



**National Institute for
Health Research**

BEST RESEARCH FOR BEST HEALTH

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 5.2

**CLINICAL RESEARCH FACILITIES
FOR EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE**

*Best Research for Best Health*¹ set out a 5-year Research and Development Strategy for the NHS in England. This Implementation Plan provides more details on one of the key components of that strategy: **Clinical Research Facilities for Experimental Medicine**. This document will be regularly updated. The latest version should be used.

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Aim

- The strategic aim of the initiative is to facilitate the translation of scientific advances into benefits for patients.
- The aim of the Clinical Research Facilities for Experimental Medicine is to achieve that ambition.

Purpose

- To provide purpose-built, cutting-edge clinical research facilities and specialist clinical, research and support staff in locations where universities and NHS Trusts can work together on dedicated programmes of patient-orientated research.
- To nurture clinical researchers and health professionals for the future.
- To ensure that advances in biomedical research result in improvements in healthcare.

Details

The Department of Health has been working closely, and will continue to work closely, in partnership with other major research funders under the umbrella of the UK Clinical Research Collaboration (UKCRC) to support and develop Clinical

¹ *Best Research for Best Health: A New National Health Research Strategy*. The NHS contribution to health research in England. Department of Health. 2006.

Research Facilities for Experimental Medicine across England. Further details are available from the UKCRC website at www.ukcrc.org/

The Department of Health supports Clinical Research Facilities for Experimental Medicine in two main ways:

- A joint initiative with the Wellcome Trust, Wolfson Foundation, British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK, MRC, Research and Development Office for the Northern Ireland Health and Personal Social Services, Scottish Executive Health Department and Wales Office of Research & Development to develop and strengthen the research and NHS infrastructure to underpin experimental medicine. In a competitive process managed by the Wellcome Trust, new funding has been awarded to develop and strengthen Clinical Research Facilities in nine centres in England. The Department of Health will contribute £5 million each year to support additional NHS infrastructure associated with the increased research activity funded through this initiative, and will also contribute towards the costs of developing experimental medicine facilities. This builds on the current joint investment by the Wellcome Trust and Department of Health in the Millennium Clinical Research Facilities in England.
- A joint initiative between Cancer Research UK and the Health Departments, under the umbrella of the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI), to develop and expand a network of Experimental Cancer Medicine Centres. The support will cover infrastructure costs for the early testing of novel cancer treatments or interventions in human participants. Cancer Research UK issued a call for proposals in 2005 on behalf of all partners and thirteen centres in England have now been assigned Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre status. A further two centres in England have been designated Experimental Cancer medicine Centres in Development. The Department of Health will contribute £3 million each year to support this initiative. Further information is available from the Cancer Research UK Website at www.cancerresearch.org.uk

In addition, the Department of Health is one of the strategic partners helping to provide strategic oversight to the Medical Research Council's investment in experimental medicine through UKCRC and through membership of the MRC Clinical Research Oversight Group. In 2005, the MRC issued a call for experimental medicine research programmes focused on the early testing of novel treatments or interventions in human participants, and twenty-eight grants have now been awarded to successful applicants.

The support provided by the Department of Health through these routes will be substantial. The need for future DH/NHS support for this area will be kept under review.

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