



Research Committee Terms of Reference

Meetings

Three 90-minute meetings per year (usually virtual or on site at the BSPED Annual Meeting), organised by the BSPED Office.

Composition

Chair:	The chair is a full member of the BSPED, appointed by the Executive Committee of the BSPED
Deputy Chair(s):	The deputy chair is a consultant/scientist/research active specialist nurse ideally in their early or mid-career, appointed by the BSPED executive Committee and Chair of the Research Committee. Up to two deputy chairs may be appointed.
Full Members:	Up to 10, recruited via member nomination and Executive Committee, Chair and Deputy of the Research Committee ballot
Ex officio Member:	
Co-opted Members:	The Chair may co-opt additional members of the BSPED (or in exceptional circumstances from other professional organisations) for a limited period and for specific projects only, subject to Executive approval. Input may also be sought from patient support groups
Quorum:	Six members, including the chair, or deputy chair(s)

Duration of service

Chair:	3 years
Deputy Chair:	3 years
Full Members:	3 years, can be extended for up to 1 year at the discretion of the Chair and Executive. This will ensure a steady annual change of committee members
ECR/Trainee Member:	1 year, can be extended for additional 1-year terms up to a maximum of 3 years at the discretion of the Chair and Executive

Ex officio Members: Co-terminal with office

Co-opted Members: Duration of specific project (see above)

Reporting

The Research Committee reports to the BSPED Executive Committee through the Chair of the Research Committee

Aims

1. Champion and elevate the profile of paediatric endocrinology research at a national and international level, positioning BSPED as a leading authority in the field
2. Provide strategic leadership and coordination for research across BSPED, setting priorities and aligning activities with key funders and stakeholders
3. Nurture the next generation of paediatric endocrinology researchers through mentorship, funding, and collaborative opportunities
4. Facilitate and sustain productive partnerships with funders, industry, stakeholders, and research networks to maximise the reach and impact of paediatric endocrinology research

Remit

1. To represent, develop and maintain a strategic research agenda aligned with BSPED priorities and unmet clinical need by:
 - a. Engaging with key funders (e.g. NIHR RDN, UKRI) and stakeholders (e.g. RCPCH, Children's Hospital Alliance, patient and family organisations and industry partners), to highlight priority research topics, emerging opportunities, and relevant policy developments
 - b. Overseeing the BSPED research awards programme, in collaboration with the Awards Committee Chair, and supporting the future expansion and strategic theming of research grants in line with the Research Committee's priorities.
 - c. Fostering productive collaborative relationships with national and international research networks, societies, and institutions to strengthen and extend the reach of paediatric endocrinology research.
 - d. Providing a forum for interacting with other paediatric research groups, Clinical Studies Groups (CSGs) and allied professionals (including clinical biochemistry and adult endocrinology) thereby promoting cross-specialty and multidisciplinary research.
 - e. Facilitating and supporting high-quality multi-centre research studies and registry-based work
 - f. Maintaining and developing research sections of the BSPED website ensuring the content is current, accessible, and a useful resource for members, trainees, and the wider research community.
2. To support BSPED membership, trainees and early career researchers in undertaking an developing research activity by:

- a. Providing advice on the feasibility and suitability of paediatric endocrine research studies in development, supporting members to design robust and deliverable research.
- b. Collating, reviewing, and actively supporting the research portfolios of BSPED Special Interest Groups (SIGs), Clinical Study Groups (CSGs), and other relevant external research groups to identify opportunities for collaboration and alignment with BSPED research priorities.
- c. Actively supporting trainees and early career researchers in building their research careers and skills through mentorship, peer review and involvement in ongoing projects - signposting training opportunities within national networks, facilitating connections with RCPCH-supported local paediatric research groups, and networks.
- d. To strengthen the interface between basic science and clinical research by engaging scientists working in paediatric endocrinology and diabetes, supporting their participation in BSPED conferences, workshops, and collaborative networks.

BSPED Office

Association Management Organiser

Additional notes:

- Committee members should make every effort to attend all meetings. Attendance records will be kept and reviewed annually.
- Any Committee member who does not attend any meetings in a year will be asked to step down, other than in exceptional circumstances
- Committee members should make every effort to engage in communications and actions via email between meetings
- Each new committee member will be issued with the remit of the committee, together with the last three sets of meeting minutes
- A committee member needs to be a paid-up member of the BSPED
- All papers and minutes must be treated in strictest confidence
- A committee member must act in the best interest of the BSPED. Any potential conflicts of interest should be declared at the start of the meeting or as they arise, and the member concerned should take no part in the discussion
- Ex officio members on this committee have full voting rights

Sept 2026