

NHS Blood and Transplant Clinical Trials Unit

Strategy 2018

NHS Blood and Transplant Clinical Trials Unit is a centre of excellence in the design, conduct, analysis and reporting of clinical trials in transfusion medicine; blood donor health; cellular therapies; therapeutic apheresis; and donation and transplantation of organs and tissues.

We work with investigators to deliver practice-changing research for donor and patient benefit.

Introduction

The NHS Blood and Transplant Clinical Trials Unit (NHSBT CTU) is fully registered with the UK Clinical Research Collaboration (UKCRC). We work in partnership with investigators to deliver high quality trials that will directly influence routine clinical practice. Our team consists of expert clinical trialists, methodologists, statisticians, trial managers, data managers, trial administrators and quality assurance specialists. As our CTU is based within NHS Blood and Transplant, we have an extensive body of expertise on which we can draw, including senior academics in a range of clinical areas.

We review all applications for support against our strategic priorities with a view to achieving a balanced portfolio across NHSBT's clinical areas. Core funding supports key posts to develop grant applications and run clinical trials and other well-designed studies. We work with researchers across the UK and internationally.

An independent Steering Group provides non-binding, strategic advice, guidance and support to the Director and CTU Management Team on the direction and management of the NHSBT CTU.

Our mission and objectives

Our mission is to deliver excellence in the design, conduct and dissemination of clinical trials in transfusion medicine; blood donor health; cellular therapies; therapeutic apheresis and donation and transplantation of organs and tissues, thereby providing evidence which benefits donors and patients locally, nationally and internationally.

In pursuit of this mission, the **key objectives** of the NHSBT CTU are:

- To provide leadership and expertise across the whole range of activities required to deliver trials from concept to dissemination and implementation of research findings
- To develop and maintain effective working relationships with funding bodies (including charities) and research networks, in particular to play an active part in the UKCRC and link with NIHR

- To develop and maintain effective partnerships with clinical investigators at all relevant institutions, both nationally and internationally, and with NHSBT committees and key professional societies, and engage with them proactively about new funding opportunities
- To achieve and maintain a balanced portfolio across NHSBT's clinical areas, that maximises patient and donor impact, and is in line with the wider NHSBT R&D Strategy - <https://www.nhsbt.nhs.uk/research-and-development/our-strategy/>
- To achieve financial sustainability by increasing external grant and contract income

Supporting objectives:

- To increase engagement with research users, the public, donors and patients, policy-makers, charities and others to shape and inform our studies
- To promote the excellent work of the CTU and the advantages to researchers of working with us through a variety of platforms including the CTU website, social media and relevant clinical conferences and meetings
- To adopt and maintain a culture of continuous improvement and professional development to enable us to work increasingly efficiently and effectively
- To promote a trial governance structure that supports a compliant, risk-based, proportional approach to the application of regulations
- To support the responsible sharing of clinical trial data and trial samples with the wider research community
- To increase high quality publications based on our studies, including publication of trial protocols and statistical analysis plans

Measuring success

We monitor and report on key performance indicators to assess how successfully we are achieving our objectives. These indicators cover having a balanced portfolio, income generation and a number of research outputs, including publications and citations.

NHSBT Clinical Trials Unit
September 2018