



## **Dr. JP Bramhall Faculty Research Seed Grant Program FY2024-25 Sydney and J.L. Huffines Institute for Sports Medicine and Human Performance**

### **Purpose**

Named after Dr. JP Bramhall, one of the founders of the Institute and a member of the Institute's Advisory Board from 1999-2021, the purpose of the Dr. JP Bramhall Faculty Research Seed Grant program is to provide limited financial support to Huffines' Affiliate Faculty members for research that contributes to the mission of the Huffines Institute and that will provide data leading to proposals for extramural funding.

### **Eligibility**

To be eligible, you must be a faculty affiliate member of the Huffines Institute of Sports Medicine and Human Performance (go to [HuffinesInstitute.org](http://HuffinesInstitute.org) to apply for Affiliate Status). These grants ARE NOT limited to faculty at Texas A&M University in College Station. All faculty from Texas A&M institutions & campuses are welcome to apply.

### **Limitations**

- An Affiliate may **not** receive more than one Dr. JP Bramhall Faculty Research Seed Grant in a two-year fiscal period.
- Funding is limited to direct costs associated with conducting research. Costs for producing a research report and/or computer equipment and software are not allowed.
- Travel requests must be clearly justified and linked directly to data collection. Requests for travel to professional meetings will not be considered.
- Dr. JP Bramhall seed grants are limited to \$7,500 direct costs.
- Total funding budgeted for this program is \$15,000 (based on past demand for the program); however, the Institute reserves the right to fund fewer grants than budgeted.
- Funds from this award will begin September 1, 2024, and must be spent by August 31, 2025, or be returned to the Institute.
- Applications will be evaluated on scientific merit. The JP Bramhall Faculty Research Seed Grant requires applicants to provide a clear description of how seed funding will contribute toward the development of successful extramural research grant proposals.

### **Post Award Requirements**

- Submit a written report of the research results by the end of the award period. The report must document publications and external grant proposals supported by this award. Lack of external proposals from the grant will hinder consideration of the faculty member for further seed-grant opportunities.
- All publications and presentations of the results of the funded research must be credited to the *Sydney and J.L. Huffines Institute of Sports Medicine and Human Performance*.

### **Submission Procedures**

- Deadline for submission is **June 15, 2024** (late submissions not accepted).
- Grantees will be notified by letter of their application outcome by August 1, 2024.
- Scan completed application form and required materials into one .pdf file and title the file: 'your\_last\_name'\_Bramhall\_Faculty\_research\_2025.pdf
- Email the application file to [Huffines@tamu.edu](mailto:Huffines@tamu.edu).

## **Proposal Sections:**

To facilitate future external funding, the proposal will take the form of a *modified* National Institutes of Health R21 application. The written proposal of the project should use 0.5-inch margins, 11-point Arial font, and consist of the following sections:

**Section 0)** Cover page – see last page of this document

**Section 1)** Specific aims (1-page limit)

**Section 2)** Research Strategy (4-page limit) – includes:

a) Significance

b) Innovation

c) Approach

**Section 3)** Detailed Timeline of Dissemination and External Funding Plan (1-page limit)

**Section 4)** Budget (1-page limit)

Detail proposed expenditures in the following categories: i) Equipment, ii) Supplies & Expendables, iii) Essential Travel for Data Collection, iv) Other

**Section 5)** NIH Biosketch (5-page limit)

**Section 6)** Appendix, if needed: IRB or IACUC approval (see approach below)

## **Description of Proposal Sections:**

**Specific Aims** – This section should include a brief introduction, the long-range goal of the investigator’s research program, the overall goal of the proposed research, the specific aims that will be used to fulfill the overall goal, the expected outcomes, and the potential significance of the results.

**Significance** – In short, this section should define the positive effect that the proposed research will have on the knowledge base in this area. As NIH defines it, this section answers the following questions: “Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? Is the prior research that serves as the key support for the proposed project rigorous? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved?” This section is critical in letting the reviewer know how your project ‘fits’ within current, rigorous knowledge.

**Innovation** – This section really should describe how the approach you are taking is different/novel from the past attempts to answer this question. What is/are the new and different way(s) that this project approaches the fundamental question you are addressing? Again, NIH says: “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?”

**Approach** – This section should describe how you are going to fulfill the Aims you put forward earlier. This section must be brief, succinct, and concise. IMPORTANTLY, this section should indicate the status of this protocol with the appropriate compliance committee (e.g., IRB, IACUC, IBC). If your protocol already has approval, please provide a copy of the approval notification in the appendix. If your project is pending approval and you are awarded a grant, you cannot expend any funds until you have final approval from the appropriate compliance committee.

**Timeline of dissemination/funding plans** – This section should lay out very specifically how you intend to disseminate the results (e.g., presentations, papers to what journals), an itemized timeline for this dissemination, and what external funding mechanisms are going to be pursued with these results. For example, if you were going to pursue NIH/NSF funding, you would want to clearly indicate which program you were applying to (e.g., R03, R21, R01) and the timeline by which you will be applying. As noted earlier, this program's focus is to provide financial support for seed results used for external

funding proposals. Thus, the detail in this section is important. Further, it will be helpful if you detail what papers and/or external funding proposals resulted from any previous funding you received from the Huffines.

Five-page NIH biosketch – <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>

Reviewer Guidelines:

It is always nice to understand by what guidelines your effort will be judged. Thus, at least two external reviewers will be asked to comment on the following four core criteria of each proposal:

- a) **Significance:** Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field?
- b) **Investigator:** Can the individual do the project? Is the timeline feasible?
- c) **Innovation:** Are the concepts, approaches, or methodologies novel to the field?
- d) **Approach:** Does the approach proposed provide the best chance for success?

The reviewers will score each of these core criteria on a scale of 1 (exceptional) – 9 (poor).

The reviewers will also give an overall priority score ranging from 1 (exceptional) – 9 (poor). This overall priority score ***will not be*** an average of the core criteria scores but will be an overall score that considers the complete package and likelihood of success. Overall priority scores from the reviewers for each application will be averaged to give each grant an overall priority score and that average score will be multiplied by 10 for the final score.



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Huffines Institute

**Dr. JP Bramhall Faculty Research Grant Application Cover Form  
Sydney and J.L. Huffines Institute for Sports Medicine and Human Performance**

Name: Faculty Rank: Phone #: Date:

E-mail: Unit/Department:

Research Project Title:

Attach project description to this cover form (see attached pages for application specifics)

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Required Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Huffines Faculty Affiliate Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name of Applicant

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FOR INSTITUTE USE ONLY:

*Approved amount:*

*Approved date:*

*Signature of approval:*