

Research strategy document for The Diabetes Care Trust (ABCD)

The Diabetes Care Trust (ABCD) is a registered charity (Charity number 1139057) whose goal is to improve the clinical care of people with diabetes.

Objectives

The specific objectives of the Trust are:

- Advance and encourage the education of medical and other health care professionals involved in the care of those with diabetes.
- Improve the understanding of people with diabetes about their own condition.
- Advance the knowledge of the public in all matters relating to diabetes and diabetes care.
- Support clinical research aimed at making direct improvements in the care and wellbeing of people with diabetes.
- Improve the scrutiny of treatments and technology for people with diabetes.

Research Strategy

The Diabetes Trust (ABCD) concerns itself with supporting the area of clinical research, that is research on how to improve the medical care of people with diabetes in the day-to-day world. These areas of research interest must align to the objectives of the Diabetes Care trust (ABCD). It will not fund basic science research nor research relating to projects outside diabetes.

The ABCD grant is for high quality clinically based research projects costing less than £50,000 that are likely to improve the lives of people with diabetes within a few years of completion of the grant.

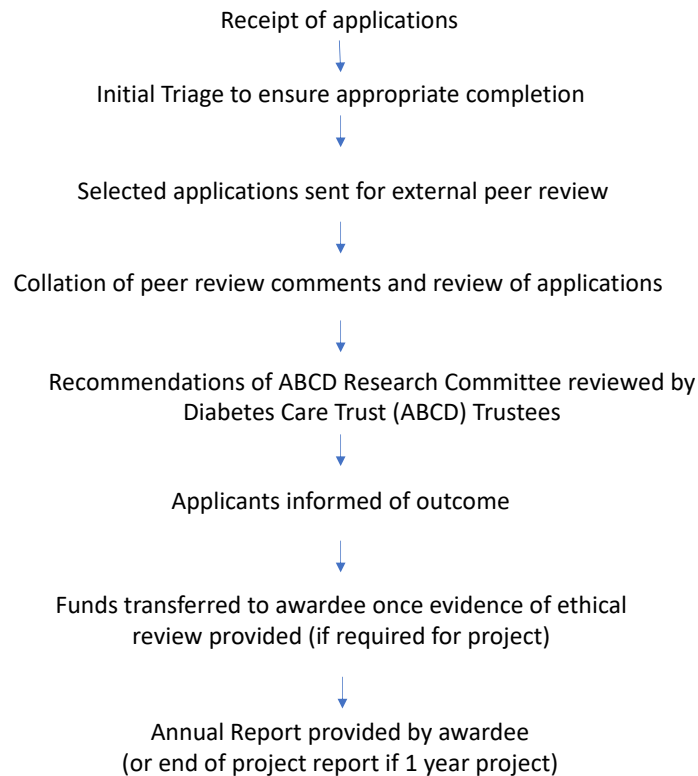
The duration of the grant is generally up to one year.

Grants with a proposed duration of over a year or will cost over £50,000 must be discussed with the ABCD Academic Sub-committee first.

The applicant will usually have a clinical post in the UK and the research taking place at a UK institution. The ABCD/DCT would particularly welcome applications from applicants at an earlier stage of their clinical and academic training.

Process for the Review and Selection of funding applications

Applications will be reviewed by the ABCD Research Committee. The ABCD Research committee will make funding recommendations to Trustees of the Diabetes Care Trust (ABCD) for consideration and approval. The process for the review and selection of funding applications is outlined below.



It is a condition of the application that. It will be a condition of any award that all or part of the research is submitted for publication to the journal of the ABCD (The British Journal of Diabetes).

The ABCD Research Committee

The role of the ABCD Research Committee is to make funding recommendations to the Diabetes Care Trust.

The Research Committee will comprise of 5-15 members. These members will include:

- all members of the ABCD Academic sub-committee
- a Trustee from the Diabetes Care Trust
- PPI member(s)
- others who will add the required specialist knowledge

The Trustees will appoint all members of the ABCD Research Committee as well as the Chair. This Chair of the Research Committee cannot be the Trustee member. The Chair will not

vote and will feedback the results of the Research Committee meeting to the Trustees. The Chair will also maintain a regular channel of communication with the Trustees to facilitated discussion of urgent or priority research areas, frequency of research calls, funding ceilings and decisions made out of cycle.

Member of the Research Committee will not be paid for their services, but any travel and subsistence will be covered.

Administrative duties for the Research Committee will be provided by the Trustees Administrator. This includes minuting of all meetings, supporting the collation and review of all funding applications, communicating with potential peer reviewers and applicants, and collating reports for the annual review.

Peer Review

The ABCD grant will conform to all principles of peer review as outlined by the Association of Medical Research Councils (AMRC). These include accountability, independence, balance, rotation and impartiality and compliance with these is outlined in the attached document.

Conflict of Interest Policy

A conflict of interest arises when a member of the Board of Trustees or of the Research Committee or a reviewer has a personal interest in any of the funding applications under review.

This may be because:

- They have applied for an award.
- The applicant is someone in their institution/research group.
- They are collaborating with the applicant.
- They, a relative or a close associate has some pecuniary interest in the award.
- They feel unable to make an unbiased decision on the application for whatever reason.

ABCD Research Committee members and Trustees are allowed to apply for funding for an ABCD Grant if the conflict-of-interest guidelines are followed.

If conflicted, Trustees and committee members must.

- declare any conflicts of interest to their respective committees.
- absent themselves from any discussions involving that application.
- not be allowed to assess and score that application.