Innovation Grants Program

I. Introduction
The Innovation Grants Program is a pilot initiative that will provide funding to support new scientific, educational, and professional development programs and services developed by AAA’s members and/or Committees. All initiatives must directly connect to the organization’s strategic plan goals:

- Transform the perception of AAA and the discipline of anatomy
- Lead in innovative, high impact biological and biomedical research
- Lead the world as the premier source for information about the field of anatomical sciences
- Maximize member engagement
- Ensure financial sustainability

II. Innovation Grants Program Objectives
This new initiative is designed to improve member engagement in innovation efforts for the association and to promote research by AAA members. The Innovation Grants Program should not be confused with AAA’s Outreach Grants. Innovation Grants focus on looking inward - advancing the organization and aiding AAA members in obtaining independent research funding; while outreach grants focus on looking outward - expanding the organization’s reach and visibility with other organizations.

The Innovation Grants Program is established to creatively support innovation by:

1) Facilitating the development and expansion of learning and research;

2) Providing resources to support the practice of innovation in the scientific community.

III. Innovation Grants Program Funding Mechanism
The 2014 Innovation Grants Program will provide awards of up to $50,000* each with financial support coming from the organization’s Journal Trust Fund. The funds are for total direct costs only. Indirect costs are not allowed.

*Additional funding above $50,000 may be available upon justification and will be considered under a case-by-case basis.

IV. Innovation Grants Program Eligibility
The intended audiences for the Innovation Grants Program are AAA members and/or Committees. Members and Committees directly support the organization’s mission of advancing anatomical science through research, education, and professional development. Volunteers involved with committees provide broad scientific expertise as well as a commitment to AAA’s success.
V. Application Submission Deadline
Applications are due by October 1, 2014. Proposals will be funded for the 2015 calendar year.

VI. Innovation Grants Program Guidelines
Each applicant and/or group (Committee) must submit an application following the format and page layout of a typical NIH grant. For more information on section requirements, please visit the NIH website at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/writing_application.htm

1. Proposal Abstract (one-half page)
2. Specific Aims (no more than one page)
3. Significance or Innovation (this section, Innovation and Approach should not exceed 6 pages)
4. Approach (be sure to include how success will be assessed)
5. Human Subjects (including IRB status), if applicable
6. Vertebrate Animals (including IACUC status), if applicable
7. References Cited
8. Budget and Budget Justification
9. Biosketch of Principle Investigator (research grant or individual grant) or description of committee member’s responsibilities with respect to grant (grant submitted by a Committee)

Note for research proposals: Proposals previously submitted to an agency or foundation and not funded, but for which a review was given to the applicant, will be considered. Previously funded proposals will NOT be considered. The applicant should include a description of the main review concerns and how the AAA Innovation Grant will help address the concerns and position the applicant for future funding.

VII. Peer Review Process
A two-tier review process will include a review committee which will make recommendations to the AAA Board of Directors.

VIII. Award Requirements
Upon granting the award, recipients will be required to document IRB or IACUC approval (if applicable) before funds are distributed. Upon award, 75% of the award amount will be distributed initially, 15% after acceptance of the mid-term progress report and 10% after acceptance of the final report. Recipients are required to present results from their projects/research to the AAA Board of Directors and in a session at the annual conference (Experimental Biology).

IX. Contact Us
For additional information or questions about the Innovation Grants Program, please email sboynes@anatomy.org or call 301.634.7905.