



## Media Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## UKCRC Registration recognises clinical trials expertise

Ten Clinical Trials Units are the latest to be registered by the UK Clinical Research Collaboration Clinical Trials Unit Registration Process, which is designed to help improve the quality of available expertise to carry out clinical trials in the UK.

Clinical Trials Units are specialist units that bring together the expertise needed to undertake a clinical trial, including clinicians, statisticians and trial managers. Running a trial is a complex process and registered Units have the expertise to design, coordinate and analyse multi-centre clinical trials, ensuring that they are conducted in line with appropriate standards and regulations.

The newly Registered Units join a network of UK wide Clinical Trials Units who were registered following the first round of the process in 2007. The network now has a total of 49 Registered Units. To be eligible to apply, the Units had to demonstrate they were capable of centrally coordinating multi-centre clinical trials and other well-designed studies, taking overall responsibility for the design, conduct, data management, publicity and analysis of a trial.

The registration process was coordinated by the National Institute for Health Research Clinical Research Network Coordinating Centre on behalf of the UK Clinical Research Collaboration.

A full list of the Registered Clinical Trials Units is available at [www.ukcrc-ctu.org.uk](http://www.ukcrc-ctu.org.uk)

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The Clinical Trials Units were required to meet a number of key competencies, which were assessed against detailed evaluation criteria and reviewed by an international panel. These included a track record of experience in coordinating multi-centre clinical trials, presence of expert staff and robust quality assurance systems, and evidence of long term viability of capacity for trials coordination.

Clinical Trials Units that met all these criteria received Full Registration. Those that were clearly working towards developing sufficient expertise to enable Full Registration but which did not yet meet all the criteria relating to infrastructure, resources and experience received Provisional Registration.

Further information on the UKCRC Clinical Trials Unit Registration Process is available at [www.ukcrc-ctu.org.uk](http://www.ukcrc-ctu.org.uk)

2. The successful Clinical Trials Units were:

### **Full Registration**

- London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) Clinical Trials Unit (University of London)
- Mental Health & Neuroscience Clinical Trials Unit (Kings College London)
- Oxford University Clinical Trial Service Unit & Epidemiological Studies Unit (CTSU) (University of Oxford)
- Primary Care Clinical Research and Trials Unit (PC-CRTU) (University of Birmingham)\*
- York Trials Unit (University of York)\*

*\*Denotes units which gained Provisional Registration in 2007 and have progressed to Full Registration*

### **Provisional Registration**

- Imperial Clinical Trials Unit (Imperial College London) (incorporating the International Centre for Circulatory Health Trials Unit which gained Registration in 2007)
- Intensive Care National Audit & Research Centre (ICNARC) Clinical Trials Unit
- Leicester Clinical Trials Unit (University of Leicester)
- Primary Care Clinical Trials Unit (University of Oxford)
- Sir Alfred Baring Garrod Clinical Trials Unit (Kings College London)
- Tayside Clinical Trials Unit (University of Dundee and NHS Tayside)
- West Wales Organisation for Rigorous Trials in Health and Social Care (WWORTH) (Swansea University)

3. UKCRC Registered Clinical Trials Units have:

- access to and integration with UKCRC/UK Clinical Research Networks structures and systems
- a central role in the development of national portfolios of studies and national strategies to clinical research
- a forum to contribute to the development and implementation of national approaches, e.g. electronic remote data capture systems, patient and public involvement
- a forum to meet and discuss issues/raise problems on a national level
- the ability to respond to national needs in a coordinated way
- a forum to ensure uniformity in research governance and implementation
- a national profile as a UKCRC Registered Clinical Trials Unit
- facilitated international collaboration

UKCRC Registered CTUs also work together to share expertise, systems and knowledge and therefore prevent duplication of effort across CTUs.

4. The UK Clinical Research Collaboration (UKCRC), established in 2004, is a partnership of organisations working together to establish the UK as a world leader in clinical research by harnessing the potential of the NHS.

The Partners include the key stakeholders that shape the health research environment, including research funders, the NHS, government, industry, academia, regulators, charities and patients.

Detailed information on UKCRC activities can be found on the UKCRC website at [www.ukcrc.org](http://www.ukcrc.org)

5. The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network Coordinating Centre manages the NIHR Clinical Research Network. It is supporting the development of a world class clinical research infrastructure in the NHS in England. Further information is available on the NIHR Clinical Research Network Coordinating Centre website: [www.crncc.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.crncc.nihr.ac.uk)