

## Membership consultation on PMG research funding priorities

As you will be aware, PMG has been reviewing its activities in an effort to ensure that the group continues to use its resources cost effectively in the changing landscape of wheelchair service provision. This has incorporated a review of the PMG research fund, including a consultation with the membership.

The 2,360 PMG members were invited to contribute to the consultation exercise via an online survey which was live on the PMG web site throughout April 2019. We received 45 responses.

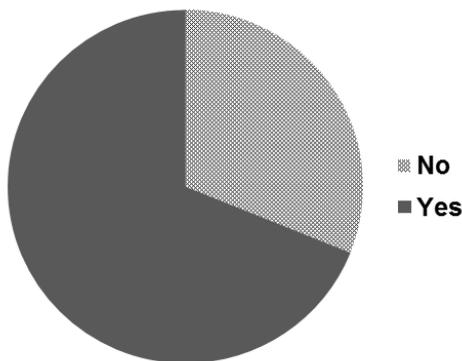
This report summarises the responses to the consultation.

### Question 1.

**Were you aware of PMG's research fund before seeing this survey?**

YES: 69%

NO: 31%

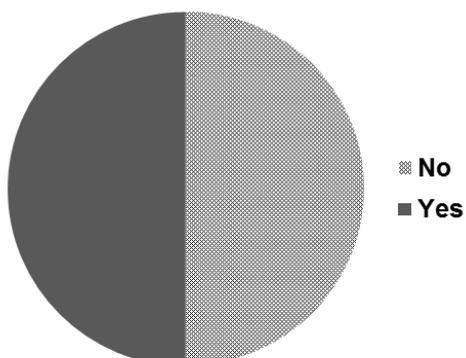


### Question 2

**If YES, have you taken account of findings from PMG funded research studies within your professional practice?**

YES: 50%

NO: 50%



### Question 3

If applicable, please describe how a PMG funded study or studies influenced your professional practice.

There were 15 responses to this question. Two of these specifically mention the Best Practice Guidelines, and another stated the relevance to best practice. A further six responses focus on the theme of evidence-based practice and/or the potential for PMG working to influence clinical practice in general. Two mentioned specific projects which had influenced the respondents' work.

Further responses included

- Business case supported
- Used as a reference for training students and colleagues
- PMG funded research projects are generally presented as free papers at the conference – this is the best part of the conference I believe, challenging the way we work

### Question 4

Please indicate what you think PMG's funding priorities should be, by arranging the following in order of importance to you, with 1 being your most favoured and 8 your least favoured.

The table below shows the choices with their average ranking across all respondents. The most consistently highly ranked choice was *Commissioning good quality clinical research in the UK within themes identified by PMG* with an average ranking of 2.98. However, *Developing and maintaining best practice guidelines (BPGs)* and *Delivery of education and training, e.g. the International Society of Wheelchair Professionals' training packages* also ranked highly at 3.24 and 3.38 respectively.

The choice given the lowest average funding priority was *Funding good quality clinical research worldwide where the research focus is proposed by the applicant*.

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|---|------|
| Commissioning good quality clinical research in the UK within themes identified by PMG                            | 2.98 |
| Developing and maintaining best practice guidelines (BPGs)  | 3.24 |
| Delivery of education and training, e.g. the International Society of Wheelchair Professionals' training packages | 3.38 |
| Commissioning of reports, surveys, analyses etc. relating to UK service delivery                                  | 4.44 |
| Funding good quality clinical research in the UK where the research focus is proposed by the applicant            | 4.62 |
| Developing research capability within the membership of PMG   | 5    |
| Commissioning good quality clinical research worldwide within themes identified by PMG                            | 5.33 |
| Funding good quality clinical research worldwide where the research focus is proposed by the applicant            | 7    |

## Question 5

**If you have any other suggestions for PMG to consider as a funding priority, please tell us in the box below.**

The responses to this question varied from requests to fund very specific projects and events, to more general ideas and comments. No clear themes emerged across the range of answers, but general suggestions included the following:

- Information sharing re other funding sources for research and equipment
- Safety for wheelchair users
- Priority for NHS applicants
- Sponsorship for attendance at international training/conferences

We would like to thank everyone who took part in the survey for sharing their views, ideas and concerns.

The PMG executive committee will use the outcomes to inform decisions on PMG's future funding priorities in the short and medium term.

**Susan Hillman**

**PMG Executive Committee** (Research portfolio)

**May 2019**