



BAPRAS

British Association of Plastic
Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons

BAPRAS Research Committee Policy for Endorsement of Research Applications to Major Funding Bodies (Commissioned Calls)

1. Purpose of Endorsement

1.1 BAPRAS continues to invest significantly in research and seeks to gain recognition as a facilitator and provider of high quality research. It aims to do this by:

a. Supporting its membership in obtaining research funding for multicentre clinical research.

b. Providing opportunities for its members and associates to participate in multicentre clinical research projects.

1.2 It is also recognised that support from a national professional organisation can be helpful in gaining funding for large multicenter clinical research studies, and BAPRAS wishes to assist its members in successful grant applications by providing such endorsement.

1.3 This policy relates to applications being prepared in relation to commissioned calls.

1.4 BAPRAS may endorse more than one application for a particular grant call.

2. Major Funding Bodies

2.1 Currently, BAPRAS Research Committee will consider applications for endorsement when BAPRAS members are applying for funding in response to commissioned calls from the following entities:

NIHR, Wellcome Trust, MRC, Cancer Research UK, Arthritis Research UK

3. Criteria for Endorsement

3.1 The following criteria must be fulfilled for the BAPRAS Research Committee to endorse and application:

a. The BAPRAS research committee must be informed of the project at an early stage via the application form. This is to allow enough time for the committee to consider its decision before an application deadline. The minimum time required before an application deadline is four weeks.

In most cases, the application form should be submitted early in the grant application process, typically at time of decision to submit Expression of Interest application, or full application if there is no Expression of Interest phase.

If the proposal is in response to an NIHHR commissioned call, then the request for BAPRAS endorsement must be received within 3 weeks of release of the commissioned call advertisement. Later requests will be considered only if no other request was received during this 3-week period.

b. BAPRAS will only consider endorsement of studies into conditions treated by plastic surgeons in which the primary outcome is the physical outcome of the treatment provided by plastic surgeons.

c. BAPRAS should be used as a research network, ideally involving the Reconstructive Surgery Trials Network (RSTN). The Research team must be collaborative and at least one co-applicant per proposal must be a member of BAPRAS to be considered for endorsement.

d. The research team (Chief investigator and co-applicants) must involve more than a single clinical researcher and a single unit, i.e. in order to be considered for endorsement, all studies should be multicenter.

e. Studies seeking endorsement should have plans in place to involve other BAPRAS members as a recruiting centre for the study. Applicants must accept this condition of endorsement. The recruitment of other sites may occur after funding is in place.

f. Demonstration that clear efforts had been made to engage the BAPRAS membership prior to endorsement. The inclusion of a BAPRAS member as co-applicant does not automatically guarantee endorsement.

4. Process

4.1 Requests for endorsement must be made to the chair of the research committee, via the Research Committee Administrator. Each application will be circulated to all members of the research committee, who will consider the request against the published criteria (Section 3.1).

4.2 Each research committee member will vote for or against endorsement for each proposal.

4.3 Members of the research committee who are directly involved with a proposal will not be allowed to vote on that proposal.

4.4 A majority decision will be carried. If there is a tie, then the Chair of the Research Committee (or their deputy if the Chair is conflicted) will have the casting vote.

4.5 The Chair of the Research committee will communicate the decision in writing to the Chief Investigator within one week of the decision being made.