



## How do we choose the research we fund?

We use a thorough process, which takes around five months, to help us choose the best local research.

All researchers we fund must report back to us regularly to show that they are making progress and managing the grant wisely. Our whole funding process is also independently reviewed on a regular basis.

This way we can be sure that the money you donate is spent wisely, funding research that is high quality, and that will have real impact for people living with chest, heart, and stroke conditions.

## Our grant selection process

Local researchers apply to our research fund. The lead researcher must be from a local university, but their team can be based anywhere.

As part of their application, they must demonstrate that their study is needed, and that it will be of real benefit to the people of Northern Ireland.

They must also clearly describe how they will carry out the study, and show that they will use high quality scientific techniques.

They must show how they will ensure that any money we fund them is spent appropriately.

We ask suitable experienced researchers and academics to review each application, before it goes to our own panel of experts (Scientific Research Committee, or SRC for short). Our panel then advises us which studies are good enough to fund.

### Every application goes through several stages of review to identify the strongest:

**Step one. Application check.** We check each application to ensure it can proceed to the next step.

**Step Two Peer review.** We identify researchers with expertise in the same area as the application and ask them to review it. We ask them to rate the application against four criteria. We ask our committee members to review too.



Is it good science?



Will it benefit people living with chest, heart & stroke conditions?



Does it fit with our charity?



Is it good value for money?

**Step Three We meet.** Our Senior Leadership Team meet to discuss each application - does it fit with what we do as a charity?

**Step Four The Committee meets.** The SRC meet to discuss each application as a group. They take on board the scores and feedback from the earlier stages, and then score each application against the same criteria. Applications are ranked, and the committee decide which they would recommend for funding.

**Step Five Decision made.** Our Governance Board meets to review the committee's recommendations and to agree to fund.

## Monitoring the research we fund

All researchers we fund must report back to us regularly to show that they are making progress and managing the grant wisely. They must provide us with a final report outlining what their research achieved.

The Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) regularly checks on our funding process. This helps us make improvements, and to keep the process fair and open.

This might sound like a long, complicated process – and it does involve many dedicated people – but it helps us make sure that we fund only the best quality research, and use your donations wisely.



Our research grants programme is audited and approved by the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC)