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BRUK Vision

Bowel Research UK Vision

Bowel Research UK aims to fund life-changing research into bowel cancer and other bowel diseases.

Every year over 16,000 people die from bowel cancer in the UK and over a million suffer from bowel disease.

By researching cutting edge treatments and investing in the best science, we measurably save and improve people's lives.

Quality Improvement Strategies

Bowel Research UK is committed to providing timely quality care to all patients with bowel disease. Understanding variation in care, inequitable access and disparity in long-term outcomes is key to implementing changes for patient benefit.

We invest in quality improvement (QI) research at local and national level across the full spectrum of bowel disease. Successful QI research applicants should offer interventions that are applicable beyond the local healthcare system.

We particularly support studies that focus on evidence-based medicine, value-added medicine, and sustainability.

Neglected Topics in Bowel Disease

We prioritise research into neglected areas of bowel disease where there is little current research funding available from other sources and in rare bowel diseases. We seek to make a significant difference in these “orphan” under-represented areas of bowel disease because they are unlikely to receive research funding elsewhere.

Research that matters to those with lived experience and incorporates patient perspectives will be prioritised, especially where there is demonstrable input from patients and public partners from inception through to delivery.

Highlighting Specific Themes

We want our research funding to deliver the maximum impact possible from our available resources. We will periodically target research calls in specific areas where there is unmet need, especially when research topics have been highlighted by Priority Setting Partnerships (PSPs).

Examples are aspects of bowel disease that have been prioritised or neglected, medical technology in bowel disease diagnostics and management, prevention, public health initiatives and digital technology. We encourage collaboration in delivering research with funding partners, including industry and other charities.

Aspirational Bowel Research

We seek to facilitate aspirational bowel research, viewed as costly and high risk by some research funders, when it has the potential for meaningful change to patient care.

At Bowel Research UK, we welcome individual approaches from researchers embarking on high risk, high impact projects. We offer the opportunity for researchers to develop research methodology with expert advice from our Scientific Advisory Committee and People and Research Together (PaRT) networks. We may also offer strategic fund-raising initiatives for approved aspirational research applications that embody Bowel Research UK objectives.

Developing Precision Medicine

At Bowel Research UK, we believe that every patient diagnosed with bowel cancer or bowel disease should ideally receive treatment targeted to their specific disease and tailored to their personal needs and wishes. To support this vision, we fund emerging trends in biomedical science, including genomic and biomarker research, through our largely laboratory-based PhD programme.

People and Research Together

At Bowel Research UK, we believe that research is better and more likely to succeed when people and patients are involved at all stages of research design, delivery, analysis and dissemination.

Our unique selling point (USP) is that we offer a programme called People and Research Together (PaRT) that can help researchers and patients partner to develop research ideas and plans.

We support studies that have budgeted and embedded patient and public involvement (PPI) from concept prior to application and then throughout the lifetime of the study.

Patient-Centred Research

Patients are at the heart of everything that we do at Bowel Research UK. All our stakeholders believe that patients should influence every level of bowel research and that research should be undertaken primarily for patient benefit.

We particularly welcome research applications that focus on patient-reported outcomes and experience. We are interested in clinical and non-clinical interventions that may improve patient care, including digital and medical technology and quality-of-life interventions. We strongly encourage researchers with lived experience to apply for our grants.

Pilot Studies with Potential Impact

We support research that offers earlier diagnosis, better treatment options and improved quality of life for patients with bowel disease.

We welcome applications for proof-of-concept studies likely to deliver groundbreaking findings and have a major impact on future patient care.

We prioritise pump priming studies with outstanding applications to facilitate collection of pilot data to facilitate future successful grant submission to national funding bodies.

Early Career Researchers

We are committed to the development of future academic clinical and non-clinical leaders in bowel disease research. We encourage and support Early Career Researchers as they initiate new projects on the national and international stage.

We seek to foster innovation and nurture lifelong relationships between Early Career Researchers and Bowel Research UK. We actively support PhD applicants in programmes that demonstrate well-directed supervision, strong supporting research and clinical mentors and pioneering ideas.

Clinical Research in Bowel Disease

Our major focus is on facilitating research that will fundamentally prevent and change the clinical care of bowel disease.

We believe in collaborative, and when appropriate international, approaches to research. We partner with other charities to focus on specific areas of unmet clinical need.

We prioritise funding for high-quality clinical studies with efficient research designs that offer excellent value for money and potentially answer more than one research question.

Priority Setting Partnerships

Bowel Research UK aims to build and foster high quality research into all aspects of bowel disease. We will prioritise areas of unmet or ongoing need for research that have been identified through high-quality priority setting partnerships incorporating all relevant stakeholders. Relevant examples are the James Lind Alliance or the ACPGBI's Delphi Research Programme.

Bowel Research UK will also consider funding priority setting partnerships, especially when in collaboration with other strategic funding partners, and with demonstrable high calibre methodology in conception and delivery.