



National Institute for Health Research

BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH CENTRES

Introduction

The vision of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research.

This document sets out how the NIHR Biomedical Research Centres are contributing to this vision. Information about other elements of the NIHR clinical research infrastructure can be found in companion documents.

Overview

The NIHR established the first round of NIHR Biomedical Research Centres (BRCs) in 2007. Designation and funding for these BRCs ended in March 2012. Following a new, open competition launched in February 2011, the NIHR has designated and funded a second round of eleven Biomedical Research Centres (BRCs) within our leading NHS and University partnerships to drive progress on innovation and translational research in biomedicine into NHS practice. These BRCs translate lab-based discoveries into new cutting edge treatments, technologies, diagnostics and other interventions in clinical settings. The substantial levels of sustained funding which they receive creates an environment in which scientific endeavour can thrive, attract the foremost talent and produce world-class outputs, hence contributing to the nation's international competitiveness as a major component of our knowledge economy. BRCs (along with NIHR Biomedical Research Units) form the bedrock of the first two NIHR Translational Research Partnerships (see NIHR Briefing Document 4.12).

The aims of the BRCs are to:

- drive innovation in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of ill-health
- translate advances in biomedical research into benefits for patients
- provide a key component of the NHS contribution to our nation's international competitiveness by making the best BRCs even better.

Designation and Funding

The BRCs were selected by open competition during 2011 by an expert international panel, using the following criteria:

- quality, volume and breadth of internationally-excellent biomedical and translational research and researchers

- existing research capacity, and plans for increasing capacity including training
- strength of the strategic plan
- relevance of the research portfolio to the health of patients and the public
- track record in translating advances in basic biomedical research into clinical research, and pulling through basic biomedical research findings into benefits for patients, the public and the NHS
- strength of the strategic partnerships, including those with industry and other NIHR-funded research Infrastructure
- value for money.

In order to ensure critical mass, focus and clarity, funding for each BRC has been awarded to a single NHS organisation (in partnership with academia). The amount of funding allocated to each BRC was determined by the scale, nature and quality of the research activity to be conducted by that centre, and is to be used to support the translation of excellent basic biomedical research (already being undertaken primarily in universities) into excellent clinical research (underway or to be undertaken within the NHS), for the benefit of patients.

NIHR funding and designation has been provided for five years from April 2012, and meets the recurrent costs of patient- or people – based translational clinical research in the NHS. Eligible costs include:

- research staff engaged on patient- or people-focused translational clinical research in the NHS
- research support staff supporting patient or people focused translational clinical research in the NHS
- research training, leading to a higher degree by research (e.g. MPhil, MD, PhD), for staff, of all disciplines, engaged on patient- or people-focused translational clinical research in the NHS
- NHS support costs of patient- or people-focused translational clinical research (e.g. pharmacy, pathology, radiology)
- other, legitimate and reasonable, indirect costs within the NHS (e.g. accommodation, payroll, HR, finance).

The performance of each BRC is monitored and reviewed by the NIHR Central Commissioning Facility. BRCs that are not performing at the required standard will first be put on notice and, if the required standard is not achieved within a defined time-scale, funding will be withdrawn.

BRC Research Themes

Each BRCs has either a very substantial portfolio of world-class biomedical research **across a range of clinical and research areas**, or a substantial portfolio of world-class biomedical research in a **specific clinical or research area**.

Details of the BRCs and their research themes is presented in the table below.

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NHS Organisation	University Partner	Research Themes
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	University of Cambridge	Brain Injury and Repair; Cancer; Cardiovascular Disease; Dementia and Neurodegenerative Disorders; Genomics; Immunity, Infection and Inflammation; Mental Health; Metabolism, Endocrinology and Bone; Population Health Science; Transplantation and Regenerative Medicine; Women's Health
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust	University College London Institute of Child Health	Molecular Basis of Childhood Disease; Diagnostics and Imaging in Childhood Disease; Gene, Stem and Cellular Therapies; Novel Therapies for Childhood Diseases
Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	King's College London	Cancer; Cardiovascular Disease; Cutaneous Medicine; Environment, Respiratory Health and Allergy; Imaging and Bioengineering; Infection and Immunity; Transplantation; Translational Genetics
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	Imperial College London	Biobanking; Cancer; Cardiovascular; Gastroenterology and Hepatology; Genetics and Genomics; Imaging; Haematology; Infection; Interventional Public Health; Neonatal Medicine; Neuroscience; Obesity, Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism; Paediatrics; Renal Medicine and Transplantation; Respiratory; Rheumatology; Stratified Medicine; Surgery and Technology; Woman's Health
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	University College London Institute of Ophthalmology	Gene Therapy; Genotyping, Phenotyping and Informatics; Inflammation and Immunotherapy; New Technologies and Devices; Regenerative Medicine and Pharmaceuticals; Visual Assessment and Imaging
Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Newcastle University	Genomics; Ageing and Frailty; Fibrosis and Repair; Mitochondrial Dysfunction; The Ageing Brain – Dementia and Stroke; The Ageing Body (chronic liver disease, cardiovascular disease and diabetes); The Ageing Limbs (musculoskeletal disease); Therapeutics in Old Age
Oxford University NHS Trust	University of Oxford	Biomedical Informatics and Technology; Blood; Cancer; Cardiovascular; Dementia and Cardiovascular Disease; Diabetes; Functional Neuroscience and Imaging; Genomic Medicine; Immunity and Inflammation; Infection; Prevention and Population Care; Surgical Innovation and Evaluation; Translational Physiology; Vaccines
Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust	Institute of Cancer Research	Breast Cancer; Cancer Genetics; Cancer Imaging; Cancer Therapeutics; Clinical Studies; Molecular Pathology; Prostate Cancer; Radiotherapy
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	University of Southampton	Nutrition, Growth and Development; Nutrition, Lifestyle and Healthy Ageing

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South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust	King's College London Institute of Psychiatry	Bioinformatics and Statistics; BioResource, Biomarkers and Genomics; Clinical and Population Informatics; Developmental Disorders; Disorders of Affect and Addiction and Their Interface with Medicine; Neuroimaging; Neuropsychiatric Disorders; Patient and Carer Participation; Clinical Trials - Innovation and Implementation
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	University College London	Body Imaging; Cancer; Cardiovascular Disease; Cellular and Gene Therapy; Ear, Nose and Throat; Education, Training and Biostatistics; Gastroenterology and Hepatology; Infection and Inflammation; Neurodegeneration; Neurodiagnostics; Neuroimaging; Neurotherapeutics; Oral Health; Respiratory, Anaesthesia, Critical Care and Exercise, Sports and Health (RACE); Women's Health

Further Information

Detailed information about the resources and capabilities of the existing BRCs is available at [UK Experimental Medicine Resource Finder website](#), or contact the NIHR Office for Clinical Research Infrastructure at nocri@nihr.ac.uk.

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