

MACP AGM 2025

3rd November 2025, 6.30-8.00pm

Report:	Research
Committee Member:	Dr Colette Ridehalgh
Date of report:	18/09/25

Overview of Year

We launched our new awards this year which cumulated in an increase in applications, all of very high standard. Funding pots 2 and the Elsevier/Greening award were especially competitive, with just one or two points between the successful and unsuccessful applicants. I would like to thank everyone who applied for their time and effort in producing such high-quality submissions, I only wish we could have supported all of the projects.

The awardees are as follows:

Elsevier and Jane Greening Award- Prof Dylan Morrissey “What factors determine how often people with persistent musculoskeletal conditions need to see a physiotherapist? A mixed methods study”.

Funding pot 2- Dr Vasilieios Georgopoulos “understand and improve the use of analgesic medicines in people with ongoing musculoskeletal pain (OMP) through a realist approach”.

Funding pot 1 Dr Colette Ridehalgh “Combined Physiotherapy interventions for people with lumbosacral radicular pain: exploring the fidelity of a best practice programme in London NHS Trusts” and Paul McDonald “Developing a healthcare professional tool to assess UK physiotherapists' knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs about adults with obesity”

Conference presentation awards to Dan Nicholls who presented at the BESS conference in Brighton and Konstantina Savvoulidou who presented at the European Pain Federation conference in Lyon.

MACP Research survey

We launched a research survey asking members for their thoughts on what the MACP offers them in terms of research support and what they would like to see more of.

44 people responded to the survey. Around 35% of these were heavily involved in research, just under 30% were regularly involved. Almost 90% of respondents were involved in clinical research, just over 40% had qualitative expertise and around 36% quantitative expertise. Around 40% of respondents felt that more funding would be beneficial to them in achieving their research goals, closely followed by mentorship (27%). Biggest barriers to research were lack of funding (61%), time allocated at work (55%) and lack of mentorship (55%).

Thirty five percent of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the current amount of support the MACP gave to members for research, 58% were neutral and 7% were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

Our response

We have increased the amount of funding for research with the launch of the new awards, and at present we are unable to offer additional funding.

However, we will continue to look at alternative strategies for funding in the future. Additionally, where the committee feel there is sufficient need we will commission specific research studies.

In terms of mentorship, we are in the process of organising a database of research mentors. We will be asking MACP members if they are able to offer research mentorship to MACP members and the level/amount of mentorship they can offer. We will ensure that mentors and mentees are well matched, and this matching will be orchestrated by the research committee. This protects mentors from being inundated with requests whilst ensuring that mentees are appropriately supported.

A big thank you to the research committee members: Andrea Ravindra, Martin Rabey, Jaj Mankelow, Stuart Wareham and Matthew Willett.

Stuart Wareham stood down as research officer this year and we would like to thank him for all of his support and hard work over the past few years. We are looking for a new member to sit on the committee ideally with experience of reviewing grant submissions.

Progress against sub-speciality strategic aims

1. Offer appropriate bursaries to all tiers of MACP membership to support research

The launch of the new awards increased the uptake and quality of applications this year. We believe this will continue for subsequent years.

2. Horizon scan important research priorities for the MACP, and where appropriate commission studies.

We have not highlighted a specific area to commission a study this year. The research committee will continue to assess any priorities in the next year and with discussion with the executive committee consider commissioning as appropriate.

3. Disseminate research through MACP communications channels / wider networks and through close collaboration with the knowledge exchange officer.

We disseminate all our awardees' research on the website. Members can recruit via our website and through social media. Our research survey was launched this year, and we are continuing to work with members to build a mentorship database.

4. Support and help to develop MACP members in research activities including mentorship for abstract submissions to conferences

We will continue to offer mentorship to members who are submitting abstracts to appropriate upcoming international conferences.

Additionally, awardees of some of the new research awards will be asked to mentor future applicants as a condition of their award.

Key Development Plans for 25/26

1. Promote the research awards well in advance of dates
2. Develop mentorship database
3. Continue to horizon scan for commissioned studies
4. Nurturing research conference- develop new conference for late 26/early 27.