

NHS Blood and Transplant

R&D Committee

Annual Report 2017/18

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The R&D Committee has prepared this report to the NHSBT Board to demonstrate how it satisfied its terms of reference during 2017/18.

2. OVERVIEW

The Board has delegated authority to the Committee to provide strategic oversight of an innovative, cohesive, high quality programme of research and development (R&D) which includes a balance of short and long-term research and meets organisational requirements. The Committee aims for timely translation of research findings into new products and services, to deliver improvements to the efficiency, efficacy and safety of blood, tissues, cellular and organ products and services for donors and patients.

The Terms of Reference of the R&D Committee were reviewed by the Committee at their meeting on 13th June 2017.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Several changes to membership of the R&D Committee took place in the reporting period because of changes at Board level. The Membership at the end of the reporting period was:

Committee Members

Paresh Vyas (Chair of RDC, Non-Executive Director)
Rob Bradburn (Finance Director)
Louise Fullwood (Non-Executive Director)
Sally Johnson (Director of Organ Donation and Transplantation)
Harvey Klein (NIH, USA: External expert)
Greg Methven (Director of Manufacturing & Logistics)
Gail Miflin (Medical & Research Director)
Jeremy Monroe (Non-Executive Director)
Ellen van der Schoot (Sanquin, The Netherlands: External Expert)
Mike Stredder (Director of Blood Donation)
Jonas Wadstrom (University of Stockholm, Sweden: External Expert)
Huw Williams (Director of Diagnostic and Therapeutic Services)

Observers

Emanuele Di Angelantonio (PI observer)
Rachel Johnson (Associate Director, Statistics & Clinical Studies)
Yomi Adegbaaju (National Research Manager, Minutes)
Rutger Ploeg (PI observer)
Chris Sims (Planning and Management Accountant, Group Services)
Simon Stanworth (PI observer)
Nick Watkins (Assistant Director, Research & Development)

4. COMPLIANCE WITH TERMS OF REFERENCE

Formal meetings of the R&D Committee were held on 13th June and 7th November 2017. Both meetings were quorate.

5. DUTIES AND FINDINGS

1. The Committee reviewed and accepted progress against the objectives of the 2015 – 2020 R&D Strategy;
2. The Committee reviewed and accepted progress on the clinical trial of manufactured red cells, confirming their continued support for this important trial;
3. The Committee accepted the final report for the INTERVAL clinical trial, noting that the team had delivered a world first trial in the management of donor health;
4. The Committee monitored progress on big data pilot studies that are applying machine learning to NHSBT datasets;
5. The Committee accepted recommendations to change the sample size for the TREATT clinical trial of tranexamic acid therapy in thrombocytopenia;
6. The Committee approved a cluster randomised trial to evaluate interventions to prevent vasovagal reactions among whole blood donors;
7. The Committee approved plans for developing the 2020 – 2025 R&D Strategy and undertaking a formal external review of the existing research programme;
8. The Committee reviewed and accepted progress reports from the National Institute for Health Research Blood and Transplant Research Units;
9. The Committee reviewed progress on all active workpackages and projects within the reporting period;
10. The Committee accepted a report on the activity of our Principal Investigators (PI) and recognised their ability to attract external funding and publish their results in Internationally leading journals;
11. The Committee accepted annual reports on Intellectual Property, the status of active Trust Fund awards and the Clinical Fellows which we support;
12. The Committee agreed a workplan for future meetings.

6. CONCLUSION

The R&D Committee has complied with its terms of reference from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018.

Nick Watkins, Assistant Director – Research and Development
18th July 2018