



**From small beginnings to research impact: How charity-funded projects can benefit patients and society, and pave the way for longer and larger grants.**

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*UKKW: IMPROVING KIDNEY CARE THROUGH QUALITY RESEARCH  
AND TEAM WORKING*

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# Aims to explore and discuss:

- What is research impact, what is REF?
- Demonstrate impact from 2 BRS/KCUK funded projects
- Paving the way for longer, larger and even more impactful projects



As researchers we are trained how to generate and test new ideas but not how to communicate them into practice. Yet researchers are increasingly expected by governments and research funders to demonstrate tangible impacts from their work...

# Research impact?

## HEFCE definition of research impact?

*An effect on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, beyond academia*

# REF (Research Exercise Framework)?

- Assessment of quality of research in UK HEIs
- Informs allocation of Quality Research (QR) funding
- Benchmarks against international standards
- Carried out approx. every six years
- Submissions organized into subject-based UoAs
- Assessment by expert peer review panels
- Output criteria: unclassified”, 1\*, 2\*, 3\* or 4\*
- Funding based on quality profile & FTE of staff submitted

# Start thinking about impact early...

When:

- Creating your team (co-applicants and collaborators)
- Identifying stakeholders (eg charities, policy makers, PPI)
- Writing grant application (think of pathways to impact eg beneficiaries etc [1])

[1]-[https://www.mrc.ac.uk/guidance for applicants](https://www.mrc.ac.uk/guidance%20for%20applicants)  
2017 pp33-35

# Tips for achieving early impact

1. Turn your literature review into a briefing note
2. Write a newsletter supplementing your work based on reading/engagement with social media
3. Create a powerful social media presence for your research
4. Reframe your research as press releases linking to headlines and topical issues
5. Coordinate milestones with those that stakeholders are working toward
6. Make data and models available where possible

Source: REED, M.S. (2016) *The Research Impact Handbook. Fast Track Impact*. Pub: [www.fasttrackimpact.com](http://www.fasttrackimpact.com), St John's Well, Kinnair, Huntley, Aberdeenshire

# Useful sources

- REF2014 submissions and results [www.ref.ac.uk](http://www.ref.ac.uk)
- Lord Stern's independent review of REF [www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-excellenceframework-review](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-excellenceframework-review)
- *Source: REED, M.S. (2016) The Research Impact Handbook. Pub: [www.fasttrackimpact.com](http://www.fasttrackimpact.com), St John's Well, Kinnoir, Huntley, Aberdeenshire*