

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF BREAST SURGERY

AIM

In accordance with the articles of the Association of Breast Surgery, the vision of the new Academic and Research Committee is to:

Enhance care and outcome for patients with breast disease through promotion and support of (surgical) research and innovation.

OBJECTIVES

- To identify relevant and important topics for research through broad consultation with both professionals, and patient and public representatives
- To develop methods to promote the development, funding and implementation of surgical research in breast disease
- To support and encourage the participation of surgeons in all aspects of trial design, development, implementation and recruitment
- To identify, train and support future surgical researchers' career through all career stages
- To promote collaboration and cooperation in the development and implementation of research and clinical trials
- Identify and participate in relevant research initiatives e.g. RCS Surgical Trials initiative
- To raise the profile of breast surgery through publication of new and existing data
- To encourage and facilitate patient and public participation in all stages of research development and implementation.
- To promote engagement and interaction of surgeons in national and international research organisations
- To run workshops and other relevant events for the network and ABS members

In order to deliver the above objectives, the following actions will be undertaken:

1. Establish ABS Academic and Research Committee

To date, the Chair (Professor Malcolm Reed) and Secretary (Mr Ramsey Cutress) have been elected and the committee will be supported by Ms Lucy Davies. In order to develop and oversee the relevant activities approximately 10 research active individuals will be identified and invited to join the Academic and Research Committee. These individuals are likely to be identified from the existing academic surgery network but careful consideration will need to be given to selection of Committee members in order to provide a combination of adequate representation and essential skills required to deliver the aims and objectives outlined in this document. This will need to be discussed in detail with and approved by the Trustees of the Association.

Once established, the Committee will need to:

- Agree frequency of committee meetings
- Define the remit of the committee and committee membership
- Draft and agree further guidance for the Committee

- Agree criteria and process for membership of the ABS Academic and Research Network (see below)

The committee will undertake specific tasks e.g.:

- Webpage development and content management
- Develop methods to support and monitor the remit of the Committee
- Promote liaison with ABS Council and Trustees, ABS Academic and Research Network, ABS Membership, and relevant external bodies including breast cancer studies groups and charitable and funding bodies.

2. Establish a Network of Research Active Surgeons (ABS Academic and Research Network) and develop research group content for the ABS Website

The Academic and Research Network will have a number of functions vital to the objectives of the committee:

- Undertake a gap analysis of areas for surgical research and publish
- Provide input into the identification and selection of suitable and feasible topics for research and feedback on proposed trial design to support PIs developing new studies
- Participate in online surveys indicating willingness to participate in trial recruitment and likely numbers of patients recruited. This information is essential for PIs seeking trial funding
- Develop criteria for the award of ABS approval for clinical trials including those developed by ABS principal investigators but also trials developed by collaborative organisations requesting ABS support
- Identify and encourage ABS research active members to join relevant funding bodies e.g. Breast Cancer Clinical Studies Group, Clinical Trials Awards Advisory Group, NIHR Breast Cancer Campaign, etc
- Promote the dissemination of ABS supported research activity through sessions at relevant ABS meetings and publication.
- Consider the development of research fellowships (including partnerships) and training opportunities for early career surgeons to enhance their research skills with the aim of increasing the number of research active surgeons in both academic and NHS roles
- To ensure and enhance the involvement of public and patients in all research activities through the identification of representatives and collaboration with established networks of PPI
- Actively collaborate with the Trustees, Council, Academic and Research Committee and other Committees of ABS in promoting the delivery of the objects of the articles of the Association

Malcolm Reed and Ramsey Cutress

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