

The NHS logo, consisting of the letters 'NHS' in white on a blue rectangular background.

*National Institute for
Health Research*



**NIHR TRANSLATIONAL
RESEARCH COLLABORATION**
JOINT AND RELATED INFLAMMATORY DISEASES

EXPERTISE AND CAPABILITIES

The TRC in Joint and Related Inflammatory Diseases provides cutting-edge expertise in the development of exploratory protocols, biomarkers discovery, and an understanding of pathophysiology and disease mechanisms in a range of joint and related inflammatory diseases, including:

- rheumatoid arthritis
- psoriatic arthritis
- spondyloarthropathies
- Sjögren's syndrome
- systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)

The TRC regularly reviews areas of unmet clinical need to determine emerging topics that could become a focus for the group.

The TRC partners have an outstanding track record in undertaking clinical research and efficient delivery of phase I first-into-disease studies and phase II studies.

The TRC can provide industry partners with:

- **expertise in the complete range of translational research, including:**

- pre-clinical models of disease
- access to human disease tissues from patients for **ex vivo** validation work
- validation and optimisation of biomarkers for incorporation in innovative proof-of-concept studies
- knowledge management platforms and bioinformatics

- **access to state-of-the-art clinical and laboratory facilities to support complex procedures and investigations including:**

- ultrasound-guided synovial biopsy
- dynamic contrast-enhanced magnetic resonance imaging (DCE-MRI) of the joints
- salivary gland biopsy and salivary flow rate measurement
- capabilities for frequent repeat blood and urine sampling, enabling pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic early phase studies
- biobanks to support the collection and management of large numbers of blood and tissue samples in multi-centre clinical studies

The TRC also has strategic links with other UK and European academic networks and platforms established in relevant therapeutic indications, including the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR), the British Isles Lupus Assessment Group (BILAG), the European Vasculitis Study Group (EUVAS) and the British Psoriatic Arthritis Consortium (Brit-PACT).



WHAT ARE THE TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS?

The NIHR Translational Research Collaborations (TRCs) are ready-formed partnerships of leading universities and NHS hospitals set up to work with the life sciences industry. They carry out translational research and tackle experimental medicine challenges in selected therapeutic areas.

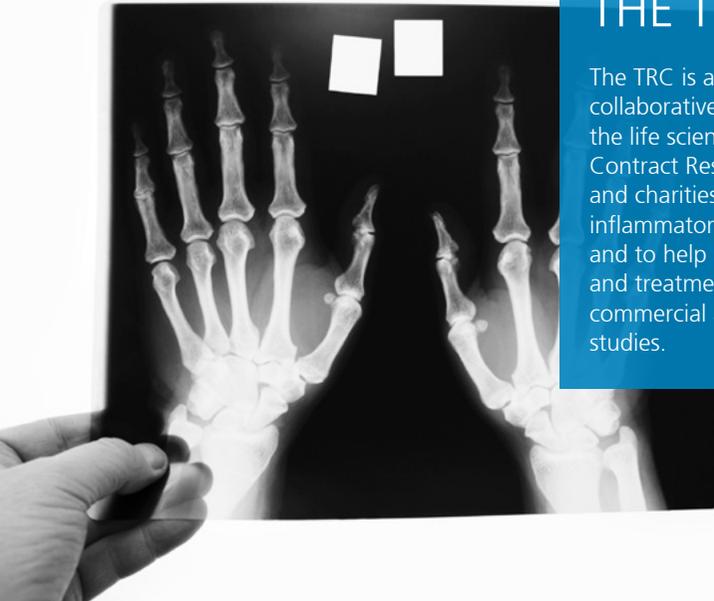
The TRC in Joint and Related Inflammatory Diseases provides industry with access to world-leading academic clinicians and scientists who have significant expertise in a wide range of inflammatory conditions. These experts, who are based within cutting-edge research centres across the UK, have access to well-characterised patient cohorts and are available to work collaboratively with industry.

“The TRC’s unique model of collaboration between top UK universities and centres of excellence and NHS service delivery for musculoskeletal diseases bring outstanding clinical translational expertise and experience to industry. By working together we can accelerate the development of new treatments, devices and diagnostics to tackle complex areas of unmet healthcare needs.”

PETER C TAYLOR, Chair of the TRC in Joint and Related Inflammatory Diseases

WHO CAN WORK WITH THE TRC?

The TRC is available to work collaboratively with all sectors of the life sciences industry, including Contract Research Organisations, and charities to further research in inflammatory respiratory disease and to help develop new diagnostics and treatments. They can undertake commercial and non-commercial studies.



WORKING WITH THE TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATION

The NIHR Office for Clinical Research Infrastructure (NOCRI) provides a dedicated team that acts as an effective, **single point of contact** for companies who wish to engage with the TRC. Liaising closely with the TRC centres, industry partners and Contract Research Organisations, the NOCRI team supports all steps from first contact through to the completion of a study. A standard two-way non-disclosure agreement (NDA) is used to allow detailed discussion of new project opportunities. The NDA template is endorsed and agreed by all TRC centres, enabling the agreement to be put in place within 10 days.

Once an NDA is in place, study set-up and completion are supported through three key stages:

STAGE 1 - EARLY ENGAGEMENT

TRC investigators work with a company to generate a protocol and carry out a robust feasibility assessment.

- Protocol development
- Feasibility



STAGE 2 - STUDY SET-UP

NOCRI and the Operational Leads at TRC centres provide support throughout the set-up process, including costing, contracting and local R&D reviews. NOCRI support includes acting as the point of escalation should issues arise.

- Costing
- Contracting
- Study submission and approvals



STAGE 3 - STUDY DELIVERY

Delivery of studies to time and target is a key commitment. NOCRI liaises with the Sponsor/CRO to monitor study performance and escalate any issues. If required, the TRC can work with other research centres across the country to bring in additional expertise and/or patients.

- First patient / first visit
- Recruitment to time and target

A large blue downward-pointing arrow graphic that spans the right side of the three stages, pointing downwards.

TRC CENTRES, INDUSTRY AND/OR CHARITY AND CRO WORKING TOGETHER, SUPPORTED BY NOCRI

TRC CENTRES

Professor David Isenberg
University College London
Hospitals NHS Foundation
Trust; Royal Free London
NHS Foundation Trust;
University College London

Professor John Isaacs
The Newcastle upon Tyne
Hospitals NHS Foundation
Trust; Newcastle University

**Professor Costantino
Pitzalis**
Barts Health NHS Trust;
Queen Mary University
of London

Professor Ian Bruce
Manchester Academic
Health Science Centre

Professor Chris Buckley
Birmingham/Sandwell/Dudley
Hospitals; The University of
Birmingham

Dr Natasha Jordan
Cambridge University
Hospitals NHS Foundation
Trust; University of Cambridge

Dr Matthew Pickering
Imperial College Healthcare
NHS Trust; Imperial College
London

Professor Andrew Cope
King's Health Partners
Academic Health Science
Centre

Professor Peter C Taylor
TRC Chair
Oxford University Hospitals
NHS Trust; University
of Oxford

Professor David Walsh
Nottingham University
Hospitals NHS Trust;
University of Nottingham

Professor Maya Buch
University of Leeds; Leeds
Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Professor Chris Edwards
University of Southampton;
University Hospital
Southampton NHS
Foundation Trust

BENEFITS OF WORKING WITH THE TRC

The TRC provides easy access to a network of academic centres and experts, with a broad range of expertise and capabilities, embedded in UK universities and NHS hospitals, who are available to work collaboratively on early phase clinical studies.

The TRC investigators can offer the life science industry expert advice on the design of early phase studies to inform clinical development programs and access to well-characterised cohorts of patients through close interaction with academic initiatives and strong links with patient associations and national disease registries.

The TRC centres operate to common business processes, including standard operating procedures across a number of sites to facilitate multi-centre studies. This makes it quicker and easier for industry to work with the expert investigators within the NHS.

The TRCs provide operational support, including a standard pre-approved non-disclosure agreement, contractual templates and a close working relationship with the NIHR Clinical Research Network, to access their study support services as relevant.

“Collaborating with the TRC enabled us to meet an important enrollment goal in a rheumatoid arthritis study. We look to leverage clinical and biomarker data from the trial in our efforts to develop the next generation of therapies for individuals living with this debilitating autoimmune disease.”

IAN GOURLEY, MD, Senior Director, Head of Translational Medicine Science, Immunology Development, Janssen R&D

When to contact the TRC

If you have an asset that you would like to develop and you are looking to access the expertise of the TRC to shape your protocol and provide expert advice on study design, then contact the NIHR Office for Clinical Research Infrastructure.

NIHR Office for Clinical Research Infrastructure
nocri@nhr.ac.uk
+44 (0)20 3794 7380
Minerva House, 5 Montague Close, London SE1 9BB
www.nihr.ac.uk/translational_research_collaborations

 /NIHR_NOCRI

 /nihr-office-for-clinical-research-infrastructure