Cancer Research UK  
Drug Discovery Committee  
Supplementary Terms of Reference

This document sets out the key responsibilities that the Scientific Executive Board (SEB) has delegated to the Drug Discovery Committee (DDC or the Committee). It should be read in conjunction with the General Terms of Reference for Funding Committees.

1 Remit

1.1. To maintain broad oversight of the delivery of the CRUK’s drug discovery strategy (Small Molecule and Biotherapeutic), and to provide on-going advice on its implementation to the SEB.

1.2. To have oversight of the entire CRUK drug discovery portfolio and to provide feedback to the SEB on its future development, specifically in terms of gaps/risks/opportunities.

1.3. To make recommendations to the SEB on the specific remit of all future drug discovery funding calls.

1.4. To be responsible for the oversight, review, funding and management of the following research awards, including, where appropriate, scientific milestone reviews of:

- Core Small Molecule Drug Discovery Units (DDUs, currently housed at the ICR-CTU, CRUK Manchester Institute and CRUK Beatson Institute)
- Biotherapeutic Drug Discovery Programme Awards
- Biotherapeutic Drug Discovery Project Awards
- Small Molecule Drug Discovery Project Awards
- Themed alliances housed in the CRUK Therapeutic Discovery Laboratories (CRUK TDL) (and any future alliances housed in either the CRUK TDL or DDUs)
- Any relevant additional core-funded activities (e.g. Strategic Awards and Initiatives)

2 Additional Terms

2.1. DDC will be supported in the assessment of the scientific quality of certain activities by Expert Review Panels (ERPs). The membership of the ERPs will be dependent on the activity or applications under consideration, but will be chaired by a member of DDC and supported by an additional Committee member.

2.2. Standing ERPs

The Small Molecule Expert Review Panel (SMERP) and Biotherapeutic Expert Review Panel (BTERP) will review Drug Discovery Projects and Programmes in the Small Molecule and Biotherapeutic fields respectively. These ERPs will have fixed membership and the Chair and Vice-Chair of these ERPs will be members of DDC. Additional experts may be co-opted on to the Panels (including additional members of DDC) should the applications under consideration require it.

2.3. Convened ad hoc ERPs

Quinquennial reviews of the DDUs, and other significant additional core-funded activities as appropriate (e.g Strategic Awards and Initiatives), will be performed by ad-hoc ERPs Chaired by a member of the DDC (with a minimum of one other member of DDC in attendance, and potentially with representation from SMERP/BTERP members).

3 Membership

3.1. The Committee will comply with the membership requirements set out in the General Terms of Reference for Funding Committees.
4 Meetings

4.1 The Committee will meet twice a year.

4.2 If invited by the SEB, the Chair of the Committee will attend an SEB meeting on an annual basis to ensure that the Committee is aligned with the strategic priorities of Cancer Research UK.

5 Document information

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