



British Association for the Study of the Liver

The Ian and Barbara McFarlane Foundation Award - Research Grant 2026: Application process and form

Drs Ian and Barbara McFarlane were a husband-and-wife team who worked on, and made important contributions to, the basic immunology of autoimmune liver disease between 1970 and 2000 at the Liver Unit King's College Hospital. Later, in collaboration with clinical colleagues they contributed to the establishment of what was to become the standard approach to treatment of autoimmune hepatitis with corticosteroids and azathioprine, as published in the New England Journal of Medicine in 1995. Ian was to found the International Autoimmune Hepatitis Group in 1992 and became, until his retirement in 2006, Senior Scientist on the Liver Unit.

An Obituary for Drs Ian and Barbara McFarlane was published in May 2022 in the Journal of Hepatology, read more > [Here](#).

The McFarlane family now wish to make an annual grant of **£10,000** to support research into liver disease in memory of Ian and Barbara.

The grant is open to all healthcare professionals who are BASL members and based in the UK and although preference may be given to research related to autoimmune liver disease any area of research into liver disease will be considered.

Applications will be reviewed, awarded and administered by the British Association for the Study of the Liver (BASL).

The Awardee will be expected to attend the BASL Annual Meeting in 2026 to receive the award and also attend and provide a 15 minute presentation (allow 3 minutes for questions) at the following year's BASL Annual Meeting (2027), in one of the oral sessions. A photograph may be taken at the meeting and used afterwards on the BASL website, in the Newsletter and on social media platforms.

The grant is intended to fully or part fund a period of research for **up to one year**. This may be a stand-alone project or part of a longer term project.

Eligibility

The grant is open to all healthcare professionals trying to develop their career and although preference may be given to research related to autoimmune liver disease any area of research into liver disease will be considered.

- **Applications are open across the BASL membership from; HCP's in training, Nurses, Pharmacists, Scientists and AHP's.**

- **Grant applicants will only be accepted from BASL/BLNA/BHPG/BAAL members who are based in the UK.**

How to apply

Applicants should complete the **short application form**. A letter of support from your line manager is also required, one page maximum. Both documents should be emailed to the BASL Secretariat, admin@basl.org.uk by **17:00hrs on Friday 5th June 2026**. Any queries may be addressed to admin@basl.org.uk.

Grant applications will **only** be accepted on the application form. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

Assessment and outcome

Applications will be judged by a panel consisting of BASL Officers and chairs of BASL's sub-groups BLNA (nurse), BHPG (pharmacist), BAAL (AHP), the chair of the Autoimmune Liver Disease Special Interest Group using a marking scheme proforma.

The judging panel reserves the right to evaluate applications and seek further information where necessary. The judging panel will score the applications against set criteria and their decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into regarding their decision.

For applications submitted by any of the judging panel or applicants that are known by any of the judging panel – those judging will excuse themselves from scoring or discussion of that particular application.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome by email. It is envisaged that this will happen within six weeks of the application deadline. The award winner will be notified in advance of the BASL Annual Meeting to ensure they receive the award in person at the meeting.

The successful applicant

The project should start within six months of receiving the award. The grant will be paid in one instalment, following the presentation of the award at the BASL Annual Meeting 2026 by a trustee of the Charity/Family member. This award is granted on the condition that the winner attends the annual meetings in 2026 to receive the award, and in 2027 to provide a 15 minute presentation (allowing 3 minutes for questions) in one of the oral sessions at the meeting. A photograph may be taken at the meeting/s and used afterwards on the BASL website, in the member Newsletter and on social media platforms.

Appendix – Application form for the Ian and Barbara McFarlane Foundation Award - Research Grant

Note: The size of the following boxes is intended to provide a guide to the amount of text required. The entire application should be **2 pages maximum**, using a **font size of at least 11pt**. **Applications exceeding this length will not be accepted.**

Name:		Current position:
Line Manager Name:		Contact details:
Institution:		
Institution Service Manager name & position:		Service Manager email contact:

Applicant Email:		Contact tel. no.
Applicant Affiliation Address:		
Are you a BASL member?		

Duration of research for which grant is sought: __ months (*maximum of 12 months*)

Is the research a stand-alone project or part of a longer term project? Stand alone / Part of longer project (*delete as appropriate*)

IF part of a longer term project, please indicate briefly how the proposed research fits into this:

Project title (30 words maximum):

Abstract:

Objectives:

Methodology:
Expected outcomes and outputs:

Would the £10,000 grant fully or part fund the proposed research? Fully fund / Part fund (*delete as appropriate*)

IF part funded, please indicate briefly what other funding has been obtained / applied for:
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Approximate breakdown of how the £10,000 grant would be spent:	
Staff costs	£
Travel	£
Equipment	£
Consumables	£
Total	£

How did you hear about this grant scheme?	Mark relevant option/s
Email to BASL members	
BASL webpage	
BASL 'X' feed	
BASL newsletter	
Word of mouth	
Other - please specify	

Declaration "I understand it is important that BASL understands its membership to ensure it can fulfil its aims in supporting excellence in liver healthcare information and education. I have completed the equality and diversity questionnaire field in my membership profile and understand this information will be used anonymously to provide EDI reports for BASL in line with its policy to ensure equal opportunities for all members in its services and benefits (see EDI policy and strategy [here](#))".

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____