



National Institute for Health Research

CLINICAL RESEARCH FACILITIES FOR EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE

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 Clinical Research Facilities for Experimental Medicine (CRFs) is contributing to this vision. Information about other elements of the NIHR clinical research infrastructure can be found in companion documents.

Overview

The NIHR is working in partnership with other major funders under the umbrella of the UK Clinical Research Collaboration to facilitate the translation of scientific advances into benefits for patients through the establishment of purpose-built cutting-edge CRFs. The NIHR is supporting 18 CRFs that support staff in locations where universities and NHS Trusts can work together on dedicated programmes of patient-orientated research.

Aims

- To facilitate the translation of scientific advances into benefits for patients.

Details of CRFs

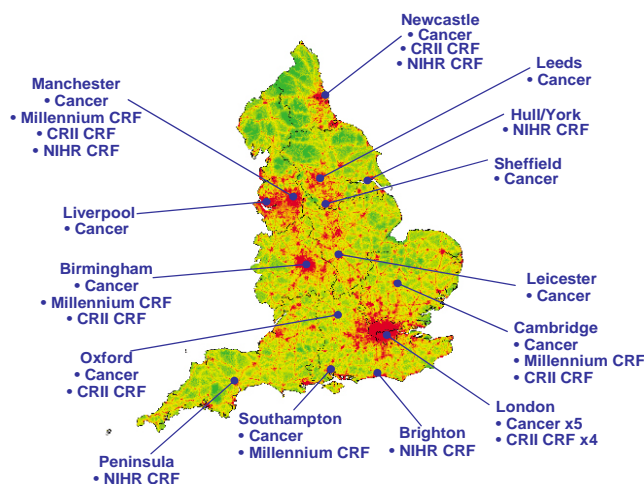
The Department of Health supports CRFs through the NIHR in three main ways:

- A joint initiative with the Wellcome Trust, Wolfson Foundation, British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK, MRC, Research and Development Office for the Northern Ireland Health and Personal Social Services, Scottish Executive Health Department and Wales Office of Research & Development to develop and strengthen the research and NHS infrastructure to underpin experimental medicine. In a competitive process managed by the Wellcome Trust called the UKCRC Clinical Research Infrastructure Initiative (UKCRC CRII), new funding was awarded to develop and strengthen Clinical Research Facilities in nine centres in England. The NIHR supports additional NHS infrastructure associated with the increased research activity funded through this initiative, and has also contributed towards the capital costs of developing experimental medicine facilities. This builds on the current joint investment by the Wellcome Trust and Department of Health in the 'Millennium Clinical Research Facilities' in England.

- A joint initiative between Cancer Research UK and the UK Health Departments, under the umbrella of the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI), to develop and expand a network of Experimental Cancer Medicine Centres. The support covers infrastructure costs for the early testing of novel cancer treatments or interventions in human participants. Cancer Research UK issued a call for proposals in 2005 on behalf of all partners and fifteen centres in England were assigned Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre status. A Quinquennial Review of ECMCs took place during 2011. The outcomes of this review will be announced shortly. Further information is available at www.ecmcnetwork.org.uk/.
- Building on existing NIHR investment, by fully funding a small number of NIHR Clinical Research Facilities.

The figure below shows the location of NIHR supported CRFs.

NIHR-supported Clinical Research Facilities



The Department of Health works closely, in partnership with the other major research funders under the umbrella of the UK Clinical Research Collaboration to support Clinical Research Facilities for Experimental Medicine across England. Further details are available at www.ukcrc.org/infrastructure/expmed/

A new competition for NIHR funding for CRFs in Experimental Medicine launched in October 2011. The competition process will complete by spring 2012.

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