

EUROSPINE Taskforce Research Grant Application Review

The EUROSPINE TFR funds three types of applications; development proposal (one year), pilot studies (one year), clinical research studies (maximum 3 years or less).

Application #:

Principal Investigator(s):

Score (overall impact and priority):

OVERALL IMPACT AND PRIORITY SCORE

Provide an overall impact score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the application to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved: base this on the following five review criteria. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific impact.

Overall Score: Write a paragraph summarizing the factors that informed your Overall Impact and Priority score (1 highest-9 lowest score)

REVIEW CRITERIA

Reviewers will consider each of five review criteria to estimate the scientific and technical merit. (The explanations of the review criteria are simply suggestions to help focus the review). The additional topics should be considered, but do not form part of the overall (scientific) score.

1. Significance

Does the project address an important problem? Will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? Will successful completion make a difference to the field?

Strengths	Weaknesses

2. Investigator(s)

Can the team do the job? Do the Principal Investigator, collaborators, and other researchers match the project? Do they have an ongoing track record of advancing their field(s)? Is there appropriate experience/training/support?

Strengths	Weaknesses

3. Innovation

Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms? Are the concepts, approaches, or interventions novel? Does it seek to refine or improve existing clinical interventions, or is there a new application of theoretical concepts/methodologies?

Strengths	Weaknesses

4. Approach

Are overall strategy, methodology, and statistical analyses well-reasoned and appropriate for the project? Is the population suitable and are the numbers sufficient? Are potential problems noted, along with strategies to manage the risk?

Strengths	Weaknesses

5. Environment and budget

Are institutional support, equipment and other physical resources adequate for the project proposed? Are the features of the scientific environment or collaborative arrangements well suited to the topic? Are any other resources needed? Are the budget and timeframe appropriate and adequate to complete the project? Are any non-fundable items included? Is the project dependent on other funding?

Strengths	Weaknesses

Ethics

Is ethical approval required? **YES** **NO**

Has approval been obtained? **YES** **NO**

Are there any outstanding ethical/inclusion concerns? **YES** **NO**

Comments

Resubmission

Did the applicants give an acceptable response to the previous review? Yes

Comments

Additional Comments to Applicant (optional)

Reviewers may provide guidance to the applicant or recommend against resubmission without fundamental revision.

Comments

Scoring guidance table

This table gives a descriptive guide on how the strengths and weaknesses should be considered, and how they combine when assigning the overall rating score. It also defines the levels of weakness and indicates an impact rating for the scores.

Score	Descriptor	Additional Guidance on Strengths/Weaknesses
1	Exceptional	Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses
2	Outstanding	Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses
3	Excellent	Very strong with only some minor weaknesses
4	Very Good	Strong but with numerous minor weaknesses
5	Good	Strong but with at least one moderate weakness
6	Satisfactory	Some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses
7	Fair	Some strengths but with at least one major weakness
8	Marginal	A few strengths and a few major weaknesses
9	Poor	Very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses
<p>Weakness guide <i>Minor weakness:</i> An easily addressable weakness that does not substantially lessen impact <i>Moderate weakness:</i> A weakness that lessens impact <i>Major weakness:</i> A weakness that severely limits impact</p>		
<p>Impact guide: Score 1 to 3 = <i>high</i> impact Score 4 to 6 = <i>moderate</i> impact Score 7 to 9 = <i>low</i> impact</p>		

These recommendations for reviewers are adapted from National Institute of Health (NIH USA 2010).