



**National Institute for
Health Research**

National Institute for Health Research – Clinical Research Network

Job Pack – National Specialty Lead

Do you want to work for an outstanding organisation at the forefront of clinical research delivery?

The NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN) provides the infrastructure that allows high-quality clinical research to take place in the NHS in England. This includes assisting researchers and funders to deliver their studies in the NHS, and supporting the research community to maximise the value of leading-edge approaches and techniques, so that patients can benefit from new and better treatments.

The CRN is a managed network consisting of a broad alliance including Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, five Russell Group Universities, and PA Consulting. It is supported by a national CRN Coordinating Centre (CC) and funded by the Department of Health until March 2020.

Alliance university partners will provide Cluster leadership delivering national academic and clinical leadership for 30 CRN research specialties along with a focus on emerging technologies and innovation. Multiple opportunities are now available for high-calibre clinical leaders to provide expert advice to the CRN and work with the national and international health and life-sciences industry (non-commercial, pharma, med-tech, diagnostics and biotech) to make the NHS a benchmark of excellence for the research community.

National Specialty Lead - Ageing

Reporting to a Cluster Lead, you will provide leadership of the specialty at a national level and promote the engagement, placement and delivery of studies.

You will understand NHS research priorities, the needs of your specialty area and have good links to the evolving NHS strategic clinical leadership.

In partnership with the Research Delivery Team locally and nationally, you will advise/troubleshoot areas of poor delivery

from a clinical perspective and promote continuous improvement.

You will have a recognised reputation within the field and have the ability to engage with senior stakeholders both internally and externally.

Salary: Pro rata senior grade - pay scale of post holder's professional group

Commitment: 1 PA

Closing date: 15 May 2019 **Ref:** NCL05

Interviews: 21 June 2019 in London

To apply send a CV and a (one page max) statement setting out your vision and suitability for the role via email to crnspecialtycluster@nihr.ac.uk. Confirmation from your employer that they are willing to put in place arrangements to allow you to take on this role would also be useful at this stage. The deadline for applications is 12 noon on 15 May 2019.

Imperial College London

Cluster Lead A specialty cluster:

- Cardiovascular disease
- Diabetes
- Metabolic and endocrine
- Renal disorders
- Stroke

Cluster Lead B cluster:

- Respiratory disorders
- Ear, nose and throat
- Gastroenterology
- Hepatology
- Infectious diseases and microbiology

Emerging technology or innovation areas:

Medical technology;
metabolic phenotyping



Cluster Lead C specialty cluster of:

- Anaesthesia, perioperative medicine and pain management
- Critical care
- Dermatology
- Health services and delivery research
- Injuries and emergencies
- Primary care
- Public health
- Mental health

Emerging technology or innovation areas:

Imaging; genomics;
translational medicine



Cluster Lead D specialty cluster:

- Children
- Haematology
- Musculoskeletal disorders
- Ophthalmology
- Reproductive health and childbirth

Emerging technology or innovation areas:

Therapeutics and personalised/stratified medicine including clinical pharmacology



Cluster Lead E specialty cluster:

- Ageing
- Dementias and neurodegeneration (DeNDRoN)
- Genetics
- Neurological disorders

Emerging technology or innovation areas:

Clinical Trial Design and Delivery for the underserved



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Cluster Lead F specialty cluster:

- Cancer
- Oral and dental health
- Surgery

Emerging technology or innovation areas:

Medical informatics and data linkage; infusion of medicine into the physical-engineering-computational domains

Informal enquiries should be made to Dr Gary Nestor on 0191 208 1334 email: gary.nestor@nihr.ac.uk

We welcome applications from all sections of the community. Information can be made available in alternative formats.

Job Summary – National Specialty Lead

Reporting to your respective Cluster Lead, the **NIHR CRN National Specialty Lead** provides leadership of the NIHR CRN Specialty at a national level. You will promote engagement, placement and subsequent delivery of studies with the NIHR CRN. You must understand NHS research priorities, the needs of your specialty area and have good links to the evolving NHS strategic clinical leadership. In a synergistic partnership with the research delivery team, you will advise and troubleshoot areas of poor delivery within your specialty from a clinical perspective. Working with the NIHR CRNCC Research Delivery team, you will maintain national oversight of the specialty's portfolio, promoting continued improvements in performance of the delivery of studies through the local Clinical Research Specialty Leads and the Research Delivery Managers based in the 15 LCRNs.

In conjunction with the Medical Director, Cluster Leads, and LCRN Clinical Directors, you will be key a clinical academic ambassador for the NIHR CRN. You will already have a recognised reputation within the field and have the ability to engage with and command the respect of senior stakeholders both internal and external to the organisation.

In partnership with the Cluster Leads and the Business Development and Marketing Directorate of the CRNCC, you will proactively develop effective relationships with decision-makers in the public sector, charity and life-science funding organisations and companies (non-commercial, pharma, medtech, diagnostics and biotech) to further the aims of the NIHR CRN. With knowledge and experience of the full scope of the NIHR, you will collectively ensure that the NHS is seen as an organisation that excels in the consistent delivery of high quality clinical research.

Summary Table – National Specialty Lead Posts

The importance of maintaining clinical engagement through continued support at specialty level has been acknowledged by the Department of Health in the model for the reconfigured NIHR Clinical Research Network (NIHR CRN) which identifies 30 clinical research specialties for the CRN.

The table below outlines the National Specialty Lead posts and the PA allocation. Recognising the likely clinical and research commitments of post-holders, national leadership for the specialty will be shared across a number of areas of sub-specialisation, working in a co-leadership arrangement. In these circumstances, individuals will carry responsibility for their areas of sub-specialisation whilst sharing the responsibility of national leadership and representation for the specialty as a whole. Areas of potential co-leadership are indicated in the table below

Newcastle University

NIHR CRN Specialty	Sub-specialisation	Reference Number	PA Allocation	Total Number of PAs per Specialty
Ageing	-	NCL02	1	1
Dementias & neurodegenerative diseases	Dementias	NCL03	1	2
	Neurodegeneration	NCL04	1	
Genetics	-	NCL05	1	1
Neurological disorders	-	NCL06	1	1

Role Outline – NIHR CRN National Specialty Lead

- Reports to :** NIHR CRN Cluster Lead for the relevant Specialty Cluster.
- Employed by:** Current employing organisation with PA reimbursement enabled through the Local Clinical Research Network
- Salary:** Pro-rata salary at a senior grade within the pay scale for the post holder's professional group
- Liaises with:**
- Relevant Assistant Cluster Leads, other NIHR CRN Cluster Leads and associated teams
 - LCRN Clinical Research Specialty Leads for the relevant and related specialties and Communities of Practice
 - Other senior members of the LCRN Leadership Teams
 - Key members of the NIHR CRN Research Delivery Directorate and Business Development and Marketing Directorate
 - Other Senior NIHR CRN CC leaders including Executive, their Function Teams, and other Alliance personnel
 - Other elements of the NIHR and their external partners
 - Royal colleges and other professional bodies
 - Universities, Life-Sciences Industry and other stakeholder organisations
 - NHS member organisations
 - Key commercial and non-commercial funding bodies and organisations relevant to the specialty
 - CEOs, Senior Staff, R&D Leads, Research Leads, Nurses and Managers within NHS organisations regarding issues of national importance
 - Department of Health and Social Care
- Hours:** As per individual specialty arrangements
- Tenure:** From the appointment date until 31 March 2022 (subject to a review after 1 year)
- Location:** The Cluster Hub staff supporting the associated National Specialty Lead will be based in the nominated premises of the relevant HEI.
- The post holder will be required to work nationally and there is an expectation that some international travel may also be required.

Introduction

The NIHR Clinical Research Network (NIHR CRN) is a managed network made up of a broad alliance of key partner organisations, these being:

- University of Leeds and Guys and St Thomas's NHS Foundation Trust (GSTFT) as a consortium to provide the NIHR CRN Coordinating Centre
- Five Russell Group Universities (University of Leeds, University of Liverpool, Imperial College London, Kings College London and Newcastle University), combined with the flagship NHS Foundation Trust (GSTFT)
- PA Consulting who have an international reputation for excellence in innovation and for health and life sciences technology and have comprehensive experience and expertise in delivery of cloud-based solutions for modern health care research

This unique Alliance is far-reaching in its scope and national impact and aims to take the already outstanding performance of the NIHR CRN to the next level of efficiency and impact. The Alliance is committed to making the NHS-NIHR research infrastructure a benchmark of excellence for the international life sciences research community, engaging patients and public in the research journey to ensure the NHS is promoted as a high quality health care provider driven by the very best informed evidence base, significantly contributing to the health and wealth of the Nation. The Alliance will provide clinical research thematic leadership through seven NIHR CRN Cluster Leads hosted in the University centres of excellence. A key purpose of clinical research Cluster infrastructure is to provide a coordinating function for the 30 NIHR CRN national clinical specialties. The table below shows the clustering of specialties under their relevant Cluster:

University Partner (including emerging technology or clinical research innovation area of focus)	Specialty Cluster	Cluster & (Cluster Lead)
Imperial College London (Medical Technology & Metabolic Phenotyping; Genetic Therapies)	Cardiovascular disease; Diabetes; Metabolic and endocrine disorders; Renal disorders; Stroke.	a IMP01(A)
	Respiratory disorders; Ear, nose and throat; Gastroenterology; Hepatology; Infectious diseases and microbiology.	b IMP02(B)
King's College London (Imaging, Genomics & Translational Medicine)	Two posts: Anaesthesia, peri-operative medicine and pain management; Critical care; Dermatology; Health services and delivery research; Injuries and emergencies; Primary care; Public Health; Mental Health * (*The distribution of specialties between the two posts to be agreed upon and dependent on the time commitment, interests and background of applicants.)	c KCL01(C) KCL02(D)
University of Liverpool (Therapeutics & Personalised/Stratified Medicine including Clinical Pharmacology)	Children; Haematology; Musculoskeletal disorders; Ophthalmology; Reproductive health and childbirth.	d LIV01(E)

University Partner (including emerging technology or clinical research innovation area of focus)	Specialty Cluster	Cluster & (Cluster Lead)
Newcastle University (Clinical Trial Design and Delivery for under-represented groups)	Ageing; Dementias and neurodegeneration (DeNDRoN); Genetics; Neurological disorders.	e NCL01(F)
University of Leeds (Medical Informatics & Data Linkage, Infusion of Medicine into the Physical-Engineering-Computational domains)	Cancer; Oral and dental health; Surgery.	f UOL01(G)

Role Summary/Purpose

The National Specialty Leads, in conjunction with the Medical Director, Cluster Leads, and LCRN Clinical Directors are the key clinical academic ambassadors for the NIHR CRN. Post-holders will be credible and competent and have the ability to command the respect of senior stakeholders internal and external to the organisation. In conjunction with Cluster Leads and the Business Development and Marketing Directorate, they will proactively develop effective relationships with decision-makers in the public sector, charity and life-science funding organisations (non-commercial, pharma, medtech, diagnostics and biotech) and companies to further the aims of the NIHR CRN. With knowledge and experience of the full scope of the NIHR, they will collectively ensure that the NHS is seen as an organisation that excels in the consistent delivery of high quality clinical research.

The post-holder will be an experienced strategic clinical research leader; with the ability to lead and develop highly talented clinicians. Displaying the ability to communicate comfortably about and promote the Clinical Research Network on the basis of its performance and delivery, he/she will operate across both commercial and non-commercial research settings. Working with patients, healthcare professionals and academics, the post-holder will ensure a focus on a continuing improvement of research experience in the NHS.

Providing leadership of the specialty at a national level, they will promote engagement, placement and subsequent delivery of studies with the NIHR CRN. The post-holder must understand NHS research priorities, the needs of their specialty area and have good links to the evolving NHS strategic clinical leadership. In a synergistic partnership with the research delivery team, led by the NIHR CRN CC Research Delivery Director and the Head of Divisional Research Delivery, the post-holder will advise and troubleshoot areas of poor delivery within their specialty from a clinical perspective. Working with NIHR, the local clinical research delivery team and in particular the local specialty lead, he/she will maintain national oversight of the specialty's portfolio, promoting continued improvements in performance in the delivery of studies through the Clinical Research Specialty Leads, the Divisional Clinical Leads and the Research Delivery Managers based in the 15 LCRNs.

Key Duties and Responsibilities

General

- Provide and coordinate clinical leadership and advice for specialty activities at a national level to maximise research activity, delivery and access to NIHR CRN portfolio studies in the specialty, for example input into study wide feasibility requests
- Act as the key clinical contact for the specialty, advising and representing the NIHR CRN and proactively promoting clinical engagement and awareness of research within the specialty at a national level
- Promote the aims, objectives and successes of the NIHR CRN at national and international levels
- Contribute to national NIHR CRN initiatives, in particular developing and sharing best practice
- Promote the aims, objectives and successes of the specialty and the NIHR CRN at a national level
- Champion a culture of innovation and continuous improvement across the specialty and the NIHR CRN as a whole leading projects and initiatives as appropriate. Encourage the sharing of best practice to reduce and prevent silo working.
- Support the Medical Director, and senior management team of the NIHR CRN to ensure best value for money and appropriate use of resource to deliver optimal specialty performance in light of current national priorities, challenges and opportunities

Clinical Research Leadership

- Provide leadership and support to Specialty Leads, establishing a coherent and effective national network for the specialty
- Chair national clinical meetings of Specialty Leads and contribute to other national clinical leadership groups and events as appropriate
- Provide visible, dynamic and effective senior clinical research leadership, direction and oversight for the specialty both internally and externally to the NIHR CRN
- Champion the importance of delivery for the life sciences industry, promoting the important contribution commercial clinical research makes to the Health and Wealth of the nation
- Ensure the effective continued development and functioning of the CRN specialty supporting LCRN Specialty Leads in their role, promoting clinical engagement and specialty succession planning
- Work with colleagues to direct initiatives to identify and meet the personal development, training and/or induction needs of the Clinical Research Specialty Leads
- Oversee the development of relevant procedures, clinical guidelines and protocols as appropriate, ensuring the NIHR CRN service complies with relevant research and clinical quality standards

Supporting Clinical Research Delivery

- Monitor, report on and seek to influence the volume and balance of studies on the relevant specialty research portfolio providing expert intelligence and advice to Research Delivery teams and other NIHR CRN staff where appropriate
- Identify the clinical strengths capacity and capability of the specialty to ensure the portfolio maximises the ability to offer clinical research opportunities to patients
- Maintain oversight of the national portfolio for the specialty, working nationally to support the timely and effective delivery of the specialty's research portfolio, liaising with Clinical Research Specialty Leads and Chief Investigators (Cis) of studies as and when necessary
- Support the national coordinating centre (Performance and Research Delivery functions) in the performance management of the CRN including the setting and oversight of the national objectives and targets for the specialty and the assessment of LCRN performance over the annual planning cycle
- Provide clinical input into national specialty-specific business processes including national feasibility assessments for commercial studies (and in the future non-commercial studies), identifying potential sites/investigators that could conduct the study and the assessment of the risks of successful study delivery
- Work proactively with life sciences industry companies in a coordinated manner (both nationally and internationally) to promote engagement with the NIHR CRN and increase the number of commercial studies successfully placed with and delivered through the network
- Take a strategic overview of the national infrastructure required to support the clinical research specialty with an emphasis on identifying and addressing nationwide blocks to successful delivery, sharing examples of good practice across the LCRNs and ensuring that LCRNs make full use of the opportunities to contribute to studies, emerging clinical needs and unrepresented patient populations
- Advise the CRNCC Research Delivery Director and Cluster Director on national issues related to portfolio delivery (e.g. clinical pathways and needs), national infrastructure requirements, and national challenges/ opportunities for research in the specialty. Take responsibility where appropriate and agreed for the resolution of issues relevant to the specialty or across the wider NIHR CRN
- Promote and lead initiatives that encourage incorporation of the patient voice and experience into NIHR CRN approaches to delivery and access to high quality research

Stakeholder Engagement

In conjunction with the Cluster offices:

- Work with external stakeholders (e.g. Royal Colleges and research funders) to develop the national research infrastructure for the specialty and link with portfolio development groups to promote continuity between study development, support and delivery

- Work with other elements of the NIHR's scientific and academic leadership, and other funders (both within and out with the UK), to increase the flow of high quality clinical research studies onto the NIHR CRN portfolio
- Develop and maintain effective working relationships with Royal Colleges and other professional clinical associations/bodies relevant to the specialty
- Develop a close relationship with the senior clinical leaders of NHS England as appropriate to the specialty and national representation
- Promote the involvement and engagement of patients, carers and the public in the specialty's research portfolio
- To engage with NIHR Faculty including CI's, Senior Investigators

Any other duties commensurate with the role of a senior member of the NIHR CRN

Person Specification

ATTRIBUTE	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Qualifications & Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered on the General Medical Council Specialist Register or hold equivalent clinical professional status • Higher specialist training in a medical discipline or equivalent professional training 	
Knowledge & Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience as a clinical investigator • Nationally respected opinion leader within their specialty with a breadth of clinical knowledge • Evidence of managing effective collaborations and partnerships • Experience of working across complex organisational structures and effective matrix management • Sound knowledge of how the NHS works • Knowledge of national systems, structures and processes for supporting clinical research (industry and academic sponsored), in the NHS • Experience of managing clinical teams through a performance management framework in a clinical setting • Experience of Committee work, including as Chair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience and evidence of international collaborations • Experience as an academic investigator • Executive level experience • Understanding of the importance of the application of robust business planning and financial management techniques at scale • Experience as a Chief Investigator of at least one substantial nationwide or international clinical research project(s)
Skills & Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of leadership skills that engage motivate and develop a wide range of both clinicians and managers • Effective facilitator who is able to bring colleagues together to work in a collegiate way for the overall benefit of the national community in which they work • Well rounded interpersonal skills including the ability to influence and achieve results through other people • Ability to work with stakeholders at all levels across a range of organisations • Ability to develop strong and productive working relationships with senior stakeholders • Ability to demonstrate influence on 	

ATTRIBUTE	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
	<p>others and achieve impact in research leadership, delivery and management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to prepare and deliver presentations and reports to a high standard • Ability to analyse and interpret highly complex information and to make judgements regarding a range of complex issues • Commitment to supporting the development of staff and understanding of workforce planning • Strong problem solving skills • Ability to support and champion new models of working 	
<p>Values / Behavioural / Attitudes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible approach to working • Highly motivated, with ability to influence and inspire others • Outcomes focussed • Demonstrate passion about bringing benefits to patients through the integration of research into the delivery of excellent clinical care within the NHS • Ability to act as a champion for patients and their interests, ensuring the patients' voice is at the heart of LCRN activities 	