

Joint British and Irish Association of Stroke Physicians and NIHR Research Delivery Network Stroke Portfolio Development Opportunity

2026 Competition

The British and Irish Association of Stroke Physicians (BIASP) invites applications from the stroke clinical research community with the explicit aim of developing high quality research proposals which will be included on the NIHR Research Delivery Network portfolio if funded.

Applications must clearly articulate and justify the proposed work to be undertaken. Up to £1000 per writing group has been ring fenced for this round and it is anticipated that up to 4 applications will be funded. The money requested should be used to facilitate proposal generation via writing group meetings and associated activities of the writing group. Applications are invited from the four UK nations.

Who should apply?

Any clinical researcher from the stroke community may apply on behalf of any writing group. Writing groups will consist of researchers (ideally between 5 and 20), some at senior level, who have a research track record in the topic covered by the group and are from multiple academic disciplines and institutions.

The funding available is also an opportunity for researchers who are running or have recently completed pilot/feasibility studies to develop follow on phase II or II trials and we would particularly welcome applications with this aim.

Each writing group must have a lead and a convenor who will accept responsibility for organising writing group meetings and for liaising with BIASP.

What is a suitable topic for a writing group?

A suitable topic will be in an area of stroke where large scale research projects are likely to obtain funding in the near future. Any stroke related proposal for a multi-centre study will be considered, although we particularly welcome groups intending to address the following priority areas:

- Hyper-acute Stroke studies (studies where recruitment takes place within 12 hours of the onset of stroke or TIA) and/or involving complex neuro-interventional radiology.
- Sub-acute studies (studies where recruitment takes place within 24-48hours of stroke or TIA)
- Secondary Prevention studies
- Community based interventions

The topic should not be too wide in scope but should focus around a specific area. On the other hand, the topic should not be so narrow as to preclude a program of large-scale research. As far as possible, BIASP and the NIHR Stroke National Specialty Group will seek to ensure that the topics of writing groups do not overlap with each other.

Milestones

- **Within 3 months** of inception, each writing group will be required to provide BIASP with a **title** and a short statement describing the question to be studied, the participants, the study method, and the membership of the research group who are developing the proposal.
- **Within 6 months** of inception each research group will be expected to have submitted one **draft outline** to BIASP containing:
 - one or more hypotheses
 - a structured abstract or PICO
 - a power calculation (if necessary)
 - an intended submission date for the full grant application, with details of the body to which the application will be submitted
 - an estimated schedule for the recruitment of participants.
- **Within 12 months** of inception, each research group will be expected to have submitted one

funding proposal. Each research group will also be expected to demonstrate how it is continuing to liaise with clinicians who are active in the area covered by the group.

During development BIASP admin will be in regular contact with the convenor as to the progress of the writing group, and we would appreciate your cooperation in this process.

It is unlikely that funding can be extended beyond 12 months, therefore if a project is unable to commence or you foresee delay at the time the funding is agreed, please let us know as soon as possible.

It is expected that BIASP and the NIHR RDN will be acknowledged in any submissions to funding bodies and subsequent publications as a result of this call.

It is important that support requested is compliant with the BIASP Sustainability Policy, in particular noting issues related to travel and catering.

Application Procedure

Applications must clearly articulate and justify the proposed work to be undertaken and should also include a full CV of the proposed lead researcher and brief CVs of other participating members. Applications will only be accepted on the official application form, a copy of which accompanies this advert or can be obtained from admin@biasp.org

Deadline for applications: Friday 30 October at 0900

In the first instance, please direct any enquiries to admin@biasp.org