



Telemedicine Society of India HQ,

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TSI/RES/2023-25/07/013

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Call for Proposals under the TSI Research Project Grant 2025

Overview

The Telemedicine Society of India (TSI) invites proposals from members, students, researchers, academic institutions, healthcare organizations, and technology firms for grants to support innovative research in telemedicine, digital health, telehealth, and e-health. The goal of this research funding opportunity is to foster advancements in technology-driven healthcare delivery models, improve patient access, and promote the use of telemedicine, digital health, and telehealth for both preventive and therapeutic purposes. These innovative research projects are expected to result in finding solutions to priority health problems or support in enhancing solving the health problems of the country.

Objectives

The research grant aims to:

- Explore and evaluate new telemedicine, digital health, telehealth, and e-health models and their impact on patient outcomes.
- Improve the usability, accessibility, and security of digital health platforms.
- Address current challenges in telehealth services, including interoperability, data management, and patient engagement.
- Develop evidence-based approaches to integrate telemedicine into routine clinical practice.
- Advance artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) applications in telemedicine and digital health.
- Provide a sustainable telemedicine model with the capacity to scale.

Research Focus Areas

We welcome proposals addressing, but not limited to, the following topics:

- Telemedicine Infrastructure and Accessibility: Development of cost-effective solutions to extend telemedicine in underserved communities.
- Patient Monitoring and Remote Care: Innovations in remote monitoring tools and their application for chronic disease management.
- Digital Health Platforms: Enhancing patient portals and mobile applications for seamless access to care.
- Telehealth Policy and Implementation: Studies on telehealth adoption, barriers, and regulatory frameworks.
- AI in Healthcare: Use of AI and data analytics to enhance telehealth diagnostics and decision-making.
- Telemedicine and Health Equity: Research focusing on reducing disparities in telehealth access and outcomes across diverse populations.

Types of Research Proposal

The Following types of research proposal shall be considered

- Discovery research: finding a novel solution or interventions.
- New product development such as devices, point of care device for telemedicine
- Action research or implementation research
- Various scalable models of telemedicine or telehealth implementation in remote areas.

Eligibility

- The lead applicant or Principal investigator must be a member of TSI, or a student currently in an Undergraduate or Postgraduate program affiliated with a recognized institution or a university, or a professional with a research background, professionals who have a regular employment in Medical Institutes/ Research Institutes/ Universities/ Colleges/ recognized Research & Development laboratories/ Government and NGOs or must be part of any healthcare organization, or technology company.
- Collaborations between institutions or multi-disciplinary teams are encouraged.
- Only Indian nationals are eligible to apply.
- Applicants who have received TSI research grant in previous five years are not eligible to apply.
- One applicant can apply for only one proposal.

Funding Information

- Grant Amount: Up to two lakh INR per project.
- Duration: Projects should be completed within 24 months
- The grant will not cover any purchase of hardware or instruments or salary for PI or Co PI.
- The selected proposal shall receive the grant amount in 4 installments. (40 percent initially, 30 percent after 50% of work completion and 20 percent after complete work completion, 10 after submitting the project report and publication)

Proposal Submission Guidelines

Applicants must submit the following documents as part of their proposal:

- **Cover Page:** Include project title, principal investigator (PI) information, institutional affiliation, and contact details.
- **Abstract:** A brief overview of the project, including objectives, methodology, and expected outcomes (maximum 300 words).
- **Research Plan** (maximum 10 pages):
 - Background and rationale.
 - Research questions/hypotheses.
 - Methodology (including study design, data collection, and analysis plan).
 - Potential impact and significance of the research.
 - Timeline and milestones.

- **Budget:** Provide a detailed breakdown of the expected costs.
- **Team Credentials:** CVs or bios of the PI and key team members.
- **Letters of Support** (if applicable): Letters from collaborators or stakeholders expressing support for the project.
- **Ethical Approval:** Proof of institutional review board (IRB) or ethical clearance (if applicable).
- **Note:** Check annexure for detailed format

Evaluation Criteria

Two independent experts will screen and score each project proposal and the selected research committee shall recommend the grant proposals to the TSI governing body for further processing.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Rationale of the project-** does the project have the potential or is likely to solve a priority problem? (20 points)
- **Scientific Merit:** Clarity of research questions, innovation, and rigor of methodology. (20 points)
- **Feasibility:** Realistic timeline, clear objectives, and adequate resources. (20 points)
- **Impact:** Potential to improve telemedicine or digital health practices, is it likely to result in patent/commercial product, or/and influence future healthcare policies. (30 points)
- **Relevance:** Alignment with the focus areas outlined in this RFP. (20 points)
- **Team Qualifications:** Expertise and experience of the research team. (students exempted) (20 points)
- **Budget Justification:** Reasonable budget aligned with project needs. (20 Points)

Projects that receive a score of at least 100 will be shortlisted for review by a Research Committee. Proposal Improvement workshops with PIs may be organized, if necessary, by TSI to address comments and incorporate suggestions of the Research Committee.

Application Process

- **Deadline:** All applications must be submitted by the 15th of September 2025.
- **Submission:** Proposals must be submitted electronically to tsiresearch2024@gmail.com
- **Notification:** Successful applicants will be notified by email.

Reporting Requirements

- **Interim Reports:** A progress report detailing key findings, milestones, and any issues encountered must be submitted every 6 months.
- **Final Report:** At the completion of the project, the PI must submit a final report summarizing the research outcomes, conclusions, any publications resulting from the grant and any patents applied. (Patents shall be the joint property of TSI and PI)

Intellectual Property Rights

The IPR shall be equal with the TSI and PI as well as team.

Contact information

For further information contact the Research Team at tsiresearch2024@gmail.com.

Annexure 1: Format for submission of Proposal under TSI Research Grant

Section A and Section B should be sent as separate documents.

Research Grant Proposal Format

Section A

Cover Page

- Project Title: (Concise, descriptive title)
- Principal Investigator (PI): Name, Title, Department, Institution
- Co-Investigators: Names, Titles, Affiliations
- Institution: Full name of the institution or organization where the research will be conducted
- Contact Information: Email, phone number, mailing address
- Date of Submission

Team and Expertise (2 pages)

- **Principal Investigator (PI):** Provide a brief bio, highlighting relevant research experience, and qualifications.
- **Co-Investigators and Collaborators:** Include bios and relevant expertise of key team members.
- **Previous Work:** Highlight any past projects related to telemedicine, digital health, or telehealth.
- **Institutional Support/ Facilities:** Mention the efforts made to achieve inter-departmental or interinstitutional collaboration needed for study implementation, details of coordination between clinical, laboratory and data management procedures (if applicable)
- **Financial Support :** Financial support received for any other research proposals if any, attach relevant documents.

Section B

Abstract (300 words max)

- **Rationale/** gaps in existing knowledge, novelty /innovation
- **Aim and Objectives:** Briefly describe the research goals.
- **Research Methodology:** Summary of the approach and techniques to be used.
- **Expected Outcomes:** Main deliverables or results expected from the research.
- **Impact:** Briefly state how this research will advance the field of telemedicine/ digital health.

Introduction / Background (1-2 pages)

- **Problem Statement:** Define the healthcare problem or gap the research aims to address.
- **Literature Review:** Provide an overview of previous research in the field, highlighting existing gaps.

- **Significance:** Explain why this problem is important, and the potential for telemedicine/digital health to provide solutions.

Objectives / Specific Aims (1 page)

- **Primary Objective:** State the overarching goal of the research.
- **Specific Aims:** List the specific research questions or hypotheses the project will address.
- **Innovation:** Highlight how the proposed research differs from existing studies and what new insights it will provide.

Research Design and Methodology (4-5 pages)

- **Study Design:** Specify the type of research (e.g., clinical trial, pilot study, observational study, etc.).
- **Population / Sample:** Describe the target population, sample size, and selection criteria.
- **Data Collection Methods:** Outline the tools, techniques, and procedures for gathering data (e.g., surveys, interviews, remote monitoring tools).
- **Technology / Platform:** Detail any specific telemedicine or digital health technologies to be used.
- **Analysis Plan:** Explain how the data will be analyzed (statistical methods, software, etc.).
- **Ethical Considerations:** Provide details of the ethical approval process (e.g., IRB), informed consent, and patient privacy protection.

Timeline / Work Plan (1 page)

- Present a timeline for project milestones.
- Create a Gantt chart or table showing key activities (e.g., data collection, analysis, report writing) and expected completion dates.
- Indicate dependencies and deadlines for each phase of the research.

Expected Outcomes and Impact (1-2 pages)

- **Deliverables:** List the specific outputs or deliverables of the research (e.g., reports, publications, software tools).
- **Potential Impact:** Discuss how the outcomes could affect clinical practice, telemedicine adoption, policy changes, or patient outcomes.
- **Scalability and Sustainability:** Explain whether and how the solution could be scaled or sustained beyond the research period.
- Whether the study is going to generate new intellectual property Please provide details

Budget Justification (2 pages)

- Provide a detailed budget breakdown, including:
 - **Equipment:** List any equipment or software necessary for conducting the research (e.g., medical devices, telemedicine platforms).
 - **Materials and Supplies:** Cost of materials, software licenses, or any consumables.

- **Travel:** Include travel expenses for conferences, site visits, or fieldwork.
- **Indirect Costs:** Overhead or administrative costs associated with conducting the research.
- **Justification:** Provide an explanation for each line item, detailing why it is necessary for the project.

Dissemination Plan (1 page)

- **Publications:** Identify which journals or conferences the results will be submitted to.
- **Conferences and Workshops:** Indicate plans to present findings at national/international conferences or telehealth workshops.
- **Policy Implications:** If relevant, describe how the research outcomes will be communicated to policymakers or healthcare administrators.
- **Open Access:** Mention if and how the research will be made publicly available or shared with the broader healthcare and scientific community.

Risk Management and Mitigation Plan (1 page)

- **Risks:** Identify potential risks to project success (e.g., technology failure, data privacy concerns, regulatory issues).
- **Mitigation Strategies:** Explain how these risks will be managed and mitigated.

Conflict of Interest Declaration (if any)

- PI will be asked to submit a declaration if shortlisted.

Ethical Approval and Compliance (1 page)

- Provide details about institutional ethical review board (IRB) approval status, or the plan to obtain approval.
- Address data privacy concerns, particularly compliance with relevant regulations
- Include information on how informed consent will be obtained and documented for human subjects.

References

- List all references cited throughout the proposal. Ensure that the references are up-to-date and relevant to the proposed research in APA Style.

Appendices (Optional)

- Include any supplementary information that supports the proposal, such as:
 - Detailed tables or graphs
 - Letters of support from collaborators
 - Additional background materials
