

Zone 3

An engine for growth

The NHS provides healthcare for over 60 million people and is a unique platform to conduct world-leading health research. The Government's investment in the NIHR as an integrated health research system not only improves the health of the nation, it is also an important driver of economic growth.

Through partnerships with the life sciences industry, charities, academia and the NHS, the NIHR underpins the NHS as a test bed for new treatments, diagnostics and medical technologies, getting them to patients faster. This also helps to drive economic growth by:

- supporting collaborations and contract research with the life sciences industry
- creating the research environment that supports the nation's international competitiveness
- attracting, developing and retaining a highly skilled health research workforce
- providing the clinical evidence to help the NHS and public sector to make efficient use of resources
- providing the research evidence that contributes to a healthier workforce and wider population.

Collaborating with industry

The NIHR increases opportunities for partnerships and collaborative research, attracting investment into the UK and supporting life science companies, including small and medium enterprises, and charities. It provides the facilities, staff and support the NHS needs to conduct first-class research with the life sciences industry. During 2014/15, NIHR translational research infrastructure in the NHS had **585 partnerships with industry** and supported more than **3,000 industry studies**. In the past five years, this infrastructure has leveraged more than **£350m in external funding** from partnerships with industry.

The NIHR Office for Clinical Research

Infrastructure (NOCRI) promotes the NIHR infrastructure to the life sciences industry, nationally and internationally, providing a direct and simple route to NIHR expertise, helping companies bring their developmental drugs, devices and diagnostics to patients faster.

Underpinning international competitiveness

The NIHR's integrated research system is embedded within a unique NHS, which provides significant competitive advantage for attracting investment into the country. The **NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN)**, as the research delivery arm of the NHS, provides services including feasibility assessment, study set-up and performance management to support the life sciences industry to deliver research to time and target. Over **3 million patients** have been recruited to CRN studies over the last six years and **99% of NHS Trusts** in England participate in its studies.



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A highly skilled workforce

A highly educated research workforce is a prerequisite for the nation's capability to undertake and attract world-class health research, enabling growth by increasing human capital. The **NIHR's Faculty** trains the next generation of health researchers working in the NHS, universities and charities - a key part of sustaining the country's health research system. The NIHR has over **31,000 Faculty members** including more than **10,000 funded researchers, 15,000 clinical research nurses and support staff**, and approximately **5,000 trainees**.

Supporting efficient use of resources

The NHS faces a number of significant health challenges, including obesity, dementia and increasing numbers of people with multimorbidities. The NIHR generates the research evidence to support the NHS to make evidence-based decisions about the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of treatments and make efficient use of its resources. For example, NIHR research directly **influences NHS decision-making** by generating evidence for **NICE guidelines**.

A healthy workforce

A healthy workforce is important for a healthy economy. According to the Office for National Statistics, 131 million days were lost to sickness in 2013. The NIHR supports research across areas that affect the workforce, including obesity, mental health, musculoskeletal disease and other long-term conditions. This generates evidence to help prevent illness, improve treatment and management, and for health promotion in areas such as weight loss. This helps people to stay healthy and in work, or to return to work quicker, contributing positively to the economy.

£130m investment from industry into the NIHR translational research infrastructure last year

Over 3,000 industry studies supported by the NIHR translational research infrastructure in 2014/15: **a 582% increase over six years**

£41.1m

generated last year through the exploitation of intellectual property, including the launch of 6 spin out companies

52 first global patients achieved for commercial contract trials in the last two years through the CRN

In 2014/15 the CRN supported delivery of **623 new studies with the life sciences industry**

Nearly **35,000 participants** recruited to CRN studies sponsored by the life sciences industry last year – an increase of **35%** in just one year

£500m invested in training programmes since the establishment of NIHR to develop a highly skilled workforce

22,500 research staff trained in Good Clinical Practice by the CRN in 2013/14 – a key requirement for working with industry

Potential savings of **£3bn**

per year for the NHS if the results of ten high impact studies from the NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme were implemented

More than **250 NICE Guidelines** have used evidence from NIHR-supported research