**Criteria for ABS Endorsement of studies**

The decision for endorsement of a clinical study by the Association of Breast Surgery will be by the Academic and Research Committee. The intention of ‘ABS Endorsement’ is to also support and raise the profile of studies that do not qualify for the criteria for ABS badging. These may include clinical trials not open for recruitment across the whole membership, or other studies felt to be of importance including trainee collaboratives. Studies endorsed by ABS will be studies in breast surgery or with breast surgeons playing a fundamental role in delivering the research and must meet the objects or aims of the Association of Breast Surgery and its Academic and Research Committee.

The aim of ABS Endorsement is to provide peer review and to provide assistance, support and comment on study development, design and management with a view to facilitate engagement of the patient and surgical community. ABS endorsement can take two forms:

1. **During study development**

* Studies can be discussed within the ABS Academic and Research Committee at the post-committee meeting sand-pit sessions and feedback provided from the discussions.
* To arrange for discussion of your study please email Lena Sebova (lenasebova@absgbi.org.uk)
* The feedback will be documented as an appendix to the meeting minutes.
* This feedback can be used to assist with study development and applications (for example for funding) to demonstrate peer review by the committee, and to demonstrate response to the review.

1. **Following development and prior to opening**

Studies funded by ABS research development grants have been peer reviewed by ABS and can automatically state that they are supported by the ABS Academic and Research Committee

A study can otherwise only state that it is supported by the ABS Academic and Research Committee once all the criteria below are met:

1. The committee is supportive of the study and feels it is in a position to proceed
2. The study is fully funded and the committee considers that the study is feasible
3. The trail team and those conducting the study have taken responsibility for ensuring suitable ethics and governance procedures are in place
4. The study has breast surgical involvement or relevance, and should therefore involve ABS member participation and include ABS members as co-applicants or members of the Trial Management Group or Steering Committee.
5. The study must meet the objects or aims of the Association of Breast Surgery and its Academic and Research Committee

The documentation of study endorsement will be via the minutes of the A&R Committee meeting. Please complete the application form (Appendix 2) to apply for study support.

Support by the ABS does not infer any governance of the trial or supervision of the conduct of the trial by the ABS. It is understood that the endorsement of the Association of Breast Surgery will be acknowledged in the study literature and publications.