



National Institute for Health Research

NIHR Biological Research Units selection process

1. Appropriate NHS/University partnerships wishing to establish an NIHR Biomedical Research Unit were invited to submit a Pre-qualifying Questionnaire and supporting information by Monday 15 October 2007.
2. A total of 52 Pre-Qualifying Questionnaires were received and were reviewed by an international expert Selection Panel (listed below), chaired by Professor John Savill. The Selection Panel identified a short-list of partnerships which not only had the most substantial portfolios of truly world-class biomedical research in the priority areas, but also appeared to have the potential, with support from the NIHR Biomedical Research Unit funding scheme, to generate significant additional research capacity.
3. The 19 short-listed partnerships were then interviewed by the Selection Panel during March 2008. On the basis of these interviews and the information provided in the full application form, the Selection Panel assessed the proposed Research Units against the published selection criteria:
 - the quality and volume of internationally excellent biomedical and translational research in the priority area and researchers working on this topic
 - the relevance of the proposed research to the health of patients and the public
 - the strength of the strategic partnerships including those with industry
 - the strength of the forward plan for the Biomedical Research Unit, particularly the strategy for generating a step change in the capacity of the partnership to undertake translational clinical research in the priority area
 - value for money.

Selection Panel membership

Professor Sir John Savill (Chair)	<i>Vice Principal and Head of the College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine, University of Edinburgh</i>
Professor Jan Carlstedt-Duke	<i>Dean of Research, Karolinska Institute, Sweden</i>
Professor Garret FitzGerald	<i>Director, Institute for Translational Medicine & Therapeutics, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine</i>
Professor Dermot Kelleher	<i>Head of School of Medicine & Vice Provost for Medical Affairs, Trinity College Dublin</i>

In Attendance:

Professor Sally Davies	<i>Director General for Research & Development, Department of Health</i>
Dr Russell Hamilton	<i>Deputy Director of Research & Development, Department of Health</i>

Observers:

Dr George Sarna	<i>Research Strategy Manager, Medical Research Council</i>
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Professor Patrick Vallance (Senior Vice President, Drug Discovery, GlaxoSmithKline) also provided written comments on the short-listed applications.