

## Research Network Clinical Director – Cancer Speciality

### Background:

The Northern Ireland Cancer Research Network (NICTN) facilitates the delivery of cancer clinical trials and other high quality clinical research throughout Northern Ireland (NI). This includes a wide variety of UK trials as well as those developed by local research groups and the pharmaceutical industry. The NICTN aims to ensure integrated working in clinical cancer research across all five HSC Trusts and with both local Universities.

### Role Summary:

This post is aimed at experienced clinical investigators with a major interest in promoting and managing translational and clinical cancer research across the HSC in NI. The post holder will provide clinical leadership for the NICTN and be required to promote the NICTN strategy. They will develop the trials portfolio in accordance with local and national priorities, and consider equity of access to trials for patients and promote cancer research to local organisations at executive level.

The post will be appointed for a 3 year period with the possibility of extension of up to three years as agreed with HSC R&D Division and the Northern Ireland Clinical Research Network (NICRN) Director. Extensions beyond a second three year term may be considered in exceptional circumstances.

The post holder will be expected to carry out local and national role responsibilities. To facilitate this, the role will be a funded position and allocated up to 2.0 Programmed Activities (PA's) from HSC R&D Division core funding.

### Responsibilities:

The Clinical Director(s) should gain an understanding of the research being undertaken in the cancer speciality across the NI research environment. This may involve developing communication links with as many relevant investigators/stakeholders based within the cancer clinical speciality as possible. Clinical Director(s) should make themselves available for meetings of local investigators to promote a collaborative approach to research across the NI stakeholder organisations.

The Clinical Director(s) should contribute to decisions on resource allocation across the cancer research clinical speciality and ensure that funding is being used strategically and for the purposes intended. They should work closely with the Operational Director (cancer network), their local investigators and other relevant members of their management groups to agree the adoption of relevant cancer clinical research studies and realistic targets for recruitment to these studies and ensure that the infrastructure is in place to support this.

The Clinical Director(s) should work with Chief Investigators (CIs) and Principal Investigators (PIs) of studies based in the cancer clinical specialty, emphasising the importance of keeping their study information on the portfolio database accurate and up to date and regularly reporting recruitment data; signposting them to sources of support available from the Network Co-ordinating Centres (CCs).

The Clinical Director(s), working with the Operational Director, the Network CCs and their local CIs and PIs, should identify studies which are failing to meet their recruitment targets, identify the reasons for this and help to resolve local blockages and barriers to recruitment. Issues of a generic nature should be brought to the meetings of the National Speciality Group (NSG) for discussion and resolution.

The Clinical Director(s) should promote growth in the local portfolio by identifying local opportunities, e.g. unmet capacity and capability, and matching these with opportunities for joining multicentre studies. In addition, locally led studies which are open to new recruitment sites should be identified and brought to the attention of the NSG.

The Clinical Director(s), working with the Operational Director and Network CCs, should provide contacts with relevant PIs within the region and develop and maintain an understanding of the local infrastructure for supporting commercial studies. They should contribute to raising awareness of the importance of working with industry, meeting with relevant local/national/international stakeholders to promote the industry agenda and NI capabilities.

Clinical Director(s) may also wish to take the lead in developing and bringing together groups of local researchers to discuss, and develop, grant proposals to develop their local research portfolio.

The Clinical Director(s) are expected to be members of the NSGs and attend national meetings where they can share local issues to promote an awareness of blockages/barriers to research in the cancer speciality with a view to finding resolutions. They should also share example of local arrangements which are working well in order to promote best practice nationally and across NI.

Clinical Director(s) should contribute to national initiatives being taken forward by the NSG, e.g. the development of communications material, or good practice guides. Where the portfolio of the NSG is significant, members might also be expected to take a leadership role for the part of the portfolio of the national group, or for some specific studies. They should also lead on the local implementation of actions to support national initiatives, e.g. mapping exercises of local expertise and capacity.

The Clinical Director(s) should contribute to raising awareness and an understanding of Northern Ireland's clinical research network and its support systems with the researchers within the cancer speciality. They will be required to contribute to the production of an annual report and will have an opportunity to feed into the business planning process for the forthcoming year.

**To apply:**

Interested parties should submit an Expression of Interest (EoI) in the form of a 1 page CV and 500 word summary outlining their suitability and vision for the role.

For further information or to submit an EoI please contact [clive.wolsley@hscni.net](mailto:clive.wolsley@hscni.net) at HSC R&D Division.

Closing date: 1 May 2019