

## **UK Clinical Research Collaboration (UKCRC)**

### **Media release**

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#### **UKCRC Registration Process recognises high quality Clinical Trials Units across the UK**

Forty Clinical Trials Units (CTUs) across the UK have successfully gone through a new UK Clinical Research Collaboration (UKCRC) Clinical Trials Unit Registration Process. Registration is designed to help improve the quality and quantity of available expertise to carry out clinical trials in the UK.

CTUs are specialist units that bring together the experts needed to undertake a clinical trial, including clinicians, statisticians and trial managers. Running a trial is a complex process and registered CTUs have the expertise to design, coordinate and analyse multi-centre clinical trials, ensuring that they are conducted in line with appropriate standards and regulations.

The registration process was coordinated by the UK Clinical Research Network Coordinating Centre on behalf of the UKCRC. To be eligible to apply for UKCRC Registration, CTUs had to be 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.

The CTUs were required to meet a number of key competencies, which were assessed against detailed evaluation criteria and reviewed by an international panel. These included 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.

The CTUs that met all of these criteria received Full Registration. CTUs that were clearly working towards developing sufficient expertise to enable Full Registration, but which did not yet meet all of the criteria relating to infrastructure, resources and experience required for Full Registration received Provisional Registration. Twenty-six CTUs were awarded Full Registration, and fourteen were awarded Provisional Registration.

The full list of successful CTUs is available on the UK Clinical Research Network website at: [www.ukcrn.org.uk/index/clinical/registered\\_ctus.html](http://www.ukcrn.org.uk/index/clinical/registered_ctus.html)

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**Notes to Editors:**

1. Applications for registration were assessed by an international review panel, chaired by Professor Adrian Grant, Chair of the Institute of Applied Health Sciences at the University of Aberdeen. Successful units were required to meet several key requirements, which were assessed against detailed evaluation criteria. For Full Registration, trials units had to be able to demonstrate several requirements. These included a track record and experience of coordinating multi-centre clinical trials and other well-designed studies, and the presence of a team of expert staff to develop the studies. Successfully registered units also needed to have robust quality assurance systems and processes in place to make sure they adhered to research governance standards. Additionally, the units had to be able to show that they had sufficient resources to provide adequate and stable infrastructure and senior staff, and evidence of long term viability of capacity for trials coordination.
2. The successful clinical trial units were:

**Units Awarded Full UKCRC Registration**

- **Birmingham Clinical Trials Unit** (University of Birmingham)
- **Bristol Randomised Trials Collaboration** (University of Bristol)
- **Cancer Clinical Trials Unit Scotland (CACTUS)** (ISD Cancer Clinical Trials Team, Edinburgh and Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit, University of Glasgow)
- **Cancer Prevention Trials Unit** (Barts and The London, Queen Mary's School of Medicine and Dentistry, London)
- **Cancer Research UK & UCL Cancer Trials Centre** (University College London, London)
- **Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit** (University of Birmingham)
- **Centre for Healthcare Randomised Trials (CHaRT)** (University of Aberdeen)
- **Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group (CCLG)** (University of Leicester)

- **Christie Clinical Trials Unit** (Christie Hospital, Manchester and MRC Clinical Trials Unit, London)
- **Clinical Trials Research Centre** (University of Liverpool)
- **Clinical Trials Research Unit** (University of Leeds)
- **Diabetes Trials Unit** (Churchill Hospital, Oxford)
- **Edinburgh Clinical Trials Unit** (University of Edinburgh and NHS Lothian Health Board)
- **Glasgow Clinical Trials Unit** (University of Glasgow)
- **Institute of Cancer Research Clinical Trials & Statistics Unit** (The Institute of Cancer Research, Surrey)
- **Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Unit** (London)
- **Medical Research Council General Practice Research Framework & University College London Primary Care & Mental Health Clinical Trials Unit** (London)
- **Newcastle Clinical Trials Unit** (Newcastle University)
- **North Wales Organisation for Randomised Trials in Health (NORTH)** (University of Wales, Bangor)
- **Oxford Clinical Trials Research Unit** (University of Oxford)
- **Oxford Clinical Trials Unit for Mental Illness (OCTUMI)** (University of Oxford)
- **Peninsula Clinical Trials Unit** (Peninsula College of Medicine & Dentistry, Plymouth)
- **Pragmatic Clinical Trials Unit** (Barts and The London, Queen Mary's School of Medicine and Dentistry, London)
- **University of Southampton Clinical Trials Unit** (University of Southampton and MRC Clinical Trials Unit, London)
- **Wales Clinical Trials Unit** (Velindre Hospital, Cardiff)
- **Warwick Medical School Clinical Trials Unit** (University of Warwick)

#### **Units Awarded Provisional UKCRC Registration**

- **Clinical Research & Trials Unit** (Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital)
- **Clinical Trials and Evaluation Unit** (University of Bristol)
- **International Centre for Circulatory Health Trials Unit** (Imperial College London, London)
- **National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (NPEU)** (University of Oxford)
- **Northern Ireland Cancer Clinical Trials Unit with Northern Ireland Clinical Research Support Centre** (Belfast City Hospital and Royal Hospitals, Belfast)
- **Northern Ireland Clinical Research Support Centre** (Royal Hospitals, Belfast)
- **Nottingham Clinical Trials Support Unit** (University of Nottingham)
- **Oxford Respiratory Trials Unit** (Churchill Hospital, Oxford and MRC Clinical Trials Unit, London)
- **Oxford Vaccine Group** (University of Oxford)
- **Primary Care Clinical Trials and Research Unit** (University of Birmingham)
- **Sheffield Clinical Trials Research Unit** (University of Sheffield)
- **South East Wales Trials Unit** (Cardiff University)
- **The Keele Primary Care Musculoskeletal Trials Unit** (Keele University)
- **York Trials Unit** (University of York)

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 research potential of the National Health Service.

The Partners include the key stakeholders that shape the health research environment, including research funders, the NHS, government, industry, academia, regulators, charities and patients.

The UKCRC Partners are working together to address a broad agenda of issues affecting clinical research through several interconnected areas of activity. These are: developing the infrastructure to underpin clinical research in the NHS, building up an expert workforce to support clinical research, streamlining the regulatory and governance environment, developing incentives for research in the NHS and coordinating research funding. The Partners have already implemented many of the changes needed to transform the clinical research environment in the UK.

Detailed information on UKCRC activities can be found in the UKCRC Progress Report 2004 – 2006, which is available on the UKCRC website: [www.ukcrc.org](http://www.ukcrc.org)

4. The UK Clinical Research Network (UKCRN) was established to support clinical research and to facilitate the conduct of trials and other well-designed studies across the UK. As part of the UK Clinical Research Collaboration and the National Institute for Health Research, it works towards the development of a world class infrastructure to support clinical research in the UK. Further information is available on the UKCRN website at [www.ukcrn.org.uk](http://www.ukcrn.org.uk) .