

Tamarack Prize Information

The Tamarack Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Orthotic Science and Practice (*i.e.*, the Tamarack Prize) is an endowed prize sponsored by Tamarack Habilitation Technologies, Inc. It will be bestowed by the Orthotics and Prosthetics Education and Research Foundation (OPERF) Board of Directors, under recommendation by a Review Committee (to be named). The Review Committee will review and score submissions and make a recommendation as to the most appropriate candidate or candidates to the Board.

Intent of the Prize

The Tamarack Prize sponsor intends for this prize to serve as a prize for mid-career (or later) orthotists who have actively engaged in clinical care, research, and publication. Recipients are intended to serve as a model for younger clinicians and to encourage them to pursue clinically-relevant research and publication throughout their careers.

Upon request of the sponsor, the Tamarack Prize will be awarded to “*an individual who has made the most significant or substantial contribution to the practice or understanding of the science of orthotics within the last 5 years.*”

Prize Specifics

- The prize will be named the “Tamarack Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Orthotic Science and Practice” and may be referred to as the “Tamarack Prize.”
- The prize will be given biennially, as funds allow.
- The prize will be given to a single recipient, as selected by the OPERF Board of Directors.
 - o If a suitable candidate is not nominated, or does not meet the requirements of the Board of Directors, the prize may be postponed until the next annual year or the next submission cycle (as determined by the Board of Directors).
- The prize is a one-time prize. Recipients cannot receive the prize more than once.
- The prize includes a cash prize of \$10,000. This prize is provided to the recipient to recognize their contribution to science and dedication to improving orthotic clinical care.
 - o This prize is not a research grant, and is therefore not required to be spent on existing or future research efforts.
 - o Any and all financial or tax liabilities associated with accepting the Tamarack Prize are the responsibility of the recipient.
- The prize will be announced and awarded at the AAOP Annual Meeting following the solicitation cycle.
- The prize recipient may be invited to speak at the Opening Session of the Annual Meeting.

Submissions for the Tamarack Prize will be reviewed every two years. Each submission cycle, a Review Committee will be formed by the OPERF Board of Directors. This committee may or may not include members of the OPERF Research and Education Committees. The goal of this review is to identify the most appropriate candidate(s) for the Tamarack Prize and make this recommendation to the OPERF Board of Directors.

Letters of Recommendation

Nominations for the Tamarack Prize must include a minimum of three (and a maximum of five) letters of recommendation for the nominee. Letters of recommendation should be included in the application package. Letters should be requested from individuals who can describe the nominee's clinical and/or scientific qualifications for the Tamarack Prize.

Nomination submissions

Submissions for Tamarack Prize nominations may be submitted through email (to the OPERF Research Committee Vice Chair at andrew.sawers@operf.org) or by standard postal mail. Mail submissions must be received by the nomination deadline. OPERF is not responsible for lost mail. Mail-in applicants are encouraged to notify the Research Committee Vice Chairperson by email of mailing and to confirm receipt of the nomination materials.

Review Process

The following timeline details the selection process for the Tamarack Prize. The process begins approximately four (4) months prior to the AAOP Annual Meeting and culminates in the prize announcement at the meeting.

Date*	Event
2 nd week of Oct	Request for Nominations (RFN) to be announced/posted
2 nd week of Dec	Nominations due Review Committee assembled
End of Dec	Nomination packages verified and completed (if necessary) Review Committee finalized Nomination packages disseminated to Review Committee Nomination evaluation begins
End of Jan	Reviewed/scored nominations due Review Committee and OPERF Board teleconference to discuss candidates OPERF Board select final recipient
Feb	Prize awarded to recipient at the AAOP Annual Meeting Recipient may present at the Opening Ceremony

* Note: All dates are approximate and should coincide with an appropriate end-of-week day.

Review Committee

The OPERF Board of Directors will select a Tamarack Prize Review Committee to assist in evaluating the Tamarack Prize nominations. The committee will include individuals familiar with orthotic science, research, and clinical care. The size of the Committee will vary according to the number of submitted nominations, but will include at least three (3) individuals. A Review Committee Chairperson, appointed by the OPERF Board, will serve as a liaison to the Board throughout the review process. The Chair may or may not be a member of the OPERF Board.

Review Procedure

Upon acceptance of all Tamarack Prize nominations, the Chairperson will assemble nomination packages for all applicants and disseminate electronic copies of the packages to the Review Committee. Each nomination will be reviewed by at least two (2) committee members.

Reviewers will be provided with the following documents in order to assess each nominee: (1) completed nomination form; (2) applicant's CV or resume; (3) relevant publications,¹ and (4) letters of reference.

Reviewers are required to carefully and thoroughly review each nomination. This is expected to include a review of the applicant's provided scientific publications, a review of letters-of-reference, and completion of the Tamarack Prize Evaluation Form (see below). This form is to be used as a means to score each nomination and provide additional notes that are to be passed along to the OPERF Board. Final decisions regarding the Tamarack Prize rest with the OPERF Board of Directors.

Contact Information

All requests for information regarding the Tamarack Prize may be addressed to the OPERF Research Committee Vice Chair:

Andrew Sawers, CPO, PhD
Research Committee Vice Chair
Orthotic and Prosthetic Education and Research Foundation
PO Box 30840
Bethesda, MD 20824
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¹ Nominators are responsible for providing electronic copies of references, if at all possible. Please contact OPERF if assistance is required.