Musculoskeletal Association of Chartered Physiotherapists

# MACP Award Report

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| **Awardee Name:** | **Karl Baraks** |
| **Date of Report:** | **5/5/26** |
| **Name of the Award:** | **Conference Presentation Award** |
| **Amount awarded:** | **£500** |
| **What the award was used for:** | **The award supported attendance and presentation at the British Association of Spine Surgeons Annual Scientific Meeting (BASS 2026) held in British Association of Spine Surgeons Annual Scientific Meeting 2026. Funding contributed towards conference registration, travel, accommodation, and presentation-related costs associated with presenting my doctoral research protocol entitled *"Developing a Consensus-Based UK Quality Indicator Set for Low Back Pain: A National Protocol."***<br>**The presentation outlined the rationale and methodology for Study 2 of my Professional Doctorate research at Keele University, which aims to establish a nationally agreed, stakeholder-endorsed quality indicator set for low back pain (LBP) for routine NHS data use. The work involves a two-stage national consensus process using eDelphi methodology and Nominal Group Technique workshops involving both healthcare professionals and people with lived experience of low back pain.**<br>**Attendance at BASS 2026 also provided an important opportunity to engage with spinal surgeons, musculoskeletal clinicians, researchers, and healthcare leaders regarding the relevance and implementation potential of the proposed quality indicators within spinal and musculoskeletal care pathways.** |
| **Please indicate if you are happy for us to share your report and any photo/picture through our Social Media channels, email to members only and/or in our quarterly newsletter** | **Yes, I am happy for this report and associated photographs to be shared through MACP social media channels, member communications, and newsletters.** |
| **Summary of how this award or bursary helped you in your career/clinical/academic practice** | **Receiving the MACP Conference Presentation Award provided valuable support in enabling me to present my doctoral research at BASS 2026 and significantly contributed to my academic and professional development.** |

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| **Education Awards**<br>• MSc/PgD Awards: 200 words<br>• Level 1 Awards: 500 words<br>• Level 2 Awards: 1000 words<br>• Level 3 Awards: 1500 words<br><br>**Research Awards**<br>• Conference Presentation Award: 500 word report<br>• Research Fund 1: 1000 word report<br>• Research Fund 2: 1500 word report<br>• Elsevier and Jane Greening Award: 1500 word report | **Presenting at a national multidisciplinary spinal conference allowed me to disseminate the early stages of my research to a broad audience of clinicians, academics, and healthcare stakeholders involved in spinal care. My presentation focused on the development of a UK consensus-based quality indicator set for low back pain, an area that has increasing relevance in improving consistency, transparency, and evaluation of musculoskeletal services across the NHS.**<br>**The conference experience enhanced my confidence in presenting doctoral-level research within a national forum and provided constructive feedback regarding the methodology, feasibility, and implementation considerations of the project. Discussions with spinal surgeons, physiotherapists, and researchers highlighted the importance of ensuring indicators remain clinically meaningful while also being measurable using routine NHS data sources. These conversations have already helped refine aspects of the planned consensus process and implementation considerations for subsequent stages of the study.**<br>**The award also facilitated important networking opportunities with clinicians and researchers working in spinal and musculoskeletal health. These connections have strengthened awareness of the project nationally and may support future collaboration, participant recruitment, and dissemination activities as the research progresses.**<br>**From a clinical perspective, the process reinforced the importance of quality measurement and evidence-informed service evaluation within musculoskeletal practice. The presentation generated valuable discussion around how nationally agreed indicators could support benchmarking, service improvement, and patient-centred care for individuals with low back pain.**<br>**Overall, the MACP award directly supported the dissemination of my doctoral research, strengthened my development as a clinician-researcher, and contributed positively to both my academic progression and wider professional practice.** |

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| **Picture of awardee/conference/course/ Experience as relevant** |  |