

Media Release

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UKCRC Registration recognises clinical trials expertise

The UK Clinical Research Collaboration (UKCRC) is pleased to announce that 46 clinical trials units have been registered following the 2012 review process which was led by an International Review Committee of experts. Professor Tom Walley, Director of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Evaluation, Trials and Studies Programmes said:

“The NIHR continues to recognise the important and crucial role played by Clinical Trials Units (CTUs) in helping to deliver quality research projects. This registration process confirms the international standard quality of units in the UK and that the units are capable of delivering the high-standard required. The NIHR looks forward to continuing activities in support of these registered units.”

The registration process which has been running since 2007 is designed to signpost the available high quality expertise to carry out clinical trials in the UK. Clinical Trials Units are specialist units that bring together the expertise needed to undertake a clinical trial, including statisticians, trial managers, information technology specialists and clinicians. The Registered Units form a network of UK wide Clinical Trials Units some of which have been registered since the first round of the process in 2007. To be eligible to apply, the Units had to demonstrate they were capable of centrally coordinating multi-centre clinical trials and other well-designed studies, taking overall responsibility for the design, conduct, data management, publicity and analysis of a trial in line with appropriate standards and regulations. Dr Eleanor McFadden, Managing Director of Frontier Science (Scotland) Ltd and Chair of the International Review Committee said:

“Several members of the Review Panel had served on previous reviews and were impressed this time that the registration process is clearly being taken very seriously both by those in the Trials Units and by their host institutions. Several host institutions have made progress towards sharing of resources when there are multiple units within that host. This was a strong recommendation from the last review and the Panel were pleased to see that changes were being made.”

The registration process was coordinated in the University of Leeds by the UKCRC Registered CTU Network Secretariat on behalf of the UK Clinical Research Collaboration. Professor Julia Brown, Director of the UKCRC Registered CTU Network and Director of University of Leeds Clinical Trials Unit said:

“We are very pleased to host the UKCRC Registered CTU Network here at the University of Leeds and the results of the 2012 Registration Review Process are very important for UK clinical trials infrastructure”

A full list of the Registered Clinical Trials Units is available at www.ukcrc-ctu.org.uk

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The Clinical Trials Units are required to meet a number of key competencies, which are assessed against detailed evaluation criteria and reviewed by an international panel. These include a track record of experience in coordinating multi-centre clinical trials, presence of expert staff and robust quality assurance systems, and evidence of long term viability of capacity for trials coordination. Clinical Trials Units that meet all these criteria will receive Full Registration. Those that were clearly working towards developing sufficient expertise to enable Full Registration but which do not yet meet all the criteria relating to infrastructure, resources and experience will receive Provisional Registration.

Further information on the UKCRC Clinical Trials Unit Registration Process is available at www.ukcrc-ctu.org.uk.

2. A list of all currently registered clinical trials units is available at www.ukcrc-ctu.org.uk.
3. The UK Clinical Research Collaboration (UKCRC), established in 2004, is a partnership of organisations working together to establish the UK as a world leader in clinical research by harnessing the potential of the NHS. The Partners include the key stakeholders that shape the health research environment, including research funders, the NHS, government, industry, academia, regulators, charities and patients. Detailed information on UKCRC activities can be found on the UKCRC website at www.ukcrc.org.