



Life Sciences Sector Deal 2, 2018

UK Government announces important development for clinical research future

Maidenhead, UK, 16th December 2018 -- IAOCR welcomes the latest Life Sciences Sector Deal 2, 2018 from the UK Government which outlines plans to establish five purpose designed centres dedicated to late-phase commercial research in 2019 to 2020. The centres will offer rapid set-up of commercial research, standardised contracting and delivery approaches where appropriate. They will have dedicated facilities and staff and increase the NHS's capacity to deliver clinical research, enabling opportunities for patients to benefit from access innovative medical treatments.

As part of the deal the Government also committed to:

- continuing to improve research set-up timelines by achieving HRA approval within timelines specified in the EU Clinical Trials Regulation;
- addressing NHS workforce resourcing challenges to ensure these do not limit the delivery of commercial contract research; with a goal to have innovative approaches in place by summer 2019;
- identifying opportunities to recognise and incentivise NHS Trusts and GP practices to act as participant identification centres;
- working to increase uptake of life sciences apprenticeships; including new UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) programmes that are helping to deliver on opportunities that emerge through joint working between life sciences and other disciplines.

These commitments are focused specifically on setting the UK on the path to be one of the best places in the world for clinical trials.

The establishment of five purpose designed NHS centres dedicated to late-phase commercial research closely aligns with the recommendations outlined in the [‘High Throughput Clinical Research Centres In The NHS’](#) whitepaper which detailed substantial benefits these centres could bring to UK patients, the NHS and UK PLC.

Earlier this year Jonathan Sheffield, CEO of the NIHR (National Institute for Health Research) Clinical Research Network explained: “by focusing on collaboration between the clinical research industry and the NHS we can harmonise and improve the clinical research process for both patients and the industry; ultimately working to get new treatments available for patients in a more efficient, but equally robust, way. The NIHR is actively working to facilitate partnerships between Industry and the NHS; the introduction of High Throughput Centres would extend the work we’ve already begun and accelerate the process to the advantage of those requiring new treatments, as well as the industry.”

“This deal outlines an important development for the clinical research industry; and will enable closer collaboration between commercial organisations and the NHS which will be highly-beneficial to patients,” said Jacqueline Johnson North, Chief Executive Officer of IAOCR who have supported this initiative since its conception. “There is high potential for these



purpose-designed centres to become the global benchmark for clinical trial centres and play a significant role in positioning the UK as one of the best environments in the world for innovative medical research.”

IAOCR is committed to driving advancements in the global clinical research sector by facilitating collaborative thought leadership and helping organisations and the industry as a whole embed changes.

The sector deal outlines the opportunities for the UK clinical research industry but also acknowledges the potential global impact these centres can have by enabling the research community to access advice to support innovative trial design. The Clinical Research Working Group will continue its partnership between industry and Government with plans to make it easier for researchers to identify opportunities for collaboration. It will also strive to secure the MHRA’s early engagement in the process allowing exploratory discussions to take place as well as a scientific advice service providing guidance on a specific question relating to a product or study.

Angela O’Connell, IAOCR’s Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer, said: “Purpose designed clinical trials centres are just one element of the overall equation. Availability of new technologies have created the possibility to redesign the way in which clinical trials are conducted to be faster, better, smarter. In 2019, IAOCR will facilitate global, cross-sector collaboration to ensure we have a future-proof industry that maximises benefits for patients.”

The 2018 Deal signifies an important step for the UKs future in clinical research. For more on the full deal [click here](#).

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Notes to editors

About NIHR

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR): improving the health and wealth of the nation through research.

Established by the Department of Health and Social Care, the NIHR:

- funds high quality research to improve health
- trains and supports health researchers



- provides world-class research facilities
- works with the life sciences industry and charities to benefit all
- involves patients and the public at every step

For further information, visit the NIHR website www.nihr.ac.uk

About IAOCR

IAOCR's purpose is to align people and business strategies, enabling organisational excellence in the clinical research sector.

IAOCR business processes and accreditations have been built specifically for the clinical research industry. They provide a quality mark to organisations committed to globally consistent, high quality clinical trials workforces. We work with clinical research organisations that are passionate about improving the effectiveness and efficiency of clinical trials by addressing human factors that work alongside the technologies and processes.

We believe that clinical trial patients anywhere in the world deserve the best protection in terms of rights and wellbeing. Therefore, in addition to providing accreditation, training and consultancy services, IAOCR works with industry leaders and regulators around the globe to develop best practice guidelines and frameworks that are freely available to everyone. To find out more about the best practice initiatives visit <http://iaocr.com/resources/>.