STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS
ACHIEVING OUR GOALS THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

At CRUK, we recognise that working with others is essential if we are to achieve our ambitious vision of bringing forward the day when all cancers are cured. That’s why in 2014, we established a team dedicated to the development of strategic partnerships.

We work with a range of organisations, both in the UK and internationally, to create mutually beneficial partnerships that support our own research objectives and those of our partners.

Based on shared values and expertise, our partnerships provide both CRUK and the organisations with which we collaborate the opportunity to leverage additional support and enhance progress through shared knowledge, resources and capabilities.

Our partners are pivotal to our success. We not only want to continue to strengthen our existing partnership portfolio but also to create new, multidisciplinary relationships with organisations from a variety of sectors.

In this brochure, we outline our unique capabilities and proven track record in order to provide you with an overview of what we could achieve by working together with your organisation.
INTRODUCTION TO CANCER RESEARCH UK

As the world’s leading charity dedicated to beating cancer through research, we have saved millions of lives by discovering new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer.

Funded almost exclusively through public donations, we are the largest independent funder of cancer research in Europe. Thanks to our supporters we’ve helped double survival rates over the past 40 years.

Every year we spend over £330 million on research in institutes, hospitals and universities across the UK. From understanding the basic biology of cancer to late-phase clinical trials, we provide support through a range of funding schemes and initiatives across the entire research pipeline.

We also invest a significant amount (£17 million in 2012/13) into providing information to people affected by cancer, raising awareness of cancer risks and symptoms, and influencing health policies.

Over the past century, our researchers have played a starring role in many of the most significant discoveries and advances in the field of cancer research.

We’re proud of our past but we’re focussed on the future and saving more lives sooner. We believe that only by working in partnership will we bring forward the day when all cancers are cured.
Since 1995, more than 100,000 patients have taken part in our treatment trials.

Since 1995, more than 600,000 people have taken part in our cancer screening and prevention trials.
WHAT WE CAN BRING TO YOUR ORGANISATION

CRUK is a unique organisation – offering many advantages to potential partners.

A strategic partnership with CRUK not only offers the opportunity to capitalise on the strengths of our research portfolio but access to our extensive network of people and infrastructure across the UK.

We’re independent from the government and free from the constraints associated with being a commercial organisation. This puts us in a unique position to bring different partners together to address research challenges and in particular to encourage multidisciplinary approaches.

As the largest charitable funder of cancer research in the world, our annual budget allows us to provide significant funding across the research pipeline. However, even with the inspiring generosity of our supporters, there are still many high-quality projects and initiatives that we are unable to support on our own.

Our extensive research portfolio

We focus our funding on the quality research and innovative ideas that we believe will have the greatest impact for people with cancer. To do this we balance reactive funding for new research with directed investments in specific initiatives and infrastructure.

Over half of our research spend is invested in understanding the biology and causes of cancer. We are however committed to making sure progress in the lab leads to patient benefit and are supporting an increasing number of translational projects and initiatives.

The number of clinical trials supported by CRUK is unparalleled by other funders of cancer research in the UK. We support over 250 clinical trials ranging from first-in-man studies through to chemoprevention studies in high-risk populations. Our funding is not restricted to drug trials and also includes a number of studies aiming to improve surgery and radiotherapy.

**IN 2012/13 WE SUPPORTED RESEARCH WORTH £351 MILLION.**

Our position in the UK

The UK is a world-class centre for scientific research. Over 70 Nobel Prizes have been won by UK scientists and four of the world’s top ten universities which specialise in clinical, pre-clinical and health research are located here.

Our single healthcare system provides benefits for late-phase clinical research that cannot be replicated anywhere else in the world. Around 20% of cancer patients in the UK now take part in trials – that’s a greater proportion than in any other European country or the USA.

**WE FUND 44% OF CANCER RESEARCH ACTIVITY IN THE UK*.**

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* Calculated from NCRI Cancer Research Database (CaRD) 2012 expenditure figures. Figure excludes industry-funded research activity.

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Funding across the research pipeline, based on spend 2012/13.
Our UK-wide network

We support more than 4,000 researchers, doctors and nurses throughout the UK. Along with funding the best individuals, we also support research through the provision of infrastructure. We are world-leaders in pre-clinical development and early-phase trials through our Drug Development Office and the Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre (ECMC) Network. More information on our UK-wide infrastructure network can be found on page six.

We support research in over 70 institutions in over 40 towns and cities across the UK.

Our broader influence

We are committed to ensuring that the findings of research are used to inform and influence the public, patients, health professionals and policy makers.

Working with governments in the UK and Europe, we campaign on issues important to our researchers and supporters including access to cancer treatments, the UK research environment and tobacco control.

We’re also committed to raising awareness of the choices people can make to reduce their risk of cancer and detect the disease earlier. For example, our Cancer Awareness Roadshow takes our lifesaving messages directly to the people most in need and our patient information website makes us the leading charity provider of cancer information in the UK.

With over 550 shops and around 40,000 volunteers, our UK-wide activity goes beyond research.

Our annual research spend for different cancer types, based on figures for 2012/13. Our portfolio also includes a combined spend of around £21 million on over 100 other cancer types.
A UK-WIDE NETWORK WITH UNIQUE CAPABILITIES

Our UK-wide network of researchers and infrastructure includes capabilities ranging from basic biology research right the way through to the delivery of late-phase clinical trials, meaning we’re perfectly positioned to achieve world-class results.

5 Institutes
A substantial proportion of our scientific funding is provided to our five core-funded research institutes. Our funding ensures that scientists have access to the long-term support, networks and core services needed to deliver success.

15 Centres
Our Centres form a national framework to deliver world-leading research, improved patient care and greater local engagement. They drive local partnerships and high-calibre collaborations between universities, NHS Trusts and other cancer charities, under a united strategy to accelerate the translation of research into the clinic.

18 Experimental Cancer Medicine Centres (ECMCs)
Conducting the majority of early-phase cancer clinical trials in the UK, ECMCs provide infrastructure to enhance the quantity and quality of research in developing new medicines to help beat cancer. Jointly supported by CRUK and the health departments for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, the network of 18 ECMCs brings together researchers and clinicians to deliver an integrated approach to research and recruitment in early-phase trials and experimental medicine.

7 Clinical Trials Units (CTUs)
Clinical research is one of our most successful and internationally high-profile activities. Central to this success is a network of CTUs, which provide the UK cancer community with the expertise to design and run clinical trials. Many of the trials run in our CTUs (notably in radiotherapy and surgery) would not have been possible outside the UK, indicating the unique and crucial role our CTUs play in changing clinical practice.

4 Cancer Imaging Centres
In partnership with the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) we have provided over £35 million to four Cancer Imaging Centres, located across six UK sites. The Cancer Imaging Centres aim to integrate imaging with genomics, molecular and clinical information in order to improve pre-treatment patient stratification and assessment of treatment response. Importantly, the Cancer Imaging Centres are working together to develop a national Cancer Imaging Network, which will harness imaging expertise, multidisciplinary skills and capabilities found across the UK.

Our Drug Development Office
Our Drug Development Office is at the forefront of early-phase cancer drug development. From academia and small start up biotech to major pharmaceutical corporations we have collaborated with organisations across the globe. Our Phase I cancer portfolio is comparable in size to a top ten pharmaceutical company and of the agents that have completed Phase I through the charity, approximately 5% have subsequently been registered by companies as marketed products, a figure in line with industry. Unique to the non-commercial sector in Europe, we also have GMP manufacturing capabilities for both small molecules and biologicals to support our clinical trials.
Key locations where we support research infrastructure, information correct as of April 1st 2014.
OUR RESEARCH PRIORITIES
MOVING FORWARD

Our research strategy is bold and ambitious. We aim to break down the boundaries between research disciplines in order to find new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer.

We cannot achieve this alone. Fulfilling our level of ambition will require a significant level of collaboration. We will continue to partner with a range of organisations domestically and internationally to maximise the return on our research spend.

We not only plan to grow our existing relationships, focusing primarily on areas of high strategic priority, but also to build new, innovative partnerships across a variety of sectors in order to encourage the multidisciplinary approaches needed to address the most challenging questions in cancer research.

We will continue to support research into all types of cancer but have placed an increased emphasis on certain areas and new initiatives, which we believe offer significant potential to save more lives sooner.

Research into earlier diagnosis is one of the areas we have highlighted as a priority. We are particularly interested in working in partnership with other organisations to address the challenges in this field. The chances of survival are increased significantly for almost all cancer types and patient groups if the disease can be detected at an early stage. In tackling this as a high priority, we will need to build research effort and capacity across a spectrum of disciplines, including engineering and the physical sciences.

PRINCIPLES
PEOPLE
PARTNERSHIP
COLLABORATION

OBJECTIVES

PREVENT
DIAGNOSE
TREAT
OPTIMISE

APPROACH

Build our understanding of cancer
Facilitate a major shift in Early Diagnosis Research
Tackle cancers of high unmet medical need (in particular lung, pancreatic, oesophageal and brain cancers)
Accelerate the translation of research
Develop the cancer research leaders of tomorrow
Together with our supporters we helped secure smoke-free legislation across the UK and a ban on sunbeds in England and Wales for under-18s.

Our clinical trials helped to prove the benefits of drugs such as tamoxifen and anastrozole, leading to hundreds of thousands of lives being saved.

Our scientists have led the world in understanding the inherited risk of breast, prostate and other forms of cancer.

Our research played a starring role in the development of abiraterone – a drug that gives men with advanced prostate cancer more time with their families and friends.

Our scientists discovered p53, a protein that is altered in the vast majority of cancers – transforming our understanding of cancer biology.
WAYS OF WORKING WITH US

We can work with your organisation to develop a bespoke partnership to meet both of our objectives. Our current partnership portfolio features activities at every stage of the research pipeline and involves interactions with organisations from a range of sectors.

Our primary focus is to build partnerships in areas of high strategic priority in order to catalyse further progress. However, whether your interests lie in a particular cancer type, field of study or stage in the research pipeline we are always open to new opportunities and ways of working together.

Investing in training and people
We can work with other organisations to build capacity in areas of critical need. For example, we have collaborated with the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) to invest around £7 million into training in cancer imaging.

Sharing expertise
With over 100 staff, our Drug Development Office has established expertise in all aspects of drug development: from pharmaceutical and pre-clinical development through to full clinical trial operations.

Providing the right environment for research
We joined forces with the Medical Research Council to establish the world’s largest and most comprehensive centre for research in radiation oncology and biology – the Cancer Research UK/Medical Research Council Oxford Institute for Radiation Oncology.

Capital investment
We’re part of a partnership with the University of Manchester and the Christie NHS Foundation Trust to develop the new Manchester Cancer Research Centre – a project which secured a £12.8 million investment from the UK Government’s Research Partnership Investment Fund.
Co-funding research
We’re open to joint funding schemes at various stages of the research pipeline. For example, we currently co-fund a number of clinical trials with three other UK site-specific cancer charities.

Advancing new discoveries
Strategic partnerships and alliances are critical in facilitating the onward translation of CRUK projects. Cancer Research Technology (CRT), a wholly owned subsidiary of CRUK, is responsible for the intellectual property rights and commercialisation of CRUK-funded research. CRT has established a number of drug discovery alliances that bring together multiple CRUK-funded researchers with an industry partner, for example the Metabolism Alliance with AstraZeneca.

Establishing consortia
We’re a founding member of the National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative (NAEDI), a consortium which aims to develop a nationally coordinated portfolio of research projects in raising awareness and early detection of cancer. Contributing partners include the Economic and Social Research Council and the devolved health departments for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Forming alliances
Supported by our Drug Development Office, the ECMC Combinations Alliance provides a framework for academia and industry to collaborate in order to deliver rationally designed combination therapy options for cancer patients in the UK. AstraZeneca and Eli Lilly are our first industry partners, enabling a current portfolio of eleven trials across a range of tumour types. Other industry partners are actively being sought.

Developing new treatments
Primarily targeted at pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, our Clinical Development Partnership initiative works on a shared risk-reward basis to take deprioritised experimental cancer drugs, that otherwise wouldn’t be developed, through early-phase clinical trials. There are nine projects in our current portfolio.

Supporting clinical trials
Partnerships are crucial in helping us conduct clinical trials. With a free healthcare system and a national infrastructure for trials, we’re in a unique position to support a broad range of trials that wouldn’t be possible in other countries. Since 2008, over 40 pharmaceutical companies have collectively provided more than £200 million of financial support including free drugs to trials that have been supported by our Clinical Trials Awards and Advisory Committee.
A JOINT VENTURE:  
THE FRANCIS CRICK INSTITUTE

We’re proud to be a founding partner of a world-class centre for interdisciplinary medical sciences.

The Francis Crick Institute combines the specialist knowledge, expertise and resources of six of the UK’s most successful scientific and academic organisations – CRUK, the Medical Research Council, the Wellcome Trust, University College London, Imperial College London and King’s College London.

Opening its doors in 2015, at 3.6 acres, the Francis Crick Institute is Europe’s largest building dedicated to research. A diverse team of 1,500 biologists (including researchers who were originally based at the Cancer Research UK London Research Institute), chemists, engineers, physicists, computer scientists and mathematicians will work together, with the shared aim to accelerate research breakthroughs and develop new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat different diseases. Bringing together researchers from multiple disciplines positions the institute at the forefront of innovation in medical research.

CRUK to invest £160m

AN INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP

Project

£650m
The Stratified Medicine Programme (SMP) successfully set up a network reaching across UK clinical teams, NHS trusts and academic, clinical and industry sectors. This resulted in more than 200 people working together to tackle the challenges involved in making targeted therapies in the UK a reality.

The SMP network included unique partnerships with funding partners AstraZeneca and Pfizer, 26 feeder hospitals centred around eight ECMCs and three genetic testing labs. Partnerships built with Roche and Bristol-Myers Squibb to pre-screen patients for clinical trials also led to a small number of patients being recruited to global, commercially-funded clinical trials.

The first part of this unique programme demonstrated that a national, standardised genetic testing programme is possible for the NHS. This laid the foundations for SMP2, which focuses on testing advanced lung cancer patients for their eligibility to enter clinical trials of novel molecularly targeted therapies.

This capitalises on the UK’s unique clinical infrastructure, ensuring we remain at the forefront of stratified medicine research. Together, we’re leading the way towards an era of personalised medicine – aiming to improve the care of cancer patients and save many more lives.
40,000 tests 9,000 patients tested
SEEKING INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Medical research is increasingly an international endeavour.

We continue to develop new partnership opportunities outside of the UK, paving the way for collaborative work between researchers, supporting joint programmes and exploiting mutual strengths in particular technologies or areas of research.

We’re already involved in a number of international collaborations, including the International Rare Cancers Initiative and the International Cancer Genome Consortium. Our approach to date has primarily involved funding the UK arm of studies and working with international partners to coordinate our activities with those happening elsewhere. We remain committed to such initiatives but are also open to broader discussions.

The International Cancer Genome Consortium (ICGC)

We’re part of the ICGC, a worldwide collaboration to find the genetic faults in 50 of the most common and deadly cancers.

This is one of the most ambitious biomedical research efforts since the Human Genome Project. The ICGC has received commitments from funding organisations in Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America to study over 25,000 tumour genomes. Without international collaboration, a project of such magnitude simply could not happen.

CRUK is currently funding ICGC projects in both oesophageal and prostate cancer.

The International Rare Cancers Initiative (IRCI)

The IRCI is a strategic collaboration between CRUK, the UK National Institute for Health Research Cancer Research Network (NCRN), the US National Cancer Institute (NCI), the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) and the French National Institute of Cancer (INCa).

The initiative supports the development of international clinical trials for rare cancers. The team coordinating the initiative consults with the relevant clinical communities to identify the highest priorities for international collaborations.
OUR DIVERSE PORTFOLIO OF PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS*

Our partnership portfolio includes organisations from multiple sectors. The list below provides examples of just some of the organisations we have worked with.

Pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies
- Abcodia
- Astex Pharmaceuticals
- AstraZeneca (AZ)
- Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS)
- Eli Lilly
- FORMA Therapeutics
- GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)
- immatics
- Janssen
- LORUS Therapeutics
- Merck Serono
- Pfizer
- Roche
- Teva

Technology companies
- Illumina
- Oracle

Charity/Not for profit sector
- Arthritis Research UK
- Auckland UniServices
- The Brain Tumour Charity
- Breakthrough Breast Cancer
- The British Association for Cancer Research (BACR)
- British Heart Foundation (BHF)
- British Lung Foundation (BLF)
- BUPA Foundation
- The Christie Charitable Fund
- Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research (LLR)
- Marie Curie Cancer Care
- National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI)
- Pancreatic Cancer UK
- The Royal College of Radiologists (RCR)
- The Royal College of Surgeons (RCS)
- Wellcome Trust
- World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF)

Public sector
- Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)
- Chief Scientist Office, Scottish Government Health Directorate (CSO)
- Department of Health (DH)
- Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)
- Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)
- Genomics England Ltd
- Health and Social Care Research and Development Division of the Public Health Agency for Northern Ireland (HSC)
- Health Technology Assessment (HTA)
- Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)
- Medical Research Council (MRC)
- National Cancer Research Network (NCRN)
- National Health Service (NHS) England
- National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)
- National Institute for Social Care and Health Research, Welsh Government (NISCHR)
- Technology Strategy Board (TSB)

International partners
- Cancer Institute and Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (CICAMS)
- European Investment Fund (EIF)
- European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC)
- French National Institute of Cancer (INCa)
- US National Cancer Institute (NCI)

*It is not feasible to list all of the organisations we have worked with. The list above includes a selection of examples of organisations and entities, across a variety of sectors, with whom CRUK or CRT has either partnered with directly, collaborated with as part of a wider initiative or leveraged support from. Information correct as of February 2014.

What to do next
To talk to us about potential partnering opportunities for your organisation or for more information on our current interests and activities, please contact our Strategic Partnerships team: strategicpartnerships@cancer.org.uk

We very much look forward to working with you.

For more information about of CRUK, please visit our website: www.cruk.org