Clinical Research Nurses event and workshops – help us improve patients’ clinical trial experiences

Background information

Clinical research nurses are at the forefront of clinical cancer research, helping to turn science into treatment for people affected by cancer. They deliver vital cancer research through clinical trials which evaluate the efficacy and safety of new pioneering cancer treatments. As well as coordinating the clinical trial itself, including protocol management and data collection, they make sure patients are fully informed, monitor and care for them throughout the clinical trial.

Cancer Research UK (CRUK) recognises the valuable role they play in the delivery of cancer research, clinical trials and patient care. To support them, we launched the Excellence in Research Programme, designed to support their professional development. It provides and signposts clinical research nurses to cancer-specific education and peer-to-peer networking opportunities to help them keep up-to-date with the latest treatments, meet and share best practice or experience with other clinical research nurses.

The Programme launched with a first event in 2018. The next Excellence in Research event will take place on 5th February 2020, focusing on the impact of clinical research nurses on clinical cancer research. The event aims to:

- Share best practice and new practical skills for managing clinical trials
- Share the latest advances in cancer research
- Inspire research nurses through peers, patient and clinical experts in the delivery of cancer clinical trials
- Allow delegates to gain CPD accreditation (continuing professional development).

The event will be a mix of interactive workshops, talks, panel discussion of clinical research nurses who will talk about misconceptions about their role, networking time, exhibitors and stands showcasing materials, resources and information for clinical research nurses and their patients.

Type of opportunity
One off event and participation in workshops

Time commitment
Wednesday 5 February, 9am – 4pm (Birmingham)

Payment and expenses
Travel expenses and accommodation are covered. We’ll offer a £80 optional payment.
Your role

As clinical research nurses work so closely with patients throughout their clinical trial journey, it’s important to have the perspective of people affected by cancer at the event. We’d like to invite **four volunteers** who’ve been affected by cancer to the event to:

- Join a workshop and participate in discussion with the clinical research nurses.
  - Each volunteer will be involved in two 45-minute workshop sessions on the same topic centered around ways to improve a patient’s clinical trial experience.
  - We’d love to hear their perspective and own experiences of participating in a trial and the role clinical research nurses played in it.
- Help judge poster presentations from clinical research nurses on the impact and innovation they’ve shown in delivering clinical trials.
- Discuss their personal experience with the clinical research nurses during networking times.

We’re looking for people who...

- Have a clinical trial experience (directly or through a loved one) and/or a good awareness of how clinical cancer trials work
- Are comfortable and willing to share their clinical trial experience and opinions
- Have good communication skills and the ability to share their thoughts constructively
- Take a solutions-based approach to problems and give constructive feedback
- Can objectively represent the needs of a broad range of people
- Can commit to attending the full day event.

You do not need to have:

- Any prior knowledge of Cancer Research UK or the work we do
- An understanding of research.

In this role, we promise to support you by...

- Giving you a key contact who will answer any questions and support you before the event and on the day
- Sending a briefing document in advance with key questions that will be asked in the workshop to help you prepare
- Creating a safe and open environment for feedback, so that you can share your views.

Additional Information

**Venue location**: Macdonald Burlington Hotel, Burlington Arcade, 126 New Street, Birmingham, B2 4JQ
**Travel expenses:** CRUK will cover all reasonable travel expenses to and from the event and are also able to arrange accommodation within walking distance of the venue in Birmingham the night before.

**Payment:** An optional payment of £80 will be offered your preparation for and participation in the event.

**Equal Opportunities:** At CRUK we value diversity and we’re committed to creating an inclusive environment which facilitates the involvement of all people affected by cancer. We actively encourage applications from people of all backgrounds and cultures and believe that a diverse involvement network (or range of views and insight) will help us to better represent people affected by cancer and make a difference for cancer patients.

**Interested in the opportunity?**

If you’re interested in the opportunity, please contact involvement@cancer.org.uk and answer the following questions (500 words maximum):

- Please could you tell us a bit about your clinical trial experience and why you’d like to take part in this opportunity?
- For the workshop discussions to work effectively, it’s important that volunteers feel comfortable talking about their cancer experience and show good communication skills. Please could you give one example of a time when you’ve taken part in a group discussion? What key skills and behaviour did you show?

If you have any questions or would like to have a chat about the opportunity, don’t hesitate to get in touch with us at involvement@cancer.org.uk.