

**American Hippotherapy Association Inc.  
Research Committee Charter  
Board Approved 04/15/2018**

**Research Committee Role and Purpose**

The Research committee will be responsible for providing most recent evidence, education materials related to research, and outreach regarding research incorporating hippotherapy to therapists, other health care professionals, organizations, universities, peer-reviewed journals, and any other individuals/groups involved in research. The committee will make recommendations to AHA Inc. Board to Directors.

**AHA Inc. Strategic objectives targeted by this committee (2018-2021):**

- **Goal 3: Enhance AHA Public Presence:** Create a global public presence. Invite conversations with partners to achieve mainstream awareness, understanding and acceptance. (Shared responsibility of the AHA Inc. BOD, Social Media/Marketing Committee, Education Committee, Research Committee).
  - By Oct. 2018 – Identify organizations/groups (i.e. universities, professional organizations) to engage with and develop a written outreach plan (from a research perspective with terminology components)
- Additional committee goals outside of strategic plan (see committee responsibilities)

**Accountability**

- The Research Committee is a standing committee approved by the Board of Directors.
- The Research Committee reports to the Board of Directors/Executive Director.
- The Chair is to be determined by the Committee annually.
- Each term on the Research committee is 2 years, with the option to serve additional terms, with a limit of 3 consecutive terms.

**Composition and Term of Service**

- The committee will have a minimum of four members, all of which must be AHA Inc. Members
- At least 2 different disciplines (SLP, OT, PT)
- At least 2 members actively involved in research
- Committee will have at least 1 board/staff liaison

**Committee Responsibilities**

- Work with the AHA Inc. Executive Director/BOD to identify the short-term and long-term needs of AHA Inc.
- Incorporation of short and long-term objectives...

Short Term Objectives

1. Update bibliography list 1-2 times a year
2. Prepare research components for conference
3. Develop educational materials regarding terminology and research incorporating hippotherapy for MDs and other healthcare providers, as needed in conjunction with other AHA committees and/or task forces as needed.

4. Engage with organizations/groups (i.e. universities, professional organizations), specifically developing a written outreach plan per strategic planning goal

#### Long Term Objectives

1. Identify other pertinent literature (e.g. mental health, equine movement, human-animal interaction) into AHA reference list
2. Develop educational materials for peer-reviewed journals
3. Create research materials (i.e. processes to initiate, evaluating/critiquing literature, decision tree and terminology hierarchy) for members (with member only section on website)
4. Develop boilerplate text/information in research incorporating hippotherapy for AHA marketing
5. Creation of an AHA research mentoring match program, design to increase professional development through an online networking tool. The purpose of this tool would be to expand beyond social networking platforming to increase professional networking, develop and exchange research ideas, and build on best practices when incorporating hippotherapy.

#### **Committee Member Expectations**

- Be a current member of AHA
- Attend and participate in monthly committee meetings
- Remained informed about current research and best practices
- Prepare adequately for meetings in order to make informed decisions
- Work to fulfill the committee responsibilities
- Participate in bibliography updates
- Participate as needed components of short and long-term objectives

**Time Commitment required of committee members:** 1 – 6 hours per month.