



## Applied Research Available through NSPF®

Manufacturers and organizations have a new way to fund unbiased university research through NSPF, an independent third party

Media Contact:

Laurie Batter, BatterUp!  
Voice 760-438-9304; FAX 760-434-5595  
Email [batterup@batterupproductions.com](mailto:batterup@batterupproductions.com)

NSPF Contact:

Margaret Smith  
Voice 719-540-9119; FAX 719-540-2787  
Email [Margaret.Smith@nspf.org](mailto:Margaret.Smith@nspf.org)  
Website [www.nspf.org](http://www.nspf.org)

Colorado Springs, CO (July 31, 2007)

The National Swimming Pool Foundation® (NSPF®) board of directors has approved a new mechanism for companies and organizations to fund applied scientific research and have the unbiased results published in scholarly journals.

NSPF has developed a program that allows manufacturers and organizations to donate targeted research funds through the NSPF to fund such research. Manufacturers often wish to have unbiased researchers verify potential product benefits or to understand key issues. Some examples of the types of manufacturers who may wish to validate performance of either their products or their product class include filtration, heating, chemical treatment products, fixtures, pumps and motors, construction design, and others.

Universities are often hesitant to accept industry funding due to the perception that their study would be biased in the manufacturer's favor. Manufacturers are often hesitant to donate funds for unbiased university research because the research publications acknowledge the donating manufacturer. As a result, the studies are often discredited or received skeptically from the scientific community based on the link to the manufacturer. "This situation creates a 'Catch 22', reducing research in a field already depleted of scientific knowledge," says Thomas M. Lachocki, Ph.D., CEO of NSPF. "NSPF is committed to finding ways to help science guide our future and to remove barriers to fund knowledge," he adds. "The new NSPF grant program creates a mechanism to benefit researchers, manufacturers, the pool, spa, and aquatics field, and ultimately, consumers," says NSPF Grant Review Committee chair, Bill Kent. "The result will be more funding, more science, more solutions, and more prosperity. This program creates 'blind studies'



that will raise standards and prevent inappropriate industry influence,” Kent explains. “It frees universities to help find solutions.” Once the general ‘research problem’ is defined, and the donation is made to NSPF, the manufacturer/donor has no contact with the university. “It is a ‘hands off’ philosophy,” adds Lachocki. Upon completion of the research, the university researcher will submit the paper to publications to go through a peer-review process. It will then be published in scholarly literature. Manufacturing donors will not see the study results until they are published. On a case-by-case basis, NSPF, the university, and the journal may release a preprint as a courtesy to the donors.

This new method will add to the substantial research budget that NSPF currently commits. However, almost all of the funding will be directed to the grant recipient. NSPF will only retain a small portion (10%) to cover the cost to coordinate research definition with the donors, solicit researchers, establish contracts with the researchers, and to monitor research progress. In 2007, NSPF has budgeted \$812,500 for research grants. The results of these studies are presented at the World Aquatic Health™ Conference and various scientific journals including the International Journal of Aquatic Research & Education (IJARE), which is published in partnership with Human Kinetics. The details and guidelines for funding industrial-focused research can be downloaded from [www.nspf.org](http://www.nspf.org) under the “research” tab. Industry members who wish to donate targeted grant money should contact Thomas M. Lachocki, Ph.D. at [tom.lachocki@nspf.org](mailto:tom.lachocki@nspf.org).

### **About the NSPF®**

The National Swimming Pool Foundation® (NSPF®) is a non-profit organization founded in 1965, dedicated to improving public health worldwide by encouraging healthier living through aquatic education and research. The foundation works towards its mission with educational products like the Certified Pool-Spa Operator® (CPO®) training, Certified Pool-Spa Inspector™ (CPI™) training, the Pool Math™ Workbook, the Aquatic Safety Compendium™, eProAcademy™ online training center, Pool Operator Primer™, Pool Operator Fusion™, and the World Aquatic Health™ Conference. The NSPF® funds grants to help reduce risk at aquatic facilities. The foundation also is the largest funding source for grants to study aquatic health benefits in swimming pools and hot tubs.

###