NIHR perspective: maintaining UK competitiveness

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UK Clinical Trials ecosystem

- Universal NHS
- World class universities
- Active life sciences and charity sector
- Forward thinking, pragmatic regulators
- National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), the most integrated health research system in the world
- Underpinned by a long-term Life Sciences Industrial Strategy agreed between Government and Industry.
NIHR’s mission is to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research.

**Partnering with other public funders, charities and industry**
- to maximise the value of research to patients and the economy

**Funding, supporting and delivering high quality research**
- that benefits the NHS, public health and social care

**Investing in world-class infrastructure and a skilled delivery workforce**
- to translate discoveries into improved treatments and services

**Engaging and involving patients, carers and the public**
- in order to improve the reach, quality and impact of research

**Attracting, training and supporting the best researchers**
- to tackle the complex health and care challenges of the future
What is the NIHR?

NIHR is the largest funder of health and care research in the UK, investing over £1 billion annually to fund translational, clinical and applied health research, supporting the development of therapeutics, medical devices and IVDs across the whole innovation pathway.

Through its people, programmes, centres of excellence and systems, the NIHR is the most integrated health research system in the world, designed to transform scientific breakthroughs into life-saving treatments.

Total: £1,062m 2017/18
NIHR Support

We offer a range of services and support to help researchers and companies design, plan, set-up and deliver research in the UK.

We can work with you at any stage of your clinical development pipeline, from providing expertise in disease mechanisms and experimental medicine to support your early stage development programmes, through to supporting the design, set up and delivery of your study protocol in the NHS and social care system.

We can also provide funding, and access to data, samples and patient cohorts across a broad range of disease areas.
NIHR Research Infrastructure

- NIHR Biomedical Research Centres
- NIHR-supported Clinical Research Facilities
- NIHR Medtech and In vitro diagnostic Co-operatives
- NIHR/CR-UK Experimental Cancer Medicine Centres
- NIHR Health Protection Research Units
- NIHR Patient Safety Translational Research Centres
- NIHR Applied Research Collaborations (from 1 October 2019)
Access to Preformed NIHR Collaborations

Translational Research Collaborations

Easy access to a network of experts embedded in UK Universities, NHS hospitals and Charities who are available and have agreed to work collaboratively to support industry in their ‘early phase clinical studies’.

- Research operational support
- Standard pre-approved NDA
- Close working relationship with the NIHR CRN for identification of sites
- Multi-centre Research
- Leverage funding options
NIHR Research Infrastructure

In 2018/19, NIHR translational research infrastructure

• generated over £245m of industry research investment
• supported over 4,400 industry collaborative and contract research studies
• filed 203 patents
• and created 14 spin-out companies.
NIHR Clinical Research Network

15 Local Clinical Research Networks (LCRNs) that cover the length and breadth of England. Each LCRN delivers research across 30 clinical specialties.
We helped recruit 870,250 people into clinical research studies in England, over 46,000 over those participants took part in commercial studies.

100% of NHS trusts were research active and 79% offered their patients opportunities to participate in commercial contract research.

69% of the commercial contract research studies we supported achieved their recruitment target on time.
NIHR Academy

• The NIHR Academy plays a pivotal role in attracting, training and supporting the best health and care researchers to tackle the complex challenges of the future.

• We are aiming to increase the number of individuals equipped with the skills to work at the interface between industry, academia and the NHS, and provide opportunities for individuals to increase their skills in areas of particular relevance to the life science and medical technology industries.

• We are seeking opportunities to co-produce partnership Fellowships, awards and other development opportunities with the life sciences and medical technology industries.
UK clinical trials – global context

Source: [https://clinicaltrials.gov/](https://clinicaltrials.gov/)  Extracted 02/04/2019
Studies received from 01/04/2018 to 31/03/2019
Strengthening the UK environment for clinical research

- Ongoing commitment from NHS England and NHS Improvement and NIHR to 12 Actions to support and apply research in the NHS.
- Simplifying processes for NHS research through a standard costing methodology and model site agreements.
- Further simplification through a new single contract value review, designed to increase transparency and reduce variation in commercial contract studies.
- New national model to manage excess treatment costs in non-commercial research, making it significantly easier to set up a study.
- Removed the 70 day benchmark for clinical trials in favour of the publication of accurate performance data using a standard national framework.
- HRA and MHRA are piloting improvements to the approvals process.
Life Sciences Sector Deal 2

Commitment to make the UK a top tier global hub for biomedical and clinical research and medical innovation

A suite of measures to make our clinical research environment faster, more efficient, streamlined and innovative

- 5 NIHR centres for late phase commercial research
- Continue to improve research set-up timelines
- Find ways to address NHS workforce availability challenges

Build on the UK’s world-leading position in delivering novel and innovative trials, making delivery of these studies ‘business as usual’ across the system

- Skills programme, including cross-sector e-learning (launching soon)
- MHRA early engagement offer
- Promote and connect to existing expertise

Investment in the infrastructure needed to support the expansion of digitally-enabled clinical research to make the UK the home of data-driven life sciences research

Ongoing implementation supported by a flexible, responsive and forward thinking regulatory environment
EU Exit

As part of preparations for leaving the EU, the Government is working across several areas to ensure that the UK has the best possible environment for basic, biomedical, health, and life sciences research.

This includes:
- access to, and mobility of the research leaders and the technical and research delivery workforce;
- access to EU research funding;
- the regulation of clinical trials, data and devices;
- clinical trials supplies in a no-deal scenario; and rare diseases research.
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