IPCRG Research Support Policy

Support from our Research Sub Committee

The Research Sub-committee brings together a group of International Primary Care Respiratory Group members who are practising GPs and academics who are dedicated to reviewing and conducting primary care respiratory initiatives. The members have a disease-specific responsibility as well as being members of the committee. We also have set up a network of Research Coordinators, one from each of our Senate countries. The considerable expertise of our research network allows the cross-pollination of ideas and practical help in devising, executing and analysing projects. We are committed to improving standards in primary care respiratory medicine and as such actively encourage members who are interested in conducting research in this field.

The International Primary Care Respiratory Group research sub-committee aims to enable international collaboration in primary care respiratory research by raising the profile and ensuring pragmatic and ‘real life’ research is conducted across the world. We try to coordinate our programme to integrate with our scientific and world conferences, to maximise knowledge exchange and to stimulate new research networks and collaborations (see figure 1 for 2017-18 example).

IPCRG Research Priorities

Our roles in primary care respiratory research are multiple, (see figure 2) and not confined to conducting research, which may be best delivered in partnership with academic departments.

However, where we do conduct research, our priorities are to conduct research of real practical value to primary care practitioners, policy makers and patients in both developed and developing countries. We expect our research to be conducted by researchers and practitioners with significant experience of primary care and other community settings. We anticipate that our wide international network, and the enthusiasm of our members for such an initiative, will enable studies to be undertaken rapidly, cost effectively and with a high level of applicability. The scope includes prevention, diagnosis and management across the common respiratory conditions managed in primary care: asthma, allergic rhinitis, COPD, and infectious disease; and the most important cross-cutting intervention: smoking cessation.

Development of the IPCRG Research Strategy

The IPCRG has consulted experts in primary care, respiratory research, our members and associate members to develop a comprehensive research strategy that we believe is required in primary care respiratory medicine. To be selected, issues had to be of global importance and not just nationally relevant. Our Research Needs Statement (external link) published in 2010, prioritised (external link) using an E-Delphi exercise provides a framework for the development of our own research programme and, we hope, those of others, and should provide guidance to potential researchers and research funders planning to study priority research areas in primary care respiratory medicine. (links to IPCRG pages)
IPCRG Grant Application

To this end we invite members to apply for research grants. Successful research grants awarded by the International Primary Care Respiratory Group are based upon the relevance of the application to primary care respiratory medicine and specifically how it will help to meet the aims of the IPCRG, as well as the originality, quality, feasibility and educational value of the research. In addition the IPCRG insists that any successful research undertaken is disseminated according to a detailed plan. Each application will be submitted for independent review and feedback given to each applicant. Successful projects will be registered with our Research Registrar and dissemination of findings monitored according to the original dissemination plan. If you require further assistance, please contact Sam Louw (BusinessManager@theipcrg.org). Click here if you wish to send a research proposal for consideration by the IPCRG.

IPCRG Research Grant Proposal: Approval Process

**Step One - Process of application**
- All applicants are required to be members of the IPCRG
- Each application should concur with the template attached
- All applications should be submitted to the research sub-committee via Sam Louw (BusinessManager@theipcrg.org)
- Each application will be proof read by a committee member (with no recognised conflicts of interest i.e. personal involvement in the study design, development or proposed implementation) before being sent for independent review
- If there are issues raised at this stage (e.g. layout, readability etc) the application will be returned to the author with the necessary comments for improvement. The author will be invited to re-submit the application once changes have been made
- The template asks specifically **HOW CAN THE IPCRG HELP?** (eg partners required, methodological/clinical expertise required, project management support, mentoring, training needs, advice on funding streams)
- Applicants will be given feedback within 3 months, depending on what is required from the IPCRG
- Please note that the IPCRG does not pay overheads for grant applications.

**Step Two - Independent Review**
- Each application submitted will be sent for independent review to a minimum of two clinicians (excluding current committee members)
- The clinicians will be selected by Research Chair (or a member of the research sub-committee should there be conflicts of interest as outlined above).
- Each reviewer will be asked to submit their comments to the research sub-committee within a 4 week period.
- The reviewers will be responsible for giving each application a grade, recommending to the research sub-committee whether the application is
  1. Not recommended for IPCRG support
  2. Only appropriate for IPCRG support if changes were to be made
  3. Appropriate for IPCRG support
  4. Recommended for IPCRG support
  5. Highly recommended for IPCRG support
  6. Top priority for IPCRG support

**Step Three - Recommendations**
- If additional work is required the author will be informed (and given a copy of all comments) and invited to amend their application and re-submit, applicants will be informed within 6 months if their re-submitted application has been approved.
- If the application is recommended for rejection the author will be informed by Research Chair (or a member of the research sub-committee should there be conflicts of interest) and the reasons given for rejection documented.
- If it has been agreed that an application is of adequate scientific merit, then, upon agreement from the research sub-committee, funding will be sought.

**Step Four - Issuing Grants**
- The IPCRG does not have a general research fund at present. Therefore if the application is recommended for IPCRG support, the IPCRG will discuss what funding options there are.
Step Five - Re-submitting Applications

- Applications returned to authors at Step One will, upon re-submission, be processed from Step Two onwards.
- Applications returned to authors at Step Three (i.e. additional work is required) will, upon re-submission, be presented to the research sub-committee for final review. Original comments from the independent reviewers will be taken into consideration before a final decision to award a grant is made.

Grants will be awarded as documented in Step Four.