



**BAPRAS**

British Association of Plastic  
Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons

## BAPRAS Pump Priming Report Form

Please return to: [bursaries@bapras.org.uk](mailto:bursaries@bapras.org.uk)

<b>Project title:</b>	Non-surgical joint distraction for the treatment of thumb base osteoarthritis
<b>Grant holder:</b>	Matthew D. Gardiner
<b>Institution:</b>	University of Oxford
<b>Co-applicants:</b>	Tonia Vincent, David Beard, Angela Kedgley, Michael Richard
<b>Supervisor (if relevant):</b>	n/a

<b>Date of award:</b>	November 2019			
<b>Grant awarded:</b>	Clinical (tick box)	X	Lab research (tick box)	
<b>Interim/ final report:</b>	Interim (tick box)		Final (tick box)	
<b>Study timeframe:</b>	Start date		Expected/actual completion date	
<b>Lay Summary:</b>	<p>Thumb base osteoarthritis is a common condition that causes pain and loss of function. There are no disease modifying treatments available.</p> <p>Recent research has shown that 'off loading' a diseased joint, by gently separating, it might allow the joint tissues to recover and reduce pain.</p> <p>This aim of this project was to do a first in human study of a new splint that separates the joint at the base of the thumb.</p>			
<b>Summary of progress:</b>	<p>The pump priming by BAPRAS enabled further rapid prototyping of the splint and has led to a further grant from Versus Arthritis (£100K). An international patent has been filed.</p>			
<b>Key findings:</b>	<p>Patients are very accepting of the splint. There are design challenges to ensure that the distraction itself is tolerated.</p>			

<b>Key issues:</b>	The uncertainty around the VA Med Tech grant coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic has delayed the project. The MHRA approval process and length of time this takes had not been fully appreciated.
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<b>What is the relevance and value of this research to BAPRAS?</b>	This research directly addresses an unmet need identified by patients and clinicians in the BSSH JLA Priority Setting Partnership. It has demonstrated that pump priming awards can be used to attract further funding.
<b>Presentations from this work?</b>	None to date owing to confidentiality requirements of the patent.
<b>Publications from this work?</b>	As above
<b>Future scope of work? e.g additional funding.</b>	The intention is to apply for an NIHR i4i grant on completion of the small cohort study.
<b>Any further Comments?</b>	
<b>Signature of award recipient:</b>	Matthew Gardiner
<b>Print name:</b>	Matthew Gardiner
<b>Date of submission:</b>	15-11-2021