer to determine whether or not the format of the proposal meets the guidelines established by the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and approved by the ATA Board of Directors (Board).
2. When non-substantive changes in a proposal would bring that proposal into compliance with the guidelines, the grant applicant will be so notified and will be given seven business days in which to make those non-substantive changes.
3. The determination of whether a needed change is substantive or non-substantive will be made in each case by a majority decision of a committee comprised of the Program Officer, the SAC Chair, and the Board Chair. This determination will be made prior to any notification being given to the grant applicant. The above protocol will apply at any time that the grant application is submitted during the application cycle up to and including the deadline date for that cycle.

General Format for the Grant Application

The application should include the ATA application forms, your research proposal, and several addendums to your research proposal, as listed below.

The ATA provides three blank application pages for you to use as you complete your application:

- (1) Title of Project, Personnel and Transmittal Information
- (2) Detailed Budget
- (3) Other Research Support

Each of these forms is to be used as designated below.

In addition, the applicant can use their word processor of choice to complete the remaining components of the application checklist, including the Application, Research Proposal, and Addendums to the Research Proposal. Applications are to be submitted in both .docx and .pdf format, with pages ordered appropriately as designated on the checklist.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Be sure your application includes the following components, in this order, following noted length requirements:

- Application:**
 - Title of Project, Personnel and Transmittal Information (do not exceed the page length provided)
 - Introduction to revised application (NOTE: for resubmissions only, 2 pages maximum)
 - Abstract (do not exceed 3,000 characters)
 - Keywords (do not exceed 260 characters)
- Research Proposal** (10 pages maximum):
 - Specific Aims
 - Background and Significance
 - Preliminary Studies
 - Facilities
 - Research Design and Methodology
- Research Proposal Addendums:**
 - Principal Investigator Biosketch (NIH format, 5 pages maximum)
 - Co-Investigator Biosketch (NIH format, 5 pages maximum for each biosketch)
 - Detailed Budget (do not exceed the page length provided)
 - Other Research Support (do not exceed the page length provided for each grant/funding mechanism)
 - Literature Cited (2 pages maximum)
 - Glossary and/or Abbreviations (optional, 2 pages maximum)
 - IRB or IACUC approval, or copy of filing for IRB or IACUC approval from the associated institution (no page limit)

NOTE: Proof of IRB or IACUC approval is required prior to distribution of funds. It is suggested that documentation of IRB or IACUC approval is submitted within the ATA grant application due date.

Reminders for a Smooth Submission Process

- Submit your application before the application due date to overcome any potential technical difficulties.
- Ensure all components of your application are included as designated on the checklist, otherwise your application may be returned.
- Collate the pages of your application in a single document using the order specified in the checklist below.
- DO NOT include page numbers in your document – they will be added after submission.

- Ensure each page of your application lists the Principal Investigator's name at the top of the page.
- Applications are to be submitted in both .docx and .pdf format, with pages ordered as designated.
- Use Arial or Times New Roman typeface in 11-point font size or larger.
- No pages other than those specified in the application are allowed.

How to Submit the Application

Applications must be submitted electronically in both a Word document and a signed PDF file to grants@ata.org. Your Word and PDF documents should be single files, with all application materials and responses included in the proper order and WITHOUT page numbers.

Application Form

The ATA Grant Application Form must be completed within the provided form, adhering to all required character and word limits as designated. The Application Form and associated materials include several components:

- Title of Project, Personnel and Transmittal Information** (do not exceed the page length provided)

The title of your project, personnel and transmittal information should be included in the designated form. The title of the project should not exceed 500 characters. Information related to aspects of this form should be contained within the single page of this form, with no additional pages provided.

All grant applicants must agree to the legal agreement outlined on Page 1 of the Grant Application form. If state laws prohibit you from signing the ATA grant application as written, please submit, with your signed application, revised legal language that is acceptable to your institution.

- Introduction to Revised Application** (NOTE: for resubmissions only, 2 pages maximum)

If this grant is a resubmission of a proposal previously submitted to and reviewed by the ATA, a two-page description of changes may precede the Specific Aims section of the Research Proposal. The applicant is encouraged to detail any improvements between the applications. Preliminary data is strongly encouraged.

- Abstract** (do not exceed 3,000 characters)

Provide a summary of your research proposal. Include the project's broad long-term objectives and specific aims. Include a description of the research design and methods for achieving the stated goals. Do NOT include proprietary or confidential information, or trade secrets. Write in plain language, so a non-scientist or patient member of the tinnitus community can understand the importance of the project.

- Keywords** (do not exceed 260 characters)

List any keywords that relate to your application to assist reviewers in associating your application to related materials and publications.

Research Proposal: Main Document

The main document of the Research Proposal must be completed with all listed sections, with all components completed in a single-spaced document with 1-inch margins, not to exceed 10 pages.

The Research Proposal must include the following components with a total length of 10 pages. Suggested length of each subsection is included, but the applicant may opt for a different length of each section as long as it follows the 10-page overall limit for the main document of the Research Proposal.

- Specific Aims:** suggested length of 1 page

Applicants should follow the NIH format for Specific Aims. See <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/draft-specific-aims> for further guidance.

- Background and Significance:** suggested length of 2 pages

Detail the project's background including supporting data, previous work, and results obtained on this subject. Identify the gaps that the project is intended to fill. Link the specific aims to the long-term objectives. Specific components that will assist the reviewers in evaluating your application include:

Long-term goals related to this project:

- Clinical application including outline of steps of progression, if appropriate
- Relation to Hearing Health
- Innovation and Significance

- Preliminary Studies:** suggested length of 1–2 pages

Present preliminary studies pertinent to the application information. Preliminary and/or pilot data are strongly encouraged to support an application, complete with figures and figure legends. Figures and figure legends must fit within the 10-page limit for the main document of the Research Proposal; however, figure legends may be presented in 9-point font if desired.

In the absence of preliminary data generated by the proposed investigators, a thorough review of published work with precise examples that support the proposal are encouraged; however, replications of published figures without the author's consent are NOT allowed. Should the investigator wish to reference a published figure for which they do not have permission from the author, the investigator may reference the figure in the text.

- Facilities:** suggested length of 0.5 page

Proposals must identify the facilities to be used and other resources that are directly applicable to the proposed work. Details should focus on the institution where the proposed research is to be conducted instead of listing all potential facilities accessible by the investigators of the proposed work.

- Research Design and Methodology:**

Proposals must clearly define the research design and methodology for the proposed work. The research design and methodology will fit within the Research Proposal, inclusive of all other above-listed sections, which is not to exceed 10 pages total. See [NIH Guidelines](#) for general guidance when writing research design documents, if needed. Reference the scoring criteria in these instructions to ensure the proposed research design addresses all areas to be evaluated and subsequently scored by the Scientific Advisory Committee.

Research Proposal: Addendums

The addendums to the Research Proposal include documents that support the application but do not contribute significantly to the scientific proposal in the main document.

The addendums to the Research Proposal include several components:

- Principal Investigator Biosketch** (NIH format, 5 pages maximum)

Follow the NIH format for the biosketch. See <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm> for further guidance.

- Co-Investigator Biosketch** (NIH format, 5 pages maximum for each biosketch)

Follow the NIH format for the biosketch. See <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm> for further guidance.

- Detailed Budget** (do not exceed the page length provided)

The ATA funds research grants in different amounts per project, per year. Multi-year projects are considered but funding is reviewed and appropriated on a year-to-year basis. The ATA does not guarantee funding for projects continuing beyond the current annual grant cycle. Multi-year research projects must re-apply for grant

consideration each year and include a progress report on the prior year's results (email grants@ata.org for specific instructions). The maximum funding for any project is \$120,000 over two (2) years.

Allowed expenses include salaries of principal investigator and supporting personnel; equipment purchases or supplies, including drugs and services; and indirect costs up to 10% of the grant. Grant funds may not be used for principal investigator travel or living expenses, or for information, education, or printing costs.

Detailed annual budget with justification is required

- Other Research Support** (do not exceed the provided page for EACH funding mechanism)

Provide all funding and pending support for all key personnel, complete with an abstract for each project.

Other Support includes all financial resources, whether Federal, non-Federal, commercial or institutional, available in direct support of an individual's research endeavors, including but not limited to research grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and/or institutional awards. Training awards, prizes, or gifts do not need to be included.

If the NIH or another source funds a similar or overlapping project, it is incumbent upon the principal investigator and the grantee institution to notify the ATA promptly.

Use the form titled "Other Research Support" as a template for the information to provide along with the abstract. EACH grant or funding mechanism requires a single form that is limited to a single page for each funding mechanism. For example, if an applicant has 3 other grants that are active or pending, then the applicant will submit three "Other Research Support" templates completed with financial details and an abstract for each of those three grants.

On the "Other Research Support" form, insert the total amount of current research support for the PI (direct costs only/per annum). If the PI is NOT receiving any current research support, enter \$0. Do NOT include the co-investigator's current support in this total. In addition, upload letters confirming any other research support and relevant abstracts along with the template for both PI and co-investigator.

Indirect costs are *included* in the total costs, i.e. total costs including indirect costs must equal no more than the total of the grant per year.

Funds are not transferable without prior written approval. Unused funds are to be returned to the ATA at the termination of the award.

- Literature Cited** (2 pages maximum)

Using APA format please include an alphabetized list of citations used throughout the application. To cite work within the application, be sure to use the format (Last Name, et al., Year). Additional information about in-text citations with APA format can be found online, with the Purdue Online Writing Lab being one of several excellent resources for both [in-text citations](#) and when creating the [reference list](#).

- Glossary and/or Abbreviations** (optional, 2 pages maximum)
- IRB or IACUC** approval, or copy of filing for IRB or IACUC approval from the associated institution (no page limit)

NOTE: Proof of IRB or IACUC approval is required prior to distribution of funds. It is suggested that documentation of IRB or IACUC approval is submitted within the ATA grant application due date.

The deadline for submitting a grant application is 5:00pm ET on May 1, 2021.

SCORING CRITERIA

To assist the applicant's understanding of the criteria by which each grant will be evaluated, scoring criteria to be used by the Scientific Advisory Committee are included here for reference.

The cumulative score will be between 0 and 100 points.

Each proposal will receive a score in each of the below-listed categories, which is summarized with an ordinal ranking. Scores of 9–10 points are termed as "Excellent", scores of 7–8 points are "Very Good", scores of 5–6 points are "Good", scores of 3–4 points are "Fair", and scores of 0–2 points are considered "Poor".

Average scores from evaluators must attain at least 70 points to be considered for funding by the American Tinnitus Association's Board of Directors.

Categories

1. Investigators
 - a. Excellent: Experienced team of researchers with publications in the area of tinnitus.
 - b. Very Good
 - c. Good: Adequate research experience or publication history in fields related to tinnitus.
 - d. Fair
 - e. Poor: Inadequate research experience or publication history by the principal investigator and/or co-investigators in fields related to tinnitus.
2. Environment
 - a. Excellent: Appropriate facilities and environment to complete the proposed work.
 - b. Very Good
 - c. Good: Conditions are not ideal but workable to complete the proposed work.
 - d. Fair
 - e. Poor: Inadequate facilities and environment to support the proposed work.
3. Goals
 - a. Excellent: Goals are specific and appropriate for the funding period.
 - b. Very Good
 - c. Good: Goals are adequate in specificity but are too ambitious for the funding period.
 - d. Fair
 - e. Poor: Goals are too broad and lack specificity.
4. Explanation of Goals
 - a. Excellent: Well-articulated explanation and/or justification of goals.
 - b. Very Good
 - c. Good: Adequate explanation and/or justification of goals.
 - d. Fair
 - e. Poor: Goals are poorly articulated and/or poorly justified.
5. Innovation and Approach
 - a. Excellent: Highly innovative/novel project.
 - b. Very Good
 - c. Good: Project has potential to advance research but lacks innovation.
 - d. Fair
 - e. Poor: Project does not extend knowledge beyond previously published work.
6. Relevance to Funding Goals
 - a. Excellent: Proposed research clearly outlines relevance to the goals of innovative seed grant research.
 - b. Very Good
 - c. Good: Proposed research has some overlap with the goals of innovative seed grant research.
 - d. Fair
 - e. Poor: Proposed research has no overlap with the goals of innovative seed grant research.

7. Patient Impact
 - a. Excellent: Direct applications to patient care.
 - b. Very Good
 - c. Good: Limited direct applications to patient care.
 - d. Fair
 - e. Poor: No direct applications to patient care.
8. May Lead to a Cure or Treatment
 - a. Excellent: Strong probability that the proposed research will lead to a cure or treatment for tinnitus.
 - b. Very Good
 - c. Good: Likely probability that the proposed research will support future directions toward a cure or treatment for tinnitus.
 - d. Fair
 - e. Poor: No possibility that the proposed research will support a future treatment for tinnitus.
9. Potential for Clinical Application
 - a. Excellent: Direct clinical application from the outcome of the proposed research.
 - b. Very Good
 - c. Good: Potential for direct clinical application or likely indirect clinical application from the outcome of the proposed research.
 - d. Fair
 - e. Poor: No possibility for either direct or indirect clinical application from the outcome of the proposed research.
10. Overall Evaluation
 - a. Excellent: Clearly an outstanding proposal.
 - b. Very Good: Proposal has great potential.
 - c. Good: Proposal has potential but needs revisions.
 - d. Fair: Proposal is weak overall.
 - e. Poor: Proposal is not recommended.

ATA Grant Application Form



1) TITLE OF PROJECT, PERSONNEL, AND TRANSMITTAL INFORMATION

1. TITLE OF PROJECT (500 characters maximum)					
2. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR		Continued funding request? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes			
2a. NAME (Last, first, middle)		2b. INSTITUTION/ EIN Number			
2c. POSITION TITLE		2d. MAILING ADDRESS (Street, city, state, zip code, Country)			
2e. DEPARTMENT (AND DEPARTMENT HEAD)					
TEL:		FAX:		EMAIL:	
3a. CO-INVESTIGATOR NAME AND TITLE		3b. CO-INVESTIGATOR DEPARTMENT (AND DEPARTMENT HEAD)			
4. HUMAN SUBJECTS RESEARCH <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		5. ANIMAL RESEARCH <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		6. Proof of Institutional Review Board or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Approval Enclosed: <input type="checkbox"/> No If "No," proof of application to IRB/IACUC required. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If "Yes," attach IRB/IACUC approval letter.	
7. LENGTH OF TOTAL PROPOSED PROJECT (in years)* <input type="checkbox"/> One <input type="checkbox"/> Two <input type="checkbox"/> Three		8. PROJECT YEAR FOR WHICH YOU SEEK FUNDING <input type="checkbox"/> One <input type="checkbox"/> Two <input type="checkbox"/> Three	9a. Total Costs Requested** for Yr 1 (\$)	9b. Total Costs Requested** for Yr 2 (\$)	9c. Total Costs Requested** for Yr 3 (\$)
10. ADMIN OFFICIAL TO BE SENT THE CHECK IF AWARD IS MADE			11. OFFICIAL SIGNING FOR APPLICANT ORGANIZATION		
Payable to c/o Name Title Address Tel: E-Mail:			Name Title Address Tel: E-Mail:		
FAX:			FAX:		

* ATA does not guarantee funding for projects continuing beyond the current annual grant cycle. Multi-year research projects must re-apply for grant consideration each year. The maximum funding for any project is \$60,000/year and \$120,000 over 2 years.

** If you received ATA funding for a previous year of this study, use the Total Costs Requested field to indicate the amount *granted* to you for that year.

AGREEMENT: It is understood and agreed by the undersigned by submission of this Application that:

- The undersigned agree to indemnify, hold harmless and defend ATA from and against all liability, judgments, attorney's fees, costs, or claims arising from the conduct of the undersigned, or from the conduct of its investigators, researchers, agents or employees, while conducting the research proposed by this application.
- Any funds received as a result of this Application shall only be expended for tinnitus research as set forth in this Application.
- If human subjects are required under this Application, the undersigned shall comply with all applicable laws of the United States, including but not limited to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1999, and where appropriate, all applicable laws outside the United States.
- If animal research is required by this Application, the undersigned shall comply with the National Institutes of Health rules with respect to animal research and all other applicable laws of the United States, and where appropriate, all applicable laws outside the United States.
- The undersigned will submit to ATA annual budget updates, periodic progress reports, and a final scientific report.
- Failure to abide by the terms of this agreement, including without limitation the timely completion and documentation of the research funded hereby, will entitle ATA to a full refund of any grant monies received by the undersigned. Any action or proceeding arising out of this agreement will be litigated in courts located in Multnomah County, Oregon, USA. The undersigned consents and submits to the jurisdiction of any state or federal court located in Multnomah County, Oregon, USA. This agreement is governed by the laws of the State of Oregon, USA. without giving effect to any conflict-of-law principle that would result in the laws of any other jurisdiction governing this agreement.
- If arbitration or litigation is instituted to interpret, enforce, or rescind this Agreement, including without limitation a proceeding brought under the United States Bankruptcy Code, then the prevailing party will be entitled to recover reasonable attorney's fees incurred in connection with the arbitration, litigation, appeal or petition for review, the collection of any award, or the enforcement of any order, as determined by the arbitrator or court.

12. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR/PROGRAM DIRECTOR ASSURANCE:	SIGNATURE OF PI NAMED IN 2a. <i>(In ink. "Per" signature not acceptable.)</i>	DATE
13. APPLICANT ORGANIZATION CERTIFICATION AND ACCEPTANCE:	SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL NAMED IN 11. <i>(In ink. "Per" signature not acceptable.)</i>	DATE

2) DETAILED BUDGET

Principal Investigator (Last, First, Middle):

PERSONNEL <i>(Applicant organization only)</i>	% EFFORT ON PROJECT	DOLLAR AMOUNT REQUESTED <i>(omit cents)</i>			
NAME		Year 1	Year 2		TOTAL
Principal Investigator <i>(name)</i>					
Co-Investigator(s) <i>(name)</i>					
Assistant(s)					
PERSONNEL SUBTOTAL					
PERMANENT EQUIPMENT <i>(Itemize)</i>					
SUPPLIES <i>(Itemize by category)</i>					
OTHER RELATED EXPENSES <i>(Itemize by category)</i>					
EQUIPMENT SUBTOTAL <i>(Equipment, supplies and other)</i>					
INDIRECT COSTS <i>(Up to 10%)</i>					
TOTAL COSTS <i>(Items 8-9, Page 1)</i>					

JUSTIFICATION OF BUDGET

3) OTHER RESEARCH SUPPORT

Principal Investigator (Last, First, Middle):

Provide active support for all key personnel. **Other Support includes all financial resources, whether Federal, non-Federal, commercial or institutional, available in direct support of an individual's research endeavors, including but not limited to research grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and/or institutional awards.** Training awards, prizes, or gifts do not need to be included.

Information on other support should be provided in the format shown below. Include the principal investigator's name at the top of the page.

If the NIH or another source funds a similar or overlapping project, it is incumbent upon the principal investigator and the grantee institution to notify ATA promptly.

Format

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL

ACTIVE/PENDING

Project Number (Principal Investigator) Source Title of Project (or Subproject)	Dates of Approved/Proposed Project Annual Direct Costs	Percent Effort
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OVERLAP (summarized for each individual project – indicate how project overlaps with current application; if no overlap, indicate “none”)

The major goals of this project are...

The American Tinnitus Association funds awards and seed grants to advance progress in scientific understanding of tinnitus research, and to attract and maintain top research talent in the field. Awards and grants are given once a year for one- or two-year investigations. Two-year investigations require resubmission of an application the following fiscal year, including a progress report, to receive continued funding.

Note: For all grants, priority is given to researchers pursuing projects that could open new lines of inquiry/understanding of tinnitus.

ATA J. and J. Meltzer Career Award* (student education award) US \$3,000

Conference and Travel Grant

Funded by private individuals who believe in the ATA's mission and the power of individual donors to help cultivate young researchers by supporting the costs associated with attending and/or presenting at tinnitus conferences, where younger researchers gain a foothold within the field.

Due to limited in-person conference opportunities during the coronavirus pandemic, grants in this category are being accepted for resident/trained research.

Award period: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

ATA Claymond Castro Career Award* (student education award) US \$3,000

Conference and Travel Grant

Underwritten through the bequest of Claymond Castro, who lived with tinnitus and believed in the ATA's mission to advance scientific understanding of tinnitus through innovative research.

Due to limited in-person conference opportunities during the coronavirus pandemic, grants in this category are being accepted for resident/trained research.

Award period: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

ATA Early Career Research Grant US \$25,000

This grant is aimed at enabling tinnitus researchers in the early stages of their careers to conduct novel investigations, yielding relevant data that can be used for pursuing more substantial grant funding from larger funding institutions, such as the DoD and NIH. *Applicants for early career research grants should have completed their most recent and relevant degree no more than seven years prior to the application deadline.*

Project period: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, renewable for one (1) additional year, pending midterm review.

ATA Golden Anniversary Innovation in Tinnitus Research Grant US \$60,000

In honor of ATA's 50th Anniversary, this grant is open to senior/mid- and early-career researchers investigating novel ideas, including fundamental and clinical research, to advance understanding of tinnitus, its treatment, and possible cure/s. The primary purpose of this grant is to enable the Principal Investigator (PI) to obtain quality data that can be used for seeking further funding from larger institutions, such as the NIH and DoD.

Project period: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, renewable for one (1) additional year, pending midterm review.

ATA Donald M. Bowman \$60,000 Innovation in Tinnitus Grant US \$60,000

Underwritten through the bequest of Donald M. Bowman, this grant is open to senior/mid- and early-career researchers investigating novel ideas, including fundamental and clinical research, to advance understanding of tinnitus, its treatment, and possible cure/s. The primary purpose of this grant is to enable the Principal Investigator (PI) to obtain quality data that can be used for seeking further funding from larger institutions.

Project period: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, renewable for one (1) additional year, pending midterm review.