**Herb Levi Memorial Fund for Arachnological Research (HLMFAR)**

The Herb Levi Memorial Fund for Arachnological Research has been established to support non-student AAS members who receive little to no institutional support for their research programs. The HLMFAR grant is primarily meant to provide seed money to fund fieldwork and to gather preliminary data for future larger (e.g., Federal, “government and private foundation”) grant proposals.

***Applicants must meet the following requirements:***

* + Current membership in the [American Arachnological Society](http://www.americanarachnology.org/membership/membership.html), **under the applicant's name.** Sponsored memberships are available for those who cannot afford membership fees. Contact the AAS Membership Secretary, Brian Patrick, [membership@americanarachnology.org](mailto:membership@americanarachnology.org), to request information about sponsored memberships.
  + Demonstrate an active research program in any field of arachnology through peer reviewed publications.
  + Involve students (high school, university or college, and/or graduate) in their research program.
  + Demonstrate a need for the funding.
  + Propose a significant project in any area of arachnological research.
  + Postdoctoral scholars applying for funding to support their own research project are eligible [if a post-doc is applying for funding for projects of graduate or undergraduate students they mentor, those applications should be submitted to the student fund].

***Priority will be given to applicants who meet the following criteria (but will not exclude applicants who do not meet all these criteria):***

* + Currently have little to no other funding support.
  + Who plan to use the HLMFAR grant money to gather preliminary data in order to apply for other sources of funding.
  + Will use the funding to improve their research program (e.g., to purchase a key piece of equipment, to fund critical laboratory or field work).
  + Whose overall project contains some form of outreach component

***Grants up to $2000 will be awarded.***

**The funding will be awarded directly to the applicant, not to any third party (such as the applicant's institution).**

Applicants may request support for:

* + Travel as long as the travel is directly related to the research
  + Equipment
  + Laboratory costs
  + Publication costs associated with publication in the *Journal of Arachnology* (e.g., color prints or reprint costs) and up to $500 publication costs if publishing elsewhere.

Applicants may not request:

* + Salary or stipend support for themselves
  + Overhead costs for an institution/university/museum
  + Student stipends or salary
  + Conference travel

**Successful applicants must submit final report on or before December 31th of the following year.**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 15TH EACH YEAR**

**HLMFAR Committee Composition**

2016-2021 HLMFAR chair and committee: Petra Sierwald (chair, Field Museum of Natural History); committee members: (2016-2021) Eileen Hebets, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Paul A. Selden, University of Kansas; Todd Blackledge, University of Akron, Ohio. 2022: Sean Walker, California State University Fullerton.

2023 HLMFAR chair and committee: Sean Walker (chair, California State University Fullerton (chair); committee members: Paul A. Selden, University of Kansas; Todd Blackledge, University of Akron, Ohio. Petra Sierwald, Field Museum of Natural History.

2024 HLMFAR chair and committee: Sean Walker (chair, California State University Fullerton (chair); committee members: Todd Blackledge, University of Akron, Ohio. TBD, TBD.

2024 HLMFAR timeline

February 15th: deadline to submit proposals.

April 16th: funding decisions communicated to AAS president.

April 20th: funding decisions communicated to applicants.

**Evaluation procedure**: each committee member reviews all applications and evaluates four criteria as described below. Funding decisions are submitted to the AAS president prior to informing the applicants.

**Evaluation Criteria**

Scientific Merit: Importance of project for the field (Arachnology); are questions asked important for other fields in the biological sciences; innovative approach; scope of new data acquisition.

Methods: soundness of methods, feasibility.

Broader Impact: importance of project results to wider audience/stakeholders, involvement of a) students, b) citizen scientists, c) others; outreach components.

Budget: adequate, justified.

**Herb Levi Memorial Fund for Arachnological Research (HLMFAR)**

**Applicant Name:**

**Institutional affiliation:**

**Applicant Contact address/e-mail/phone:**

**The AAS membership status will be checked, so be sure to join if you are not a current member!**

**Please include with your application:**

**Curriculum Vitae (2 page limit), list publications of the last five years**

**Project Title:**

**Project Description:** up to three pages, single spaced, no smaller than 12 pt font.

Project description should be prepared by observing the evaluation criteria listed above.

**Budget:** up to two pages including budget justification.

**Submission:** Submit your application electronically, with CV, Project description and Budget attached to [Dr. Sean Walker](mailto:psierwald@fieldmuseum.org), Committee Chair,no later than February 15th. Send e-mail to swalker@fullerton.edu

You must include the following subject line: **HLMFAR\_2024\_Your LastName**