

## Norfolk and Suffolk CLRN Local Specialty Groups

### 1. Background

The National Institute for Health Research Comprehensive Clinical Research Network (NIHR CCRN) comprises 25 comprehensive Local Research Networks (CLRNs) in England, each including primary care, secondary care, tertiary care and mental health service providers. Norfolk and Suffolk CLRN (N&S CLRN) was established in 2007 and aims to:

- Build on existing research strengths
- Further develop successful research partnerships
- Invest in emerging research areas to support sustainable growth across all sectors
- Streamline research, communication and bureaucracy throughout Norfolk and Suffolk

The CLRN has 10 constituent NHS organisations: East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust, NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney, Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust, James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Norfolk and Waveney Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust, NHS Norfolk, Suffolk Mental Health Partnership Trust, Norfolk Community Health and Care NHS Trust, and NHS Suffolk.

A key role for N&S CLRN is to establish and maintain an excellent NHS infrastructure for clinical research and research management. This infrastructure includes clinical research support staff and sessional support for clinical investigators of all professions, funding for other NHS support costs such as additional clinical services and diagnostic tests, and research management and governance systems and staff.

The CLRN supports only studies that are on the NIHR Portfolio. The Portfolio is the NIHR's national register of all eligible studies. To be eligible studies must be funded in open national competition and with independent peer review. Only studies that are on the Portfolio are eligible for CLRN infrastructure support.

### 2. Norfolk and Suffolk CLRN's Local Specialty Groups

Amongst many other things, Norfolk and Suffolk CLRN is supporting the development of 13 Local Specialty Groups, bringing together researchers within the CLRN interested in specific topic areas. In Norfolk and Suffolk, the Specialty Groups are:

<b>Age and Ageing</b> Lead: Dr Helen May <a href="mailto:helen.may@nnuh.nhs.uk">helen.may@nnuh.nhs.uk</a>	<b>Metabolic and Endocrine</b> Lead: Dr Ailsa Welch, Dr Frankie Swords <a href="mailto:a.welch@uea.ac.uk">a.welch@uea.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:francesca.swords@nnuh.nhs.uk">francesca.swords@nnuh.nhs.uk</a>
<b>Anaesthetics and Pain Management</b>  Vacant	<b>Musculoskeletal</b> Lead: Dr Richard Watts <a href="mailto:Richard.Watts@ipswichhospital.nhs.uk">Richard.Watts@ipswichhospital.nhs.uk</a>
<b>Critical Care</b> Lead: Dr Simon Fletcher <a href="mailto:simon.fletcher@nnuh.nhs.uk">simon.fletcher@nnuh.nhs.uk</a>	<b>Ophthalmology</b> Lead: Mr Clive Edelsten <a href="mailto:clive.edelsten@ipswichhospital.nhs.uk">clive.edelsten@ipswichhospital.nhs.uk</a>
<b>Dermatology</b> Lead: Dr Nick Levell <a href="mailto:nick.levell@nnuh.nhs.uk">nick.levell@nnuh.nhs.uk</a>	<b>Paediatrics</b> Lead: Dr Richard Reading <a href="mailto:richard.reading@nnuh.nhs.uk">richard.reading@nnuh.nhs.uk</a>
<b>Gastroenterology</b> Leads: Dr Ian Beales, Dr James Dalrymple <a href="mailto:ian.beales@nnuh.nhs.uk">ian.beales@nnuh.nhs.uk</a> <a href="mailto:james.dalrymple3@btinternet.com">james.dalrymple3@btinternet.com</a>	<b>Reproductive Health and Childbirth</b> Leads: Mr Martin Cameron, Mr Edward Morris <a href="mailto:martin.cameron@nnuh.nhs.uk">martin.cameron@nnuh.nhs.uk</a> <a href="mailto:edward.morris@nnuh.nhs.uk">edward.morris@nnuh.nhs.uk</a>
<b>Infectious Diseases</b>  Vacant	<b>Respiratory</b> Lead: Dr Andrew Wilson <a href="mailto:a.m.wilson@uea.ac.uk">a.m.wilson@uea.ac.uk</a>
<b>Injuries and Emergencies</b> Lead: Professor Simon Donell <a href="mailto:simon.donell@nnuh.nhs.uk">simon.donell@nnuh.nhs.uk</a>	

Each Local Specialty Group has a clinical lead that will be a member of the National Specialty Group for that topic.

Other priority areas reflect other research networks active within the Norfolk & Suffolk CLRN, namely:

- Cancer
- Dementia & Neurodegenerative Diseases
- Diabetes
- Medicines for Children
- Mental Health
- Stroke

The Primary Care Research Network (PCRN) comprises eight clinical-led Local Research Networks, providing comprehensive geographical coverage of England.

### **3. Role of the Specialty Groups**

Broadly, the role of the Local Specialty Groups is to provide expert input to the development of R&D locally on a given topic area. More specifically, the Groups aim to:

- Provide a local focus for activity in that particular topic and bring together all researchers interested in that topic from across the CLRN;
- Advise the CLRN on the topic aspects of the local portfolio, including infrastructure requirements and oversight of the management and delivery of portfolio studies in that topic area
- Support the CLRN to provide detailed "Level 2" feasibility required for commercial studies. This will include identifying potential sites/ investigators that could conduct the study, assessing the available research resources including skills, facilities and equipment and providing anticipated patient numbers;
- Provide a strategic overview of the local infrastructure required to support the topic with an emphasis on identifying blocks and then working with the CLRN team and/or the national Specialty Groups to find suitable solutions;
- Identify studies which are failing locally to meet their recruitment targets, identify reasons for this and help to resolve barriers to recruitment
- Informally the Groups provide a forum for discussing and developing grant proposals that will develop the NIHR research portfolio; and
- Contact and involve local TCRN LRNs or PCRN clinical leads as appropriate.

For further information, please contact:

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