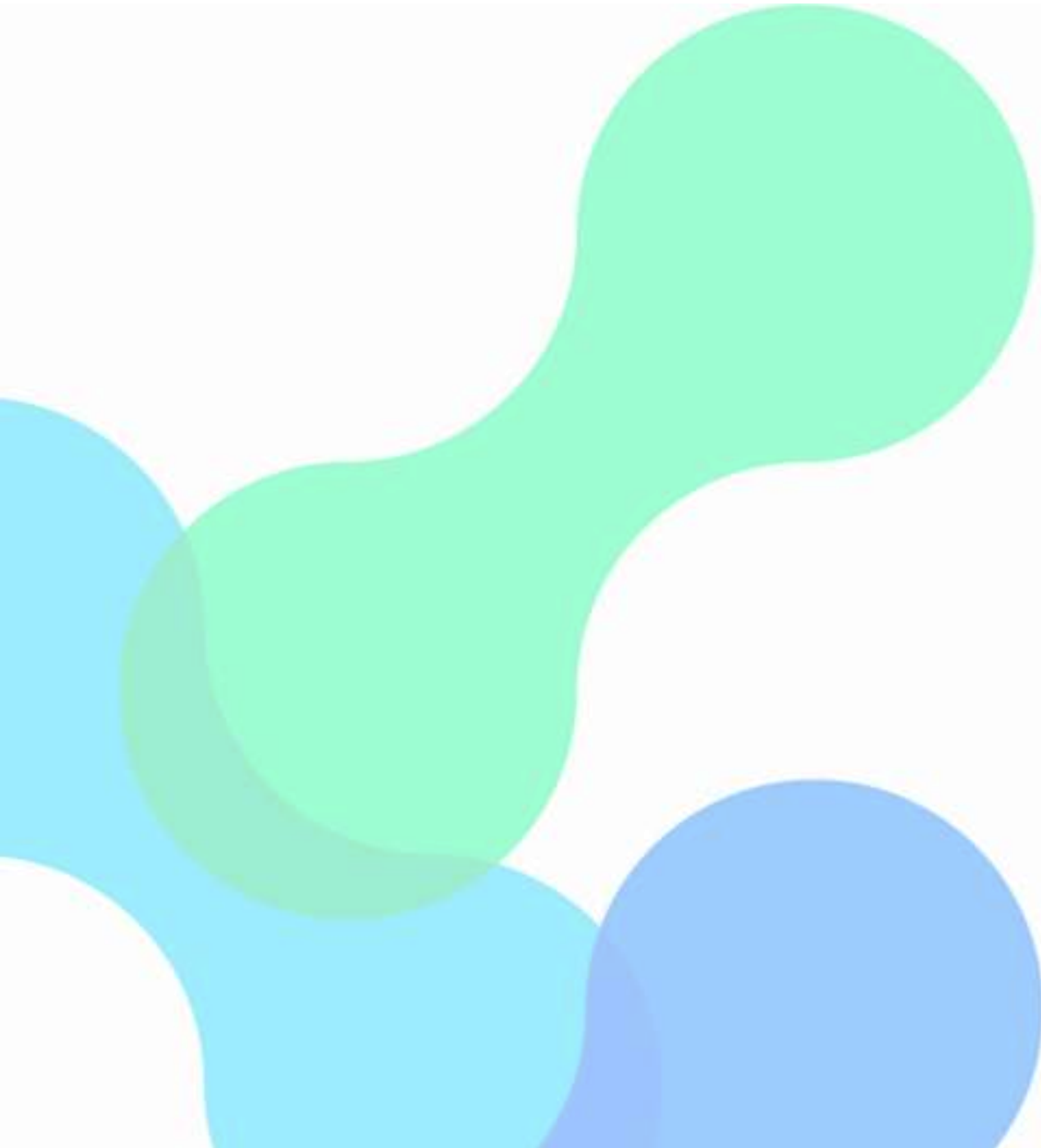




Guidelines for researchers

BASS/BSS/ORUK Spine Research Fellowship 2023



Introduction

The British Scoliosis Society (BSS) and The British Association of Spinal Surgeons (BASS), in conjunction with Orthopaedic Research UK (ORUK), are pleased to announce a new, 2-year, spine research fellowship.

This spine research fellowship of up to £60k is funded between the three organisations for a period of 2 years. This will require a leave of absence from clinical roles and / or training with agreement of employers or training programme directors.

It is aimed at individuals with an interest in research into any spinal area. It is open for applications to any individual who is already a member of either BSS or BASS, or would be eligible to apply for full membership commensurate to their seniority within their professional group. Our approach is inclusive, and we would welcome applications by allied health professionals (AHPs) and nurses along with medical doctors (consultants and trainees).

It is envisioned that this role will be full time and will result in the awarding of an MD, or equivalent higher degree, in partnership with a UK university, along with high impact papers in recognised journals.

Applications will be a single stage process with those successful invited for interview. The role is planned to commence in August 2023.

Applications will be judged on the research idea presented, the prospective research fellow and their ability to deliver the research, and the supporting mentors / supervision team.

About your research

Your research should be aimed at enhancing the quality of life for those affected by debilitating spinal conditions. The fellowship's goal is to identify challenging areas in prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and management; understand the underlying mechanisms involved, and develop appropriate scientific, clinical or technological solutions to address them.

About the BASS/BSS/ORUK Spine Research Fellowship

This fellowship is designed to support the brightest and best talents interested in advancing spinal research in the UK.

- We help establish researchers' academic independence and international reputation.
- We hope to develop ambassadors for BASS, BSS and ORUK and support them to become future spine leaders.
- Must be an evidence-based research project.
- Must take place in the UK.

Who can apply?

Member of either BSS or BASS, or those who would be eligible to apply for full membership commensurate to their seniority within their professional group. This includes allied health professionals (AHPs) and nurses along with medical doctors (consultants and trainees).

How many fellowships are we going to fund?

One fellowship.

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One fellowship, to commence in August 2023.

What is the value of the fellowship and over how long?

£60,000 over 2 years.

When is the closing date for applications?

Friday, 17 February 2023 at 17:00.

Do you need further information?

Further information can be gained via the research leads:

BSS – Adrian Gardner at adrian.gardner@nhs.net

BASS – Pal Lakshmanan at research@spinesurgeons.ac.uk

ORUK – research@oruk.org

What else is encouraged?

- Cross collaboration with other disciplines and colleagues to find more affordable, better and smarter solutions for patients with spinal disorders.
- Bringing funding from other sources such as other grant giving organisations.

Key dates*

14 November 2022	Application Form submission is open
17 February 2023 (17:00)	Deadline to submit the Application Form
February – April 2023	Peer review process
May/June 2023	Interview shortlisted applicants by the joint review committee
May/June 2023	Award decision

* These dates are tentative and are subject to change

IMPORTANT

1. We sign our [Standard Research Agreement](#) with Universities, NHS Trusts and registered business entities in the UK, not individuals. If you're unsure about this please contact research@oruk.org.
2. Applicants are only allowed to submit one application for this research call.

Submitting your research application

The full application online form can be accessed from [here](#). The applicants are encouraged to save the content of their application in a separate word document to ensure compliance with the word count, prior to submitting their application using the online form.

The submitted application form must be BLINDED. Applicants MUST ensure that there is no mention of any names of individuals, institutions/places of work/partner organisation or any other descriptions that could reveal their identity to the reviewers in **Sections 2-9** of the application form.

Additionally, all applicants are advised to use scientific language and include images where appropriate, in addition to providing the necessary references to support their claims. If these references are based on their previous work, they also need to be blinded.

The applicants are encouraged to suggest up to five names of experts in the field. The experts must not be linked to their application or the institution of the applicant. We will not guarantee that proposed experts will be invited to review the application.

Multiple experts will be invited to review the application. Reviewers will be asked to use a scoring system to rate the scientific quality of the proposals. At the end of this stage, applications will be ranked according to the scores received by the reviewers. Those qualified or rejected at this stage will be notified via e- mail.

Applicants of the rejected proposals will receive their score along with any specific feedback that may have been provided by the reviewers.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to meet with the Joint Review Panel for further evaluation. Applicants are required to appear before this committee, give a short presentation and take part in a Q&A session.

Shortlisted applicants will be asked to submit a short CVs of all the stakeholders involved. The format of the files can be in both PDF (.pdf) or Word (.docx). For CVs, all files should be titled as following: **"Name of researcher_CV.pdf"**. Further information will be provided to shortlisted applicants in due course.