



CANDIDATE BRIEF

College of Experts

**VERSUS
ARTHRITIS**

College of Experts

Versus Arthritis will operate a College of Experts (CoE) to engage with the charity on matters related to the review of funding applications. This will include conducting independent peer review and joining bespoke review panels established to make funding recommendations to the charity on suitable applications. There will also be opportunity from time to time to become involved in Versus Arthritis insight workshops and panels.

The CoE will form a central part of the charity's new funding committee structure, enabling a robust and flexible response to funding opportunities.

This is an exciting and important development in our research committee structure. There is considerable ambition at all levels of the organisation to become more sophisticated and joined up in the way we work and there is a strong desire to continue to strengthen our relationships with people with arthritis.

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.

Delegated authority

Review Panels will 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.

The role of Members of the College of Experts

The main duties of the College of Experts members are:

- i. To input expertise and insight for their respective areas to review academic research proposals
- ii. To take part in insight workshops and panels from time to time as requested

Key requirements

College of Experts members should have:

- Expertise and knowledge of academic or research funding practice, or willingness to attend training to understand academic or research funding practice/
- Diplomacy and great people skills with the ability to work closely with members of the Research Review Funding Panels and Charity staff

Personal attributes and behaviours

- Ability to work well with others who may have a range of views and perspectives

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- The desire and ability to be a good advocate for research

Members are expected to:

- Contribute actively to the Research Review process by providing written reviews
- Contribute actively to the Research Review Funding Panel meetings expressing clear and, where appropriate, challenging, views.
- Conduct themselves with probity at all times which may include (amongst other things) claims for expenses incurred, gifts and hospitality received and disclosure of conflicts of interest
- Attend a mandatory diversity and inclusion workshop to develop an understanding of our vision for becoming a more diverse and inclusive charity.

Time commitment

The College of Experts is a virtual membership. However, members will be required join funding panels once or twice per year. Members may also be called upon to take part in insight workshops and other research related panels from time to time.

Commitment to attendance of these meeting times is required with allowance for preparation and reading of materials. There will be a requirement to occasionally take part in additional virtual meetings with Charity staff.

The majority of meetings will be on dates fixed more than six months in advance and timed to allow travel within most parts of the UK within a single day where required or through virtual media.

Remuneration

The role of Members of the College of Experts is unremunerated. Versus Arthritis will pay for reasonable out-of-pocket travel and subsistence expenses in line with the Charity's expenses policy.

Length of Appointment

Members of the College of Experts will be appointed for a term of three years.

Process & Timescales

Closing date for applications: **midday, Monday 11 July 2022.**

Please note that this is a week after the deadline for REC and FEC applications as unsuccessful applicants to strategic committees may be eligible for membership of the College of Experts.

How to register your interest

- For people affected by MSK conditions, please visit our [Volunteering Opportunities webpage](#) for further information on how to apply.
- For academic or clinical applicants please email:
 - A comprehensive CV
 - A supporting statement summarising your skills and experience for each of the key requirements shown above.

To Glen Neal, Awards Governance Officer, awards@versusarthritis.org