



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

Overview

The NIHR is investing £102 million in the NHS infrastructure for 19 CRFs over the period September 2012 to March 2017. Clinical Research Facilities are dedicated purpose-built facilities that support world-class experimental medicine research to translate scientific advances into benefits for patients. NIHR funding meets the necessary recurrent NHS infrastructure costs of CRFs such as clinical research nurses, technicians and facility running costs. This funding gives patients access to brand new treatments, diagnostics and care. It is also crucial in helping us secure sustainable economic growth.

Aims

- Facilitate the translation of scientific advances into benefits for patients.
- Give patients access to brand new treatments, diagnostics and care.
- Help secure sustainable economic growth.

Background

Since its establishment in 2006 the NIHR has been working in partnership with other major funders under the umbrella of the UK Clinical Research Collaboration (UKCRC) to facilitate the translation of scientific advances into benefits for patients through the establishment of dedicated purpose-built CRFs. Capital funding for buildings and equipment has been provided by the UKCRC partners, including the NIHR.

The NIHR funds the necessary recurrent NHS infrastructure costs of these CRFs such as clinical research nurses, technicians, and facility running costs. NIHR funding for CRFs has previously been via disparate schemes. During 2011/12, the NIHR held an open competition to renew and refresh NIHR funding for CRFs.

In March 2012, the Secretary of State for Health announced a total of £102 million funding for 19 CRFs over the period September 2012 to March 2017.

Designation and funding

The CRFs were selected by open competition during 2011/12 by an expert national Assessment Panel using the following criteria:

- The quality and volume of world-class experimental medicine studies undertaken within the CRF
- The appropriateness of the facilities provided by the CRF to support these studies
- The strategic plan for the CRF, including research priority areas, and mechanisms for managing competing demands on the CRF
- The strength of the strategic partnerships, including those with industry, universities, and other NIHR-funded research infrastructure
- Value for money.

Funding for each CRF was awarded to a single NHS organisation for the period September 2012 to March 2017. Eligible costs included:

- Research support staff supporting patient- or people-focused experimental medicine research within the CRF (e.g. clinical and managerial leadership, research nurse, data managers, secretarial support, specialist scientific and technical staff etc.)
- NHS service support costs of patient- or people-focused experimental medicine research within the CRF (e.g. pharmacy, pathology, radiology)
- Non-pay recurrent costs associated with the running and maintenance of the CRF (e.g. consumables, travel and subsistence, software, equipment items costing less than £5,000 and equipment maintenance contracts)
- Other, legitimate and reasonable, indirect costs within the NHS (e.g. accommodation, payroll, HR, finance). The NIHR does not meet indirect costs incurred by university partners.

The performance of each CRF is monitored and reviewed by the NIHR Central Commissioning Facility. CRFs 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.

The NIHR also funds the UK CRF Network to work with the NIHR Office for Clinical Research Infrastructure (NOCRI) to develop and support operational collaboration across CRFs including supporting commercial research.

This includes NIHR CRFs and CRFs that are embedded within NIHR Biomedical Research Centres (BRCs) and NIHR Biomedical Research Units (BRUs). It includes CRFs in Scotland as Scotland's Chief Scientist Office provides funding in-kind for the UKCRF Network. It also involves working with the Secretariat for the Cancer Research UK/Health Departments Experimental Cancer Medicine Centres (ECMCs)

Details of CRFs

The table below gives details of the 19 NIHR CRFs.

CRFs	NHS Organisation	Funding awarded
NIHR Alder Hey CRF	Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust	£2,000,000
NIHR/Wellcome Trust Birmingham CRF	University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust	£12,812,956
NIHR Brighton & Sussex CRF	Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	£3,000,000
NIHR/Wellcome Trust Cambridge CRF	Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	£10,849,043
NIHR/Wellcome Trust Manchester CRF	Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	£5,500,000
NIHR/Cancer Research UK Christie CRF	The Christie NHS Foundation Trust	£4,500,000
NIHR Guy's & St Thomas's CRF	Guy's and St Thomas's NHS Foundation Trust	£5,643,244
NIHR/Wellcome Trust Imperial CRF	Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	£10,885,958
NIHR Leeds CRF	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	£500,000
NIHR Moorfields CRF	Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	£5,315,730
NIHR/Wellcome Trust Newcastle CRF	Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	£4,000,000
NIHR Oxford cognitive health CRF	Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust	£3,738,298

4.04 Clinical Research Facilities for Experimental Medicine
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NIHR Exeter CRF	Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	£5,738,298
NIHR Royal Marsden CRF	The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust	£2,812,128
NIHR Sheffield CRF	Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	£3,111,844
NIHR/Wellcome Trust King's CRF	South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust	£4,738,298
NIHR South Manchester respiratory and allergy CRF	University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust	£2,500,000
NIHR/Wellcome Trust Southampton CRF	University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust	£9,244,166
NIHR/Wellcome Trust UCLH CRF	University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	£9,244,166

Details of the NIHR/Cancer Research UK Experimental Cancer Medicine Centres are set out in the accompanying 4.8 Briefing Document.

In January 2016 a call for applications was announced as part of the renew and refresh of NIHR CRFs for the period April 2017 to March 2022.

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