

SSAI RESEARCH COMMITTEE (RC)

1. MEMBERS

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2. POLICY

Research Committee Policy Document

One of the main objectives of the SSAI is to promote cooperation and networking between the five Nordic countries in the scientific field. To lead this work, the SSAI has appointed a research committee with members from all five countries.

The Research Committee (RC) will handle applications for research grants and will also, when appropriate and possible, provide non-financial help and advice.

The RC will give priority to projects involving more than one of the Nordic countries, preferably all five.

The RC will give priority to clinical, epidemiological and educational research. This is based on the fact that our countries have a uniform, high quality of care and follow the same therapeutic standards. This development is further strengthened through our common SSAI educational courses.

The RC will attempt to support projects from all branches of our speciality: Anaesthesia, Intensive Care, Pain and Emergency Medicine.

Members of the national societies, who are also members of the SSAI, can apply for research grants from the SSAI.

A significant part of the money allocated to research comes from the Acta Foundation, the surplus from the journal. Consequently, scientific articles based on SSAI funded research must be offered to Acta Anaesthesiologica Scandinavica before other journals are considered. The SSAI board, in collaboration with the Acta Foundation, will provide a working budget for the RC. Efforts will be made to increase the amount of money available for research.

Applications for research support should be sent to the SSAI Research Committee before September 1. The RC will then review and prepare recommendations for submitted applications in time for the SSAI annual board meeting in January. The final decision will be made by the SSAI board.

3. MAIN EFFORTS

Facilitate collaborative research

The SSAI RC has established a collaboration with Expertmaker AB, Lund, Sweden, to develop www-based research tools. Expertmaker AB provides state of the art hardware and software for internet-based advice and recommendation technology (see also www.expertmaker.com). Together, SSAI and Expertmaker AB can facilitate www-based surveys, clinical research forms and other forms of data capture with on-line capabilities to review and analyse data using the Expertmaker software. These resources, which are funded by the SSAI, facilitate multicenter research involving all Scandinavian countries with none or minimal financial burden on individual projects.

The Scandinavian survey on volume resuscitation practise, endorsed by SSAI, is the first to utilise the Expertmaker platform (see www.expertmaker.net/ssai/colloid).

Projects

The SSAI RC seeks to attract projects from a broad range of areas within the field of anaesthesia, intensive care, pain management and emergency medicine. The RC aims to facilitate research rather than to drive or initiate specific projects. The responsibility and ownership of endorsed projects remain with the applicant(s) asking for RC support. The RC will advance collaborative initiatives when appropriate with other societies such as ESA, ESICM. The basis, however, will remain on Scandinavian activities.

Any ideas for projects within the framework outlined here can be discussed with the RC national representative or any member of the RC who might have an expressed research interest most relevant for the proposed project.