



British Skin Foundation Research Strategy (2026–2030)

1. Overview

The British Skin Foundation (BSF) is committed to funding high-quality research that improves the understanding, prevention, and treatment of all forms of skin disease, including skin cancer.

Our research strategy for **2026–2030** sets out our priorities, funding approach, and commitment to supporting research that delivers meaningful outcomes for patients and strengthens the UK dermatology research landscape.

2. Our Vision

To improve the lives of people affected by skin disease through the funding of high-quality, impactful research.

3. Strategic Objectives

A. Fund High-Quality, Peer-Reviewed Research

- Support scientifically rigorous research across all areas of skin disease
 - Ensure all funding decisions are based on **scientific merit and patient benefit**
 - Maintain a robust, independent peer review process aligned with AMRC standards
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B. Improve Patient Outcomes

- Prioritise research with clear potential to:
 - Improve diagnosis
 - Enhance treatment
 - Reduce disease burden
 - Encourage translational research that bridges laboratory findings to clinical practice
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C. Strengthen UK and ROI Dermatology Research

- Support the development of:
 - Early-career researchers
 - Clinical academics
 - Fund training pathways including:
 - PhD studentships
 - Fellowships
 - Contribute to a sustainable dermatology research workforce
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D. Foster Collaboration and Co-Funding

- Work in partnership with:
 - Specialist societies
 - Industry (where appropriate and transparent)
 - Support interdisciplinary research across:
 - Immunology
 - Genetics
 - Oncology
 - Mental health (psychodermatology)
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E. Expand and Diversify the Research Portfolio

- Encouraging research applications for all forms of skin disease, including skin cancer to enable researchers to apply for funding for :
 - Underrepresented disease areas
 - Rare skin conditions
 - Support innovative and pilot projects to generate preliminary data
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F. Demonstrate Impact and Value

- Track outcomes of funded research, including:
 - Publications
 - Follow-on funding
 - Clinical impact
 - Communicate return on investment to stakeholders and donors
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4. Funding Portfolio

BSF supports a range of funding schemes, including:

- **Studentships** – supporting PhD-level training
- **Research Awards** – funding investigator-led research
- **Young Investigator Awards** – supporting early-career researchers
- **Specialty Awards** – e.g. renal transplant research
- **Small grants** - supporting smaller projects/pilot studies

Funding decisions are made through a structured, independent review process.

5. Governance and Review Process

All applications are assessed through a robust, multi-stage process:

- Independent expert peer review
- Grants Advisory Committee (GAC) evaluation
- Final approval by Trustees

We are committed to:

- Transparency
 - Fairness
 - Managing conflicts of interest
 - Ensuring appropriate expertise at all stages
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6. Ethics and Responsible Research

BSF requires that all funded research:

- Meets appropriate **ethical and regulatory approvals**
- Adheres to the principles of:
 - Integrity
 - Transparency
 - Scientific rigour

Use of Animals in Research

BSF supports the AMRC position on animal research and requires adherence to the **3Rs (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement)**.

7. Transparency

BSF is committed to openness and will publish:

- Research strategy and updates
 - Review processes
 - Committee membership
 - Trustee information
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8. Monitoring and Evaluation

We will:

- Review this strategy periodically (every 4 years)
 - Monitor outcomes and impact of funded research
 - Adapt funding priorities in response to:
 - Scientific advances
 - Patient needs
 - Funding landscape
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9. Looking Ahead

Through this strategy, BSF aims to:

- Grow its impact as a leading UK skin research funder
- Support the next generation of dermatology researchers
- Deliver meaningful improvements in patient care