



# AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS FOUNDATION

## RESEARCH IN FAMILY MEDICINE GRANT AWARDS

In 2007 the AAFP Foundation Research Committee (RC) discussed the need to have a set of criteria clarifying the expectations for projects granted research awards. In 2008 the committee formally adopted the “Guiding Principles for AAFP Foundation Research Grants” to help focus the deliberation of the proposals and determination of grants.

Since these criteria encompass the overall philosophy of the Foundation’s grant program, the RC believes it is important for the potential applicants for Foundation research grants to understand the criteria as they consider submitting proposals.

### **Guiding Principles for AAFP Foundation Research Grants**

1. To support research of value to the practicing family physician

Rationale: The funds for this program are provided largely by donations of practicing family physicians; the research they support should have relevance to their practice.

2. To fund pilot studies

Rationale: Considerations of statistical power are important, but it should be a priority to fund innovative high quality research, even if that work is not powered to find statistically significant differences. We should encourage investigators to spend these limited resources on the best possible research methods rather than direct funding preferentially to satisfy the demands of sample size/recruitment. In turn, these high quality pilot studies will generate preliminary data to support larger grant applications to major funders which can and will fund large studies.

3. To encourage proposals by junior investigators

Rationale: Without access to small grant funds to support the generation of pilot data, junior investigators are destined to remain just that in today's funding environment. The role of the AAFP Foundation grant programs in supporting the pathway of junior investigators to major funding should not be underestimated.