The Research, Innovation and Novel Technologies Advisory Group (RINTAG) – Terms of Reference

NHSBT is committed to working with stakeholders to support research, innovation and service developments. The Research, Innovation and Novel Technologies Advisory Group (RINTAG) will help coordinate implementation of studies that will lead to improved rates of organ donation or improved organ function and better outcomes for patients in need of solid organ transplants. Non transplant related and qualitative studies are on occasion also supported. RINTAG will also contribute to the delivery of relevant actions within the strategy *Organ Donation and Transplantation 2030: Meeting the Need.* This ten-year vision for organ donation and transplantation in the United Kingdom includes research and innovation priorities.

1. Terms of Reference

The roles of the Research, Innovation and Novel Technologies Advisory Group include:

1.1 Horizon Scanning: review and advise NHSBT and other stakeholders of current and future technologies involving organ donation, retrieval and transplantation that may impact on service delivery.

1.2 Current research, innovation and service development: provide an oversight of current innovations, research and service developments affecting the donation, retrieval and transplant pathway in order to coordinate the smooth implementation of approved studies, reduce duplication and avoid potential conflicts.

1.3 NHSBT supported projects: RINTAG will work with others to ensure timely initiation and implementation of NHSBT projects, review progress reports from such projects, and advise NHSBT's Research and Development Committee, Advisory Group Chairs Committee or the Senior Management Team of the Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Directorate (OTDT SMT) as appropriate.

1.4 Support implementation of proposed research, innovation and service development: RINTAG's executive group will review protocols of proposed research, innovation and service developments to ensure, prior to commencement, that:

- appropriate approvals and other governance arrangements are in place
- protocols are clear and comprehensive
- all relevant interested parties have been consulted and given approval
- the integrity of the donation, retrieval and transplantation process is not jeopardized

It should be noted that NHSBT is not constituted to give advice on research ethics and that permission to approve significant projects, such as uterus or face transplants, will be given by the OTDT SMT of NHSBT with advice from RINTAG.

1.5 Facilitate research proposals and access to organs and tissue (non-clinical use) for research purposes.

1.6 To work with the NHSBT Clinical Trials Unit to facilitate introduction of prospective randomised trials pertaining to organ donation and transplantation.~

1.7 NHSBT is committed to facilitating the removal of organs and tissue for research (non – clinical use). Requests for organs and tissues (non- clinical use) are received from many sources including UK clinicians and scientists in hospitals and universities as well as pharmaceutical and other companies. NHSBT is also committed to supporting the QUOD project.

1.8 RINTAG will review the current NHSBT policies for access to organs and tissue for research (including research application and renewal fees where appropriate) and make recommendations where appropriate to ensure that NHSBT can provide an effective and efficient service that meets the demands of researchers in a fair, transparent, efficient and equitable manner that fulfils the wishes of the donors. RINTAG will monitor implementation of these policies.

1.9 RINTAG will help NHSBT and relevant stakeholders develop the business cases for the novel technologies and innovations that are determined as beneficial for increasing the number and quality of the donor organs based on the best clinical evidence.

1.10 Funding: RINTAG will work to identify funding opportunities to support research, innovation and service development.

1.11 RINTAG will also provide advice and support to the Department of Statistics and Clinical Studies as requested, with respect to access for data and statistical support.

1.12 To be the forum in which representatives of research, innovation and service development and operations meet, in order to ensure that:

- Operational requirements that can be solved by either research or product development are considered for inclusion in the rolling R&D programme.
- Operational support for R&D projects is considered at the planning stage, costed into research proposals, and reviewed as the project progresses.
- Operational teams are fully aware of ongoing research and are therefore able to plan for translation of the research through clinical evaluations into routine products and services.
- Operational facilitation of studies requiring specific research consent and HTA license requirements is adequately managed. For such studies, RINTAG will assume the capacity and capability assessment as part of its approval. In addition to RINTAG approval, such studies may also require sign-off by the NHSBT R&D Office.

1.13 To consider changes to clinical care, scientific developments, the political landscape, and actions of competitors that impact on NHSBT’s service provision.

2. Membership and frequency of meetings

2.1. The Chair will be a senior clinician or scientist actively working in the field of organ donation, retrieval or transplantation.

2.2 The Advisory Group membership will consist of:

- RINTAG chair
- OTDT Medical Director
- Director of Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation
- Associate Medical Director – Research and Development
- Associate Medical Director – Deceased Donation
- National Clinical Lead Organ Donation – Innovation and Research
- Chairs (or deputies) of solid organ advisory groups
- Director of The Quality in Organ Donation (QUOD)
- Assistant Director – Statistics and Clinical Research
- Head of Research and Development – Tissue and Eye Services
- Head of ODT Studies
- ODT Research Manager
- Head of Transplant Development, OTDT
- Research and Innovation Lead
- Specialist Nurse Research
- National Quality Manager, ODT
- Assistant Director Organ Donation
- Head of HUB operations
- Assistant Director, UK Commissioning and Service Development
- Head of Service Development - OTDT
- Associate Medical Director - Clinical Governance National Operational Coordinator - QUOD
- Clinical Trials Unit representative
- Representative from the Cambridge/Newcastle NIHR BTRU
- Representative from the British Transplantation Society (BTS)
- Lay members

2.3 Email consultation with RINTAG's Executive Group takes place every quarter for the purpose of reviewing new proposals.

2.4 The executive group membership will consist of:

- RINTAG Chair
- Medical Director, OTDT
- Associate Medical Director, OTDT
- National Clinical Lead Organ Donation – Innovation and Research
- Chair, Kidney Advisory Group
- Chair, Pancreas Advisory Group
- Chair, Bowel Advisory Group
- Chair, Liver Advisory Group
- Chair, Cardiothoracic Advisory Group (Heart)
- Chair, Cardiothoracic Advisory Group (Lung)
- Associate Medical Director – Deceased Donation

- Associate Medical Director - Retrieval Assistant Director – Research & Development,
- NHSBT Assistant Director for, UK Commissioning and Service Development Assistant Director for Organ Donation
- National Quality Manager, NHSBT

2.5 Frequency of meetings – Wider Group

2.6 RINTAG will meet every six months.

2.7 The Group will be consulted via email in the interim period between meetings for any relevant correspondence and cases requiring more urgent responses.

2.8 Working by MS Teams and email is encouraged for of any interim meetings as required.

2.9 Working parties

2.10 The Advisory Group may commission fixed-term short-life working parties to address specific issues in a timely manner. There will be no more than two such working parties at any one time.

3. Support

3.1. Administrative and financial support will be provided by the Medical Directors Office and Group Support whilst statistical support will be provided by NHSBT Statistics & Clinical Studies to help deliver the aims of the group.

4. Appraisal

4.1. The RINTAG Chair will meet the Medical Director for Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation every year for a formal review of progress made, to agree targets for future work and a work plan.

5. Minutes

5.1. The notes of each meeting will be taken by the ODT Research manager. The Medical Directors Office and Group Support will support with the arrangements of RINTAG face to face meetings including the booking of travel and venues.

5.2. The approved minutes of meetings of RINTAG will be published on the ODT clinical site. 5.3. Minutes will be circulated electronically and uploaded onto OTD clinical website

6. Reporting Structure

6.1. RINTAG will report formally to OTDT SMT

Advisory Group Reporting