

Clinical Research Committee: Supplementary Terms of Reference

This document sets out the key responsibilities that the Scientific Executive Board (SEB) has delegated to the Clinical Research Committee. It should be read in conjunction with the [General Terms of Reference for Funding Committees](#).

1. Intent of Committee

- 1.1. The Clinical Research Committee is responsible for the strategic development, funding and review, oversight and evaluation of Cancer Research UK's clinical research portfolio in accordance with Cancer Research UK's research strategy. The Clinical Research Committee will support a broad portfolio of clinical research which aims to learn as much as we can from every patient, in line with Cancer Research UK's [Clinical Research Statement of Intent](#).

2. List of award types

- 2.1. The Clinical Research Committee will consider applications for funding through the following award types:
 - Clinical Trial Awards
 - Experimental Medicine Programme Awards
 - Biomarker Development Project Awards
 - Prospective Sample Collection Awards
 - Preclinical Project Awards
 - Large-scale clinical research strategic initiatives, as requested by Cancer Research UK
- 2.2. The Clinical Research Committee is also responsible for reviews of the following research units/initiatives:
 - Cancer Research UK core-funded Clinical Trials Units
 - Cancer Research UK Senior Research Nurses
 - Cancer Research UK Centre for Drug Development
- 2.3. The Clinical Research Committee will also review relevant research groups at the Cancer Research UK Beatson, Cambridge and Manchester Institutes, as agreed between the Head of Clinical Research, the Head of Centres and Institutes and the Cancer Research UK Chief Scientist.

3. Additional terms

- 3.1. The Clinical Research Committee will be supported by Expert Review Panels, comprising standing and *ad hoc* members. These will be chaired by a member of the Clinical Research Committee and supported by up to two additional Committee members where possible.

- 3.2. The Clinical Research Committee will oversee all aspects of Cancer Research UK's funding for clinical research, excluding clinical research falling within the remits of other funding committees (e.g. early detection and diagnosis, prevention and screening trials).
- 3.3. The Clinical Research Committee will keep abreast of and, where relevant, respond to external factors such as government policies which impact on Cancer Research UK's clinical research portfolio.
- 3.4. The Clinical Research Committee will work with the Clinical Research Monitoring Panel (the Monitoring Panel) in relation to scientific milestone reports for active grants currently in the Clinical Research Committee portfolio. In this regard, the Committee should note that the Monitoring Panel has the powers of a funding committee and may make decisions in relation to scientific milestone reports for grants, with the exception of the decision to withdraw funding. Where the Monitoring Panel recommends withdrawal of funding, the Clinical Research Committee is responsible for considering the recommendation and making a final decision in relation to that scientific milestone report.
- 3.5. The Clinical Research Committee will work with other funding committees to ensure training, workforce and infrastructure requirements for clinical research are suitably prioritised and supported across Cancer Research UK.

4. Membership

- 4.1. The Clinical Research Committee will comply with the membership requirements set out in the General Terms of Reference for Funding Committees.
- 4.2. The Clinical Research Committee will have a fixed membership; however, additional experts can be co-opted onto the Committee where required, at the discretion of the Committee Chair and the Cancer Research UK office.
- 4.3. The Chair of the Clinical Research Committee will be invited to join the SEB.

5. Meetings

- 5.1. The Clinical Research Committee will meet four times per year.
- 5.2. The Chair of the Clinical Research Committee will provide an update at an SEB meeting on an annual basis to discuss how the Committee is delivering against the strategic priorities of Cancer Research UK; update on portfolio shifts; and discuss new strategic opportunities and/or any challenges relating to the development of the clinical research portfolio.

6. Research remit

6.1. The intent of applications for funding considered by the Clinical Research Committee must relate to one or more of the following areas of research:

- Clinical trials of interventional cancer treatments, including, but not limited to, systemic treatments, targeted therapies, radiotherapy, surgery and re-purposed agents where the overall aim is to improve outcomes for patients. Clinical trials can either be funded or endorsed by the Clinical Research Committee. International clinical trials are within remit, provided they adhere to the EORTC Project Funding Model Guidance, or subsequent guidance issued thereafter, and approved by the SEB.
- Highly ambitious translational research programmes conducted in association with one or more well-designed clinical studies of interventional cancer treatment(s), with the objective of optimising treatment and maximising patient benefit.
- Translational research to identify, validate and qualify biomarkers (including assay development and validation) where the biomarker is related to a treatment intervention(s) and where there is a clear line of sight to clinical implementation.
- The collection of samples from patients on an interventional clinical trial of cancer treatment(s) where specific research question(s) have been defined.
- The collection of unique samples from patients on an interventional clinical trial of cancer treatment(s) where specific research question(s) cannot yet be generated, or where specific questions have been generated but the funding to carry out that work has been, or will be, obtained elsewhere. A unique opportunity might include sample collections within rare cancers or rare subtypes, those with associated distinct longitudinal data, or collections in cancers of unmet need.
- Occasionally, the Clinical Research Committee may consider very large-scale, ambitious clinical research strategic initiatives which bring together the research community around a specific problem and which, if successful, would result in a significant step forward in the Cancer Research UK research strategy. Strategic initiatives are focused in areas of high priority, such as novel treatment modalities (e.g. proton therapy) or cancers of unmet need.
- Non-regulatory preclinical studies required for the initiation of early phase clinical trials of cancer treatments including, but not limited to, proof-of-concept studies for drug re-purposing and novel combination approaches for drugs post-candidate stage.