

Grants Committee Terms of Reference

1.0 Summary

This document sets out the Terms of Reference for the Grants Committee which reports to the Trustees of Bowel Research UK (UK registered charity no 1186061).

2.0 Background

The core business of Bowel Research UK is to support high quality, innovative research into bowel diseases – central to this aim is the funding of research.

After the merger of the legacy charities Bowel & Cancer Research (B&CR) and Bowel Disease Research Foundation (BDRF) in 2020, the Grants Committee was constituted to manage funding awards for Bowel Research UK. The composition of this committee, by necessity, grew out of the membership of the two legacy committees with the Chair of B&CR Grants Committee (Charles Knowles) taking on the role of Chair for stability and continuity. He has now been succeeded by Sue Clark.

The Bowel Research UK Grants Committee has 20 members with a spread of expertise ranging from basic science to clinical research and continues the business of reviewing grant applications to provide the Trustees with recommendations for funding.

3.0 Objectives of the Grants Committee

The role of the Grants Committee is directive in delivering the specific core business of the charity by fairly and professionally peer reviewing large numbers of applications received and making recommendations to the Trustees on which applications to fund. This requires considerable organisation by the chairperson of the Grants Committee with the assistance of the Research & Grants Manager.

The general responsibilities of the Grants Committee are to:

1. Provide scientific support and advice to Bowel Research UK.
2. Assist the charity's Scientific Advisory Committee in monitoring the Research Strategy.
3. Assist Bowel Research UK in exploring opportunities for leverage of research funds and for developing research partnerships.
4. Provide expert advice and support the CEO/chairperson of the Grants Committee regarding opportunities to raise awareness through the media and with politicians.
5. Safeguard the good name and values of Bowel Research UK.

4.0 Terms of Reference

The Grants Committee will be quorate when 5 or more members (including the chairperson of the Grants Committee) are present for full meetings.

1. Members of the Grants Committee agree
2. To attend four annual meetings (virtually or face-to-face).
3. To support the chairperson of the Grants Committee in ensuring at all times that recommendations for awards are meritocratic, fair and not subject to conflict of interest
4. To comply with processes and procedures so that matters can be conducted in a timely manner.
5. To review and comment on applications in the specific field as asked by the chairperson of the Grants Committee.
6. To help monitor the post-award progress of Bowel Research UK-funded projects.
7. To recommend peer reviewers as and when required.
8. To assist the chairperson of the Grants Committee in developing strategic recommendations for Bowel Research UK research.
9. To serve a fixed term of 3 years. This is potentially renewable by negotiation.
10. To comply at all times with the Bowel Research UK Terms of Reference and act in the best interests of the organisation.
11. To comply at all times with Bowel Research UK's Conflict of Interest policy