

BAPO Research Strategy

The BAPO research strategy runs in line with the NIHR AHP clinical research strategy 2018-2020 to ensure that prosthetists and orthotists are able to drive best practice and embrace the challenges of an ever-changing health care system. It is imperative that we are able to engage in the world of clinical research and ensure that we are represented as a profession.

Prosthetists and orthotists have often had additional challenges of working within a commercial setting with individual companies providing services, when compared to other allied health professionals (AHP) who are predominately employed directly by the NHS. Collaborative working across commercial and NHS providers with academic institutes will offer optimal outcomes for the profession, its clinicians and most importantly the patients that we serve.

The aims of the strategic goals are to:

1. Increase visibility of prosthetists and orthotists within research settings
2. Increase research capacity and capability within prosthetics and orthotics
3. Enable prosthetists and orthotists to support clinically relevant research
4. Support innovation within prosthetic and orthotic clinical practice
5. Build partnerships to maximise the impact of research activity

The aims of the strategy are shown in more detail as below:

Aim one		
Increase visibility of prosthetists and orthotists within research settings		
Task	Details	Benefit
1.1 Support research activity-	At all levels, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing awareness of newly published research. • development and contributing to new clinical studies. • Share summaries of recent research. 	HCPC requirement. NHS/NIHR goal.
1.2 Build awareness of research within the profession-	Support routine audit, and service evaluation. Use of social media to disseminate research findings. Register of research active clinicians and academics.	Normalise research in the clinical environment. Utilise available skill base within the profession.
1.3 Promote and share best practice-	Evidence based findings disseminated, using BAPO bulletins, social media and print. Develop, implement and share clinical guidelines. Measure outcomes from improved clinical practice.	Ensure that optimal clinical outcomes are achieved. Increased awareness of the professions across the wider healthcare community.

1.4 Build networks with research organisations-	Build links with clinical research networks such as CAPHR, NIHR, HEE, higher education institutions (HEI) and commercial research organisations. Develop inter professional research opportunities.	Engagement in the research community to increase profile of the profession.

Aim two		
Increase research capacity and capability within prosthetics and orthotics		
Task	Detail	Benefit
2.1 Develop skills in research methods-	BAPO to support education and training in research methodologies. Signpost clinicians to postgraduate training in research methods. Signpost clinicians to sources of funding and research awards. Ensure understanding of HRA guidelines in research governance in line with good clinical practice (GCP).	Improves patient outcomes and experiences. Raises the professional profile. Ensures effective and ethical research practices are followed.
2.2 Support clinical academic pathways-	Development and support of clinical academic role within prosthetics and orthotics in line with NHS AHP career development. Engage with HEIs offering current undergraduate training in prosthetics and orthotics to increase awareness of research and clinical academic careers. Engage HEIs offering post graduate training to increase support of prosthetic and orthotic research and clinical academic careers. Develop mentorship program, with experienced researchers supporting early career researchers.	Support development of the profession. Improved retention of clinicians.

Aim three		
Enable prosthetists and orthotists to support clinically relevant research		
Task	Detail	Benefit
3.1 Work to support research in areas important to our patient group-	Engage with patient groups, commissioning groups (Such as the James Lind Alliance), funding organisations, prosthetists and	Ensure research is clinically relevant and beneficial to patients. Promote benefits of PPI.

	<p>orthotists to identify research priorities.</p> <p>Engage in and develop interprofessional research studies.</p>	<p>Ensure ethical research practices.</p>
--	---	---

<p>Aim four</p>		
<p>Support innovation within prosthetic and orthotic clinical practice</p>		
Task	Detail	Benefit
<p>4.1 Support adoption of new technologies and clinical practices-</p>	<p>Commission articles for BAPO connect and the website to increase awareness of advances in clinical practice.</p> <p>Offer opportunities to present at local and national level via regional meetings and annual conference.</p> <p>Support clinicians speaking at local, national and international meetings to other allied health and medical professionals.</p> <p>Support the writing and publication of case studies showcasing good clinical practice.</p> <p>Produce evidence of economic benefits of improved clinical practices.</p>	<p>Improve clinical practices within the profession.</p> <p>Increase awareness of advances within the profession.</p>

<p>Aim five</p>		
<p>Build partnerships to maximise the impact of research activity</p>		
Task	Detail	Benefit
<p>5.1 Support research-</p>	<p>Development of a research network to support research activity and interest.</p>	<p>Support for BAPO members to find relevant assistance for research activity.</p>
<p>5.2 Build awareness of research-</p>	<p>Include research strategy in annual report, BAPO website, and BAPO connect.</p> <p>Promote research on social media and in communications to the profession.</p> <p>Potential open day to highlight research that has been completed by prosthetists and orthotists, and in prosthetics and orthotics for funding organisations such as charities, NHS Trusts, CAPHR and NIHR CRNs, and HEIs.</p>	<p>Increase transparency of strategy to BAPO members.</p>