



**Priority Statement Title:** Variable Timeline for Impact in Biomechanical Research

**Priority Statement Code:** CJ1A

**Domain:** All Research in Biomechanics

### **Priority Statement**

#### **Background and Relevance**

Over the past several years, an increasing emphasis has been placed on relatively short term gains resulting from research, in an effort to demonstrate societal benefits from dollars spent by private and public funding sources. An unintended consequence of this shift in emphasis has been diminished support for fundamental (basic) science, and the elevation of applied science. In essence, a system is evolving that risks the perpetuation of possibly outdated conclusions as scientific discovery based upon new capabilities stagnates.

A need exists to provide a mechanism to adjust the impact timeline to reflect the equally important contributions from fundamental (basic) and applied science.

#### **Objectives**

Create operational definitions for fundamental (basic) and applied science.  
Create separate impact criteria for fundamental (basic) and applied research.  
Create recommendations, with broad applicability across biomechanics domains, to implement these impact criteria in the grant review process.

#### **Recommended Actions**

Use new or existing funding mechanisms to convene a group to operationally define fundamental (basic) and applied science in the field of biomechanics; members of the group should be sought from relevant national societies (American Society of Biomechanics, Gait and Clinical Movement Analysis Society, etc.).

Task the group mentioned above with the identification of separate impact timelines for fundamental (basic) and applied research.

Formally recommend these separate impact criteria to private and public funding sources that support research in biomechanics; this may be through publication of results from this group's work, or through liaison with associated funding sources, or both.

In large part, these actions will remove a growing number of barriers to more fundamental (basic) science that must be conducted to provide a better foundation for applied science based upon current capabilities.