



The CSRS-Europe Research Grant (Supported by Medtronic Spine, Europe)

Criteria for Evaluation of Applications:

Introduction

The review criteria (below) will be effective for all applications for research that are submitted for funding consideration by the CSRS-Europe. An important aspect of the implementation of the criteria is to use them in a consistent manner for applications considered in any given year. Applications for this Research Grant will only be considered if at least one co-author of the applicant group is a current member of the CSRS-Europe.

Review Criteria

An aim of the CSRS-Europe is to support research into the causes and treatment of cervical spine conditions arising from disease, malformation, injury and any other conditions that lead to patient suffering from cervical spine disorders. The resulting knowledge should ultimately be applied in order to achieve a healthy life for patients and reduce the burdens of illness and disability. As part of this mission, applications submitted to the CSRS-Europe for research grants and fellowships to support biomedical and clinical research are evaluated for scientific and technical merit through a peer review system.

Reviewers: Reviewers will assess the proposal using standardized scores, the likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved by a careful consideration of six core domains.

Core Review domains: Reviewers will consider five domains in the determination of scientific and technical merit, and give a separate score for each. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific impact. For example, a project that by its nature is not innovative may be essential to advance a field. Each of the five domains reviewed should be scored from 0 –10 using the scoring guide given at the end of this document which allows a minimum score of 0 to a maximum score of 50 to be attained per reviewer per grant reviewed. The Aggregate scoring average will be determined and ranked to allow consideration of which grant requests are to be awarded subject to the available funding held by the society. There is no predetermined aggregate score or threshold below which a grant will not be made and ranking should be regarded as indicative. Each application should be judged as a whole, and excellence in one domain only may be sufficient to allow a grant to be made by the society

Core Review Domains

Domain 1. 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 practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?

Domain 2. Investigator(s): Are the PD/PIs, collaborators, and other researchers well suited to the project? If Early Stage Investigators or New Investigators, do they have appropriate experience and training? If established, have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)? If the project is collaborative or multi-PD/PI, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise; are their leadership approach, governance and organizational structure appropriate for the project?

Domain 3. 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 research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?

Domain 4. Approach: Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses 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?

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?

Domain 5. 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? Is the proposed budget and the requested period of support fully justified and reasonable in relation to the proposed research?

Domain 6: Analysis is the sample size adequately calculated. Are the statistical analysis adequately described and using techniques that are currently state of the art (eg Bayesian)? Will the results appropriately be described (not only p-values)? Will the non-statistical significance be described?

How to score applications

As part of the assessment process you should score each domain using the following ratings:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| > Does not meet requirements or insufficient information provided (bad) | Score 0 |
| > Meets what is required (average) | Score 2 |
| > Above what is required (good) | Score 6 |
| > Well above what is required (excellent) | Score 10 |

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Evaluation Form

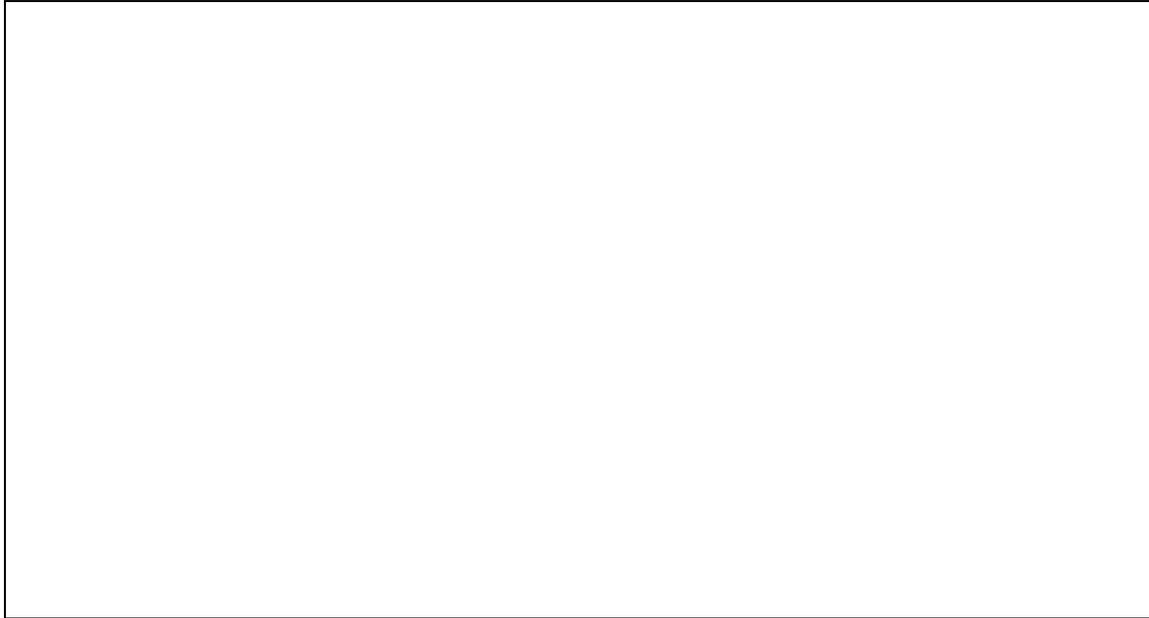
1. Name of Officer scoring the applications:

Enter your name:	
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2. Scoring of the applications 0,2,6,10 (see notes on preceding page):

Grant Application Investigator number:	01	02	03	04
Domain 1. Significance				
Domain 2. Investigator(s)				
Domain 3. Innovation				
Domain 4. Approach				
Domain 5. Environment				
Domain 6. Analysis				
Total Score				

3. Please enter in box below any additional comments you wish to make:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to enter additional comments. The box is currently blank.