

National Cancer Research Institute

Terms of Reference

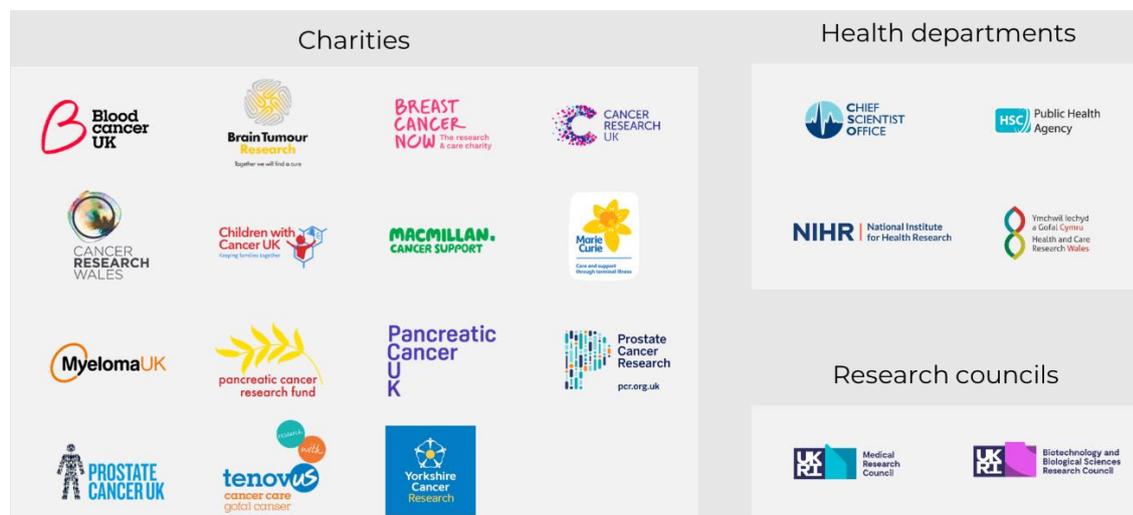
NCRI Breast Working Group - ECR Lead (x4)

Background

The National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) is a UK-wide partnership of research funders working together to maximise the value and impact of cancer research for the benefit of patients, carers and the public.

The NCRI Groups are pivotal in these efforts and are considered the core activity of the NCRI. As a well-established part of the UK's cancer research infrastructure, they provide a platform for researchers to collaborate, identifying and addressing areas of unmet need in cancer prevention, detection, treatment and support.

The NCRI currently manages [19 multidisciplinary Groups](#) with wide representation from the cancer research field including clinicians, scientists, patient and carer representatives, and allied health professionals.



The [NCRI Breast Group](#) is a multi-disciplinary community of researchers and consumers (patients, carers and others affected by cancer) focused on clinical and translational issues relating to breast cancer research. The Breast Group works closely with clinical research networks, funders and national and international researchers to develop research to improve outcomes for breast cancer patients and identify areas of unmet need. The Breast Group is currently Chaired by Stuart McIntosh, supported by Deputy Chair Dr Sheeba Irshad.

NCRI Working Group Remit

The two main aims of the NCRI Groups and their Working Groups/Study Groups are:

- To be thought leaders that set and drive the research agenda, particularly in strategic, cross-cutting areas of unmet need
- To hold an overview of the cancer research portfolio to aid identification of gaps and opportunities and to advise our Partners on strategic decisions for funding and areas of focus

Every three years, NCRI Groups undergo a comprehensive process to identify and set their strategic priorities. Working Groups are currently being established to plan and implement one of the following NCRI Breast Group strategic priority areas (starting with priorities 1-4):

- **Working Group 1**

Leveraging our increasing understanding of breast cancer genomics to inform patient treatment.

An increased understanding of breast cancer genomics provides multiple opportunities in both patient research and treatment. In this working group, we would seek to address several key questions, including:

- How can we best use genomic information provided as part of routine care to inform the design of future clinical trials? This priority would specifically seek to develop and design a precision medicine trial in breast cancer underpinned by genomic medicine.
- How can we best implement this information into clinical practice? Through this priority, we aim to provide guidance on the development and delivery of molecular tumour boards in breast cancer to ensure the effective implementation of this information into routine care.

- **Working Group 2**

Understanding and evaluate the current patterns of care in the UK regarding the management of oligometastatic breast cancer, including patients with brain metastases, and to develop a study for oligometastatic breast cancer.

By addressing this priority, we aim to examine and understand the current variations in the treatment of oligometastatic breast cancer, including what and how ablative techniques are used across the UK. In addition, a pragmatic UK wide study for oligometastatic disease with in-built translational research will be developed.

- **Working Group 3**

Identifying research gaps and potential projects around adherence to endocrine therapy, including factors such as urogenital symptoms, sexual health and sleep disturbance.

Urogenital symptoms and sexual health remain a significant issue for women treated for breast cancer and contribute to adherence issues with endocrine therapy. We aim to identify specific research gaps around these issues and potential new interventions which could be the basis for subsequent studies.

- **Working Group 4**

Coordinating and developing a national clinical trial examining the effect of lifestyle and exercise on patients with breast cancer.

There are several UK groups interested in the impact of lifestyle choices (such as diet and exercise) on prevention and symptom management in both early and late-stage breast cancer. The group will seek to coordinate the current research ongoing in this area, to develop and deliver a national study to determine the benefits of such lifestyle changes on breast cancer outcomes.

Working Groups are time limited groups that sit under the NCRI Breast Group. Each Working Group will be required to produce an implementation plan which will be regularly updated and outlines the aims, outputs and activities of the Working Group.

For further information regarding each of the NCRI Breast Group's strategic priorities (1-6) [click here](#).

Role profile

Role title	ECR Lead (x4 positions, 1 per Working Group)
Reports to	Chair of the Working Group
Commitment required	Approx. 6 working days per year on average
Location	Own institution/hospital (if opportunity arises, there may be a need to travel to London)
Salary	Voluntary role
Application deadline	Friday 22nd July 2022 (noon)

Working Groups will meet roughly every 8 weeks to work towards the delivery of their set objective(s). Meeting dates will be set a year in advance in order to give members the best chance of being able to actively participate. At the end of each Working Group lifecycle, the main group will revisit their list of agreed strategic priorities and a new Working Group will be formed to address the next objective.

Responsibilities of ECR Lead

The ECR Lead will play a key role in supporting the Working Group Chair/Deputy Chair

from the outset to develop and maintain the implementation plan, which will outline the aims, outputs and activities of the Working Group.

In addition, ECR Leads will be expected to:

- Support the NCRI Group Coordinator by checking the scientific validity of meeting summary notes and action points
- Act as a key contact/spokesperson for all ECRs involved with the Working Group i.e., responsible for raising updates/queries on their behalf, as required

As well as attending the meetings of your assigned Working Group, ECR Leads will also have the opportunity to attend Breast Group meetings (Chaired by Mr Stuart McIntosh) on a rotational basis.

ECR members

Additional ECR members will also be recruited (alongside the ECR Lead) to contribute towards the delivery of the Working Groups set objective(s).

The number of ECRs recruited to a Working Group will be dependent upon the requirements of the Working Groups set objective(s), and the capacity of the group to support the ECR(s) with a specific role and a Scientific Mentor for the duration of their tenure.

All opportunities to apply for ECR membership of Working Groups will be circulated with the ECR Forum.

Membership term

Working Groups are time limited, therefore the ECR Lead tenure will be for the duration required to fulfil the strategic priority, as defined by the implementation plan.

Remuneration

This is a voluntary position and is therefore not remunerated. However, should Working Group members be required to attend face to face meetings (where deemed essential), all reasonable out of pocket expenses i.e., travel (as advised by the NCRI Executive) will be reimbursed in line with the NCRI Expenses Policy.

Equal opportunities

NCRI is committed to creating and encouraging a culture that promotes respect for each other and values individual differences. In addition, it is important that we can create a safe environment for all NCRI Group/Working Group members in which they can engage with one another, share views and form meaningful collaborations. In order to achieve this, we provide equal opportunities to members of any colour, nationality, ethnic origin, marital status, religion or belief, gender, disability, sexual orientation, age or employment status.

We will not condone, tolerate or ignore any form of discrimination or unacceptable behaviour in our recruitment practices or in the conduct of the NCRI Groups/Working Groups and its members.

If you have any queries or concerns of this nature, please contact the NCRI Breast Group Coordinator [Ruth Haley](#). A copy of NCRI's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Policy is available via the following [link](#).

Meeting conduct

All members have an accountability to the NCRI Group/Working Group recognising the importance of attending meetings, and those relating to any other NCRI Group of which they are a member. Where attendance at a meeting is not possible, apologies should be sent in advance to the meeting organiser/coordinator.

NCRI Groups/Working Groups (and anyone involved in/associated with NCRI Group/Working Group activities) are expected to be respectful of different viewpoints and experiences, and to behave professionally at all times. To ensure a safe environment for all, members must not share meeting invites or joining details with non-members.

How to apply

If you are interested in the role of ECR Lead (NCRI Breast Working Group) please complete the online application form by **Friday 22nd July 2022 (noon)**. In addition to pre-screening questions, a copy of your CV will be required in support of your application.

If you have any queries regarding the role, please contact Hannah Taylor (Forum Coordinator) via hannah.taylor@ncri.org.uk. For further information on NCRI Groups including meeting frequency and membership composition, please see the [NCRI Groups handbook](#).

Please complete your online application via [this link](#).

Save the date

We would like to ask all applicants for the ECR Lead role to hold the following date in their diary, where possible please.

- **Introductory meeting - (Working Groups 1-4)**

Attendees: Chair/Deputy Chair of the NCRI Breast Group, Working Group Chairs/Deputy Chairs, Consumer members, NCRI Partner representatives and ECR Leads.

Date/time: Tuesday 23rd August 2022 (13:00 – 14:00pm)

Format: Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams