

Abraham W. Wolf, Ph.D. Endowed Fund  
for Psychotherapy Research

**Goal:**

The Psychotherapy research grant is designed to support high quality research on topics related to psychotherapy process or psychotherapy outcome. Psychotherapy process refers to the series of interactions that occur within sessions between a trained psychotherapist and a client and these interactions are intended to facilitate change in the client's insight, emotion, and/or behavior. Psychotherapy outcome refers to the changes that are intended to occur between sessions, typically viewed as the beneficial effects that accumulate after a cluster of sessions conducted between a psychotherapist and a client.

**Eligibility:**

Both faculty and students affiliated with the CWRU Clinical Psychology Program will be eligible to apply for funds. Eligible faculty members include full-time members of the clinical faculty, members of the adjunct faculty, and field placement supervisors who are active with some aspect of the training through the clinical psychology program. Eligible students can include full-time graduate students enrolled in the graduate program in clinical psychology, and full-time undergraduate students working under the close supervision of an eligible member of the clinical faculty.

**Review Process:**

Applications for funding will be reviewed on a rolling submission basis. Applicants can submit a brief proposal that outlines the goals and methodology used in their research project. Upon receipt, the director of the Psychotherapy Research Fund will organize a subcommittee to evaluate the merits of the design as well as the appropriateness of the budget. The evaluation committee can include at least two faculty members solicited from the clinical faculty, adjunct faculty, and / or field placement supervisors as deemed appropriate by the Psychotherapy Research grant coordinator. The evaluation committee members who serve as expert reviewers will not be directly involved with the conduct or supervision of the proposed research.

**Criteria:**

Proposals will be reviewed on two dimensions. First, the quality of the research design will be examined in terms of the threats to internal and external validity. Projects are encouraged to examine issues relevant to psychotherapy process or outcome that may have direct implications for the practice of psychotherapy. The study can involve the assessment and treatment of clients seeking services for mental health problems. The measures should have evidence of reliability and validity, and the findings should have direct implications for the practice of psychotherapy. The research focus should be on psychological factors that are directly relevant to psychological interventions. Projects should culminate in a research study of high quality that will be presented at a relevant professional conference (e.g., APA, Society for Psychotherapy Research (SPR), or Society for the Exploration of Psychotherapy Integration (SEPI) and several others). When completed, it is expected that funded projects

will be submitted for possible publication in a relevant scholarly journal (e.g., *Journal of Psychotherapy Integration*, *Psychotherapy*, *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, and many others). Ideal projects will lay the foundation for additional studies along the same lines as the proposed research. Qualitative research projects must confront issues related to methodology and sample size.

Second, the appropriateness of the budget will be evaluated in terms of the amount of funds requested and the need for financial support in order to complete the research study. Funds can be requested for up to \$2,500, and can be spent on testing materials, payment to participants, technical support, hourly wage for research assistant help, and in rare cases, for a graduate student to travel to present the findings at a national conference or international conference. The application should include detailed information about other sources of funding that have been requested or received to support any aspect of the research project. Ideally, funding will be provided to only one applicant / one research study so that funds are distributed across a range of people and projects..

### **Budgetary Issues:**

All proposal requests should be printed using double spaced lines, 12 point font, and 1 inch margins. The proposal should include a brief (1 page) summary of the research question being investigated, a brief (1 page) review of the research methodology (i.e., subjects, measures, procedures), a brief (1 page) but detailed budget of requested funds, and a brief list of essential references (maximum 8 references). It may help to specify (a) what funds are the essential funds needed to reach the basic goals of the project, and (b) what additional funds would be helpful to complete additional aspects of the proposed research. When reviewed, proposals can receive a decision of (1) funded, (2) partially funded, or (3) not funded.

If multiple proposals are submitted during the same fiscal year, either one proposal will be funded and others may be denied funding, or several proposals could receive partial support. Please include notice of other funds available or requested to support the research project. Approved funds should be spent within the fiscal year, but extensions are allowed. If the project lays the foundation for an ongoing research project, additional funding for the same project can be requested in a subsequent year.

### **Timing Issues:**

The fiscal year begins September 1 each year. When the first proposal is received, the program director will send an email notice to the members of the core clinical faculty, announcing a two-week deadline to submit proposals for competitive review. Thus, the funding will follow a floating deadline, but all members of the clinical faculty should be given fair notice of the deadline. After the annual funds have been distributed, no more requests will be accepted during that fiscal year.

Any conference papers or journal article publications that derive from the funded research must acknowledge the grant as a source of funding and deliver a final copy of the paper to the funding coordinator. Questions or grant submissions can be directed to the funding coordinator, James Overholser via email at [overholser@case.edu](mailto:overholser@case.edu).

Note: These guidelines may be modified or updated as needed.

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Evaluation Criteria: To be qualified for the award, the research project should examine interesting issues related to psychotherapy process or outcome. The research should be well-designed and publishable. The funds should be necessary for the completion of the project.

Recommendation:

This proposal should be awarded the full requested amount

This proposal should not be funded

This proposal should be partially supported

This amount should be awarded: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments: