



National Institute for Health Research

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

Introduction

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

NIHR Translational Research Partnerships are a key part of this vision and form part of the Government's [*Plan for Growth*](#).

Overview

Launched in October 2011, Translational Research Partnerships (TRPs) provide an internationally unique approach to early and exploratory drug development. They bring together the leading translational research centres in the country and collectively provide:

- Recognised experience in current exploratory development protocols, expertise in pathophysiology and disease mechanisms, and expertise in modelling.
- Enabling technologies and infrastructure, including imaging, biobanks and laboratory facilities.
- Cohorts of well-characterised patients available for clinical development studies.

Their activities will ultimately bring new treatments to patients. TRPs offer life science companies the chance to work in collaboration with the UK's leading academic and NHS organisations.

There are currently two TRPs in joint-related inflammatory disease and in respiratory inflammatory disease. Participating centres are listed in Annex A.

As well as providing academic expertise, the TRPs operate to common business processes. This makes it quicker and easier for industry to work with the TRPs. The NIHR Office for Clinical Research Infrastructure (NOCRI) provides a single point of access for companies to carry out research with TRPs.

Aims

- Deliver world-class translational research, which will result in optimal routes for clinical development and ultimately new treatments for patients.
- Encourage genuine collaboration between the UK's leading universities, NHS organisations and life science companies.

- Facilitate rapid and efficient interactions between life science companies and investigators who are participating in the TRPs.
- Promote and enhance the nation's reputation as a world-class centre for translational research.

Background

The *Life Sciences Blueprint* published in July 2009 included a commitment to establish a UK Life Sciences Super Cluster. This was taken forward via the therapeutic capability clusters (TCC) pilot initiative initiated via a call for applications issued in February 2010. The Office for Strategic Coordination of Health Research managed the pilot initiative. In April 2011, as announced in the Government's *Plan for Growth*, the NIHR Office for Clinical Research Infrastructure (NOCRI) became responsible for transforming the pilot initiative into a long-term programme – the NIHR Translational Research Partnerships.

Selection and funding

Participating centres were selected on the basis of open competition. TRPs build on the NIHR's £800m investment in Biomedical Research Centres and Units. In addition, the Department provided £2.6m to support the TRPs in developing collaborations with industry led via NOCRI.

Operations

Each TRP possesses its own Steering Committee to ensure appropriate governance. NOCRI provides central coordination for the TRPs programme.

Working with participating centres, NOCRI has developed a partnership collaboration agreement, which forms the legal basis for operation of each TRP and binds each TRP member to using a common set of business processes. In addition, NOCRI has developed a multi-party collaborative research agreement to make it easier for companies, universities and NHS organisations to work together. This agreement sets out how risks and rewards will be shared.

Further information about the TRPs

Further details about the TRPs are available at www.nihr.ac.uk/trp or email nocri@nihr.ac.uk.

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CENTRES PARTICIPATING IN NIHR TRPs

There are two Translational Research Partnerships. Each one consists of nine centres, with each centre comprising a university and one or more NHS Organisations (Members), as shown in the table below.

Translational Research Partnership in Inflammatory Respiratory Disease

Centre	Members
Belfast	Centre for Infection and Immunity, Queen's University of Belfast Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
Leicester	NIHR Leicester Biomedical Research Unit & Institute for Lung Health University of Leicester University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust
King's College London	NIHR Guy's & St Thomas' Biomedical Research Centre King's Health Partners Academic Health Science Centre which includes three NHS Trusts
Imperial College London	NIHR Royal Brompton Respiratory Biomedical Research Unit Imperial Academic Health Science Centre which includes two NHS Trusts
University College London	NIHR UCL Biomedical Research Centre & Centre for Respiratory Research UCL Partners Academic Health Science Centre which includes two NHS Trusts
Manchester	NIHR Respiratory Translational Research facility Manchester Academic Health Science Centre which includes six NHS Trusts
Nottingham	Nottingham Respiratory Research Unit, Nottingham University Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trusts

Oxford	NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre University of Oxford Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust
Southampton	NIHR Southampton Respiratory Biomedical Research Unit University of Southampton University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust

Translational Research Partnership in Joint and Related Inflammatory Disease

Centre	Members
Birmingham	MRC Centre for Immune Regulation, University of Birmingham Sandwell & West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust Dudley Group of Hospitals University Hospitals & Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust
Cambridge	NIHR Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre, University of Cambridge Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Barts and The London	Centre for Experimental Medicine & Rheumatology, Barts & The London NHS Trust Queen Mary and Westfield College
Imperial College London	NIHR Imperial Biomedical Research Centre Imperial Academic Health Science Centre which includes two NHS Trusts
King's College London	NIHR Guy's & St Thomas' Biomedical Research Centre King's Health Partners Academic Health Science Centre which includes three NHS Trusts
Manchester	NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Unit Manchester Academic Health Science Centre which includes six NHS Trusts

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Newcastle	NIHR Newcastle Biomedical Research Centre, Newcastle University Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Oxford	NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Unit, University of Oxford Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust
University College London	NIHR UCL Biomedical Research Centre & Centre for Rheumatology University College London Partners Academic Health Science Centre which includes two NHS Trusts