

## **BACD STRATEGIC RESEARCH GROUP – TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The BACD Strategic Research Group (SRG) delivers on one of BACD's charitable aims: *Encouraging and supporting research for the public benefit, publishing and disseminating the useful results thereof, in child development and disability.*

This document sets out the terms of reference, role expectations and election to the roles.

### **The aims of the SRG are:**

- To identify and encourage high quality clinical research in childhood disability in the UK, in particular collaborative multi-disciplinary projects
- To encourage and assist people in the field, including families, young people and clinicians, to identify research priorities
- To facilitate and support the development of major research applications to Wellcome, Medical Research Council, National Institute for Health Research and national charitable funding bodies
- To encourage and help clinicians, who are interested, to participate in research, and potentially pursue an academic career path.

### **Function:**

1. To develop and regularly review research strategy for the BACD to be approved by the BACD Executive.
2. To discharge the research-support objects of the BACD by implementing the agreed strategy. The promotion of research training within the paediatric neurodisability trainee community.
3. Assist the BACD Education Group with programme development and abstract review for the BACD annual scientific meeting and RCPCH specialty group session where requested.
4. Liaising with the Castang Foundation regarding joint fellowship, research network and other activities, and providing/requesting reports as required.
5. Review and advise on incoming research proposals.
6. Judge and award on scientific merit, research grant awards on behalf of BACD.
7. The building of research capacity within paediatric neurodisability more widely.
8. To support and enhance external fundraising efforts and relationships with external donors and supporters of research into children's neurodisability.

### **Important relationships:**

- The SRG reports to the BACD Executive and Trustees

### **SRG Terms of Reference:**

The SRG will comprise the following members:

#### **1. Chair of the Strategic Research Group**

- This individual (or individuals in the case of job sharing) is an elected member of the BACD Executive and a Trustee of the BACD.

- Arrange and Chair three BACD SRG meetings annually. These are usually face to face following the Executive meeting prior to the annual meeting, and then in the autumn and spring/summer (either on Teams or face to face at RCPCH)
- Lead BACD SRG discussions about priorities and how to deliver strategic aims; ensure SRG activities are delivered to meet the charitable aims; lead some SRG activities
- Liaise with the BACD Chair and Trustees about activities. The Chair should ensure that the Trustees and the Executive are able to appraise the SRGs plans and are aware of the activities being planned and undertaken. The BACD SRG activities should be signed off by the Executive prior to undertaking them
- Present about SRG plans and progress at the Executive and annual scientific meeting as requested, and provide a written update as needed
- Attend the RCPCH Research Consultation Committee and represent BACD
- The SRG Chair should be an appropriately experienced clinical academic health professional, and a member of BACD. The role can be undertaken by one person or shared between co-Chairs. The SRG Chair is encouraged to remain on the SRG for one year following their term to support the new Chair and ensure continuity.

## **2. Additional group members**

- To be appointed from professionals representing paediatrics, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, psychology, nursing, and any other relevant representation from additional professions. SRG members must be a BACD member (this may be honorary in the case of parent carer or young person representatives)

### **SRG Members Application Process:**

- The term of office will be four years with an option to seek re-election for a second term of office on one occasion only (i.e. a maximum term of eight years without a break in service). Following completion of a second term, the individual may only remain on the SRG if they are taking up a different role. Individuals must have a break of four years before re-taking up the same post if two terms have already been completed.
- Posts will be advertised through BACD communication channels (emails, website etc) as well as to non-members via other relevant specialty groups and organisations.
- Applicants should submit a one page letter outlining why they would like the role, why they should be considered for the role, and what they would bring to the role; and a 2 page research CV outlining their research expertise and achievements.
- SRG members will review and select the most suitable candidates for all SRG positions, with the exception of SRG Chair. In considering applications a wide geographical and professional discipline representation should be considered.
- The SRG, Executive Committee and Regional Representatives will review applications for SRG Chair, and recommend the most suitable candidate to the BACD Trustees for ratification.
- Applicants should be a member of the BACD, or become one if appointed.