



CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Expert Committee Co-Chair - academic/clinical expertise

Expert committees

Arthritis UK operates three expert committees, the Research Expert Committee, the Fellowship Expert Committee and the Clinical and Care Expert Committee. The purpose of the committees is to provide expert advice and insight to inform the work of the charity, assisting in planning, developing and undertaking activities to support research and fellowship awards, policy positions and charity services. They assist the charity to consider insight from other Arthritis UK groups, committees, sector and landscape intelligence.

The committees are co-chaired by an expert with lived experience and an academic/clinical expert.

We want our employees, volunteers and trustees to represent the broad diversity of the communities of which we are a part. Through our diversity and inclusion strategy, we have made a commitment to increase the diversity of our charity and we welcome candidates from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences and UK locations.

Research Expert Committee

The [Research Expert Committee](#) helps Arthritis UK engage and work with others through the identification of strategic partnerships to increase musculoskeletal research capacity in the UK and advises the charity on the balance of research and career activities across the Arthritis UK portfolio.

Members of the committee also undertake the role of Co-Chair or Vice-Co-Chair of Arthritis UK Funding Review Panels, which help the charity in making decisions about research funding applications. The Co-Chairs of the Research Expert Committee are occasionally but rarely asked to undertake to Co-Chair a Funding Review Panel as well.

The Research Expert Committee membership is constituted of up to 20 members, gathering representation of lived experience and of discovery, translational, clinical and applied science across the types of arthritis.

Delegated authority

The Expert Committees, and Funding Review Panels that members oversee, make recommendations to the charity executive. The charity executive has full delegated authority from the Board of Trustees to authorise funding, within agreed overall policies and procedures and budget, subject to the charity's Schedule of Authority, as may be amended from time to time by the Board of Trustees.

Role of Research Expert Committee Co-Chair

The main duties for the Co-Chairs are to enable the committee to:

- Input expertise and insight for their respective areas and provide strategic advice to help the charity plan and prioritise new research activities, including our financial investments and influencing activities.
- Consider insight from other Arthritis UK groups, committees, sector and landscape intelligence.
- Help the charity engage and work with others through the identification of strategic partnerships to increase musculoskeletal research capacity in the UK.
- Advise the charity on the balance of research and career activities across the Arthritis UK portfolio.
- Help the charity's decision making around other research activities where appropriate.
- Take on the role of Co-Chair for Funding Review Panel meetings.

Expectations of the Co-Chair

- Maintain confidentiality where required.
- Identify personal and member conflicts of interest and declare these to the charity.
- Always conduct themselves with probity, which may include (amongst other things) management of claims for expenses incurred, gifts and hospitality received.
- Lead the Research Expert Committee meetings and liaise with the charity, giving clear advice and challenge.

- Lead strategic and policy discussions, and, as appropriate, define goals and targets and evaluate performance against them.
- Work with charity staff to appoint the members of the committee.
- Attend a mandatory diversity and inclusion workshop to develop an understanding of our vision for becoming a more diverse and inclusive charity.

Skills and abilities of the Co-Chair

- Excellent communication and facilitation skills with ability to listen to, respect and constructively facilitate the presentation of opinion, contributions and insights.
- Ability to create an environment that encourages input and maximises the contributions of all members of the committee.
- Ability to summarise collective commentary and articulate points for action.
- Diplomacy and people skills with the ability to work closely with and get the best from members of the committee and charity staff.
- Strategic level experience, preferably gained at committee level.
- Experience of reviewing research funding applications.

Personal attributes and behaviours of the Co-Chair

- A personable demeanour and presence that secures the trust and confidence of others quickly.
- A strategic and entrepreneurial approach, with the ability to identify how the charity can best support future musculoskeletal research.
- The desire and ability to be a good advocate for research.

Time commitment

The Research Expert Committee meets four times a year; currently in London for two meetings and online for two meetings (meeting frequency is currently under review). The majority of meetings will be on dates fixed a year in advance and timed to allow travel within most parts of the UK within a single day where required.

To fulfil the duties of Co-Chair effectively, commitment to attendance of these meetings is required, and for additional on-line time with the charity staff for agenda setting and development of meeting materials, as well as personal preparation time. There can be occasional requirement to take part in additional virtual meetings with charity staff.

Current meeting schedule

The next scheduled meeting of the Research Expert Committee is an in-person meeting in London on Monday 12th January 2026.

Attendance as an observer (in person or by dial-in) as an incoming Co-Chair at this meeting would be welcome but not expected given the upcoming proximity of the meeting. The January meeting is the final meeting of the current Co-Chair with lived experience. Forward meetings will be agreed with the incoming Co-Chairs.

Remuneration

The role of Co-Chair of the Research Expert Committee is unremunerated. Arthritis UK will pay for reasonable out-of-pocket travel and subsistence expenses in line with the charity's expense policy.

Length of Appointment

The role of Co-Chair of the Expert Committee will be appointed for a term of three years.

How to register your interest

Please email:

- a comprehensive CV (max 3 pages)
- a supporting statement summarising skills and experience (max 400 words)

to: Joy Tilbrook, Events Administration Officer, executiveadmin@arthritis-uk.org

Closing date for applications: **end of day, Tuesday 2nd December 2025**

Online Interviews to be held: **w/c 8th December 2025 (Mon pm, Wed am, Thu am)**