

## Research Grants Policy

### Relevant research subjects and criteria

#### 1. Research focus of the DBRIC

The areas of interest that this policy addresses are those that are related to the practice of chiropractic. These include but are not limited to basic, clinical and population-based research.

1.1. Basic Sciences Research. Research in this field deals primarily with biomechanics and neurophysiology. It includes the study of:

- spinal and articular biomechanics and their control;
- the relationship between the spine and bodily functions;
- the neurological control of bodily function;
- the effects of manipulation.

1.2. Clinical and Population-based Sciences Research. Research in this field is primarily aimed at evaluation of the role of chiropractic in health care. It includes:

- the evaluation of the validity of diagnostic procedures used in chiropractic practice;
- the evaluation of the outcomes of chiropractic therapy;
- epidemiological and sociological studies;
- the role of chiropractic in preventive care;
- economic evaluations/cost-effectiveness.

1.3. Research in fields, which do not belong to chiropractic itself, will also be considered if it appears that they can foster the knowledge, the understanding and the practice of chiropractic.

#### 2. Priorities

2.1. DBRIC is funded by the chiropractic profession in the Netherlands and Belgium; therefore, projects designed to result in a PhD or projects designed to enhance the recognition and position of chiropractic will receive first priority. Preference will be given to projects where at least one project participant is a Dutch or Belgian chiropractor (researcher). Multidisciplinary projects initiated by chiropractors will be welcomed. Proposals submitted by other qualified professionals will also be considered provided they are consistent with the bylaws of DBRIC.

2.2. Assessment Criteria. In judging the applications, the Academic Advisory Committee will consider the following points and these should be addressed by the applicant.

a. Originality:

- What is new in the project?
- Will the project provide new insights in the subject area?
- Will the project be valuable in testing the results of existing studies?

b. Importance of the work:

- Is the subject area already receiving much attention?
- Will the project significantly contribute to furthering knowledge in this field?
- How will the project ultimately benefit patients?

c. Scientific reliability:

- Is the project well designed?
- Are the methods outlined appropriate to achieve the objective?
- Is the sample size appropriate?
- Is the use of controls appropriate?
- Are supporting references up to date and relevant?

d. Experience of applicant, facilities and support:

- Is the applicant sufficiently experienced and qualified to carry out the study?
- Is the applicant's department, work-setting or level of supervision of a high enough calibre to support the project adequately?
- Is the support claimed from universities/research bodies validated?

e. Appropriate use of funds:

- Is the funding requested appropriate for the activities detailed?
- Has the applicant sourced co-funding?
- Is completion of the project dependent on the applicant securing funds from other sources?

### 3. Research Proposals

Grant Application procedure: DBRIC will consider protocols and grant applications from qualified personnel and/or institutions wishing to undertake research in a definite area of interest to the profession. Please use the Research Grant Application Form for funding which is available on the website.

### 4. Financial Policy

Funding will normally only be given if the lead applicant is an individual member of the BCU or NCA or the project is administered by an educational/research institution. At least one chiropractor must be a member of the research team. Proposals which do not include a chiropractor on the team will be considered only if the proposed research is of particularly high quality and importance and meets the criteria described above. The Board of the DBRIC reserves the right to impose additional requirements.

DBRIC looks favourably on those projects which seek co-funding, and encourages applicants to include this in their budget. Financial accountability must be submitted at the end of the project.

## 5. Handling of Applications and Review Process for Research Proposals

5.1. Basic outline and required features. Applicants must use the Research Grants Application Form available on the website. Details of the lead applicant and collaborators; curriculum vitae from all applicants; and full research proposal (max. 5 pages, Arial font size 12) as well as a detailed budget must be included. The full and detailed budget must be submitted as an appendix, see Research Grant Budget Form on the website. Appendices may also include, but should be limited to, for example, forms and outcomes instruments to be used. Incomplete applications can be refused on the basis that they are not complete.

5.1.1. Summary: To include full title of the project and a structured abstract (max. 200 words) with:

- Background;
- Principal research question;
- Study design and methodology, including a brief description of the expected data analysis.

5.1.2. Project Outline including details of the proposed investigation:

- Title;
- Background;
- Research objectives/principal aim;
- Concise description of the study design and methodology, including a power calculation if deemed appropriate for the study design, expected data-analysis, as well as knowledge transfer of the results;
- Value of the research to patients;
- Project milestones (bar graph/grant chart, restricted to the execution of the project).

Not limited to the page restriction: Detailed budget, including salaries, resources, detailed account statement and disclosure from the applicant institution; and declarations and appendices.

5.2. Evaluation and approval of a project

5.2.1. General considerations

- a. All proposals shall be submitted electronically to: [info@dbric.eu](mailto:info@dbric.eu)
- b. All proposals will first be reviewed by the Academic Advisory Committee (AAC). If the proposal meets minimum standards and the criteria as outlined above, the proposal will be evaluated internally. Should the application extend beyond the scope of the AAC's expertise (which will be determined by consensus) then the application will be sent to external independent content expert(s) appointed by the AAC. These reviewers will be chosen based upon their expertise, and should not be involved in the project nor have financial interests relating to the proposed project. See also the Conflict of Interest Policy for additional information. The criteria that will be used by the committee and external experts are outlined above under the heading Operating Principles.
- c. The AAC will evaluate the proposals and give their assessment to the Board of DBRIC
- d. The Board of DBRIC will make a decision
- e. The DBRIC Director who will notify the main investigator and/or institution as to its decision.
- f. For various deadlines, see the Time Line document on the website.

5.2.2. Funding will be given under the condition that the institute that is granted funding must find a suitable candidate to conduct the study within 6 months following the funding decision. This will need to be approved by the Board upon recommendation by the AAC. The institute must provide a CV of the candidate and letter of recommendation.