

National Cancer Research Institute

Terms of Reference

NCRI CTRad Working Groups - 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.

NCRI CTRad Group

The [NCRI Clinical and Translational Radiotherapy Research Working Group \(CTRad\)](#) was launched in 2009 and plays a pivotal role in leading radiotherapy research across the UK. NCRI CTRad includes thought leaders and plays a key strategic role in leading UK radiotherapy research. It is innovative and strategic, undertaking projects to improve the treatment and quality of life of patients requiring radiotherapy as part of their cancer treatment. The group maintains oversight of radiotherapy research activities in the UK and internationally, and plays a coordinating function between various stakeholders, including researchers, the government, charity, industry and patients and carers. NCRI CTRad is currently chaired by Prof Robert Huddart.

You can see NCRI CTRad's strategic priorities [here](#).

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

Working Groups are time limited groups that sit under NCRI CTRad. 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.

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 the following NCRI CTRad strategic area tasks:

Working Group 1

Develop and publish a translational research roadmap

This group will publish and promote a roadmap to illustrate how to take discoveries from pre-clinical to clinical evaluation and translate clinical trial results into practice.

Working Group 2

Produce and publish a roadmap/position paper on the barriers and challenges in molecular radiotherapy research with proposed solutions and opportunities

This group will publish a roadmap/position paper on the current developments in molecular radiotherapy in the UK, outlining the barriers and challenges to research capabilities, with proposed solutions and commercial and clinical opportunities.

Working Group 3

Produce publication(s) showing the impact of NCRI CTRad supported trials on UK radiotherapy practice

This group will produce articles or undertake case studies to demonstrate NCRI CTRad's impact on patient care, e.g. by determining the proportion of radiotherapy patients who receive a treatment designed by an NCRI CTRad-supported trial through our proposal guidance meetings and mentoring process (for example, breast and prostate cancer hypofractionation trials, lung or head and neck studies); explore and determine the capacity released for the NHS by our trials, sparing vital 'man hours' that enabled cancer treatments to continue during Covid-19; and measuring the broader benefits to patients and society of our clinical trials, for example by reducing long term toxicities and demonstrating the cost-effectiveness of the intervention.

Working Group 4

Convene a workshop to explore the potential for patient-guided radiotherapy, and write a position paper on the best practice for patient-guided radiotherapy and patient-reported outcome measures in radiotherapy trials

This group will start with assessing the current status of patient-reported outcome measures in radiotherapy trials and scoping the potential of patient-guided

radiotherapy - including methodologies for the use of patient-reported outcome measures and incorporating real-time data such as from wearables devices, aiming to publish a position paper on the best practice for patient-guided radiotherapy and patient-reported outcome measures in radiotherapy trials with implementation in routine care. When patient-reported outcomes are included in radiotherapy trials, outcomes and risk-benefit analyses would be more patient-centred and facilitate more personalised radiotherapy relevant to an individual patient's characteristics and preferences.

For further information regarding each of NCRI CTRad's strategic priorities please visit [this webpage](#).

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	12pm Monday 22 August 2022

Each Working Group will meet roughly every eight weeks to work towards the delivery of their set objective(s). Meeting dates will be set a year or as far in advance as possible 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, that is, be responsible for raising updates/queries on their behalf, as required

As well as attending the meetings of their assigned Working Group, ECR Leads will also have the opportunity to attend NCRI CTRad group meetings 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 to the ECR Forum.

Membership term

Working Groups are time limited project groups, 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 such as travel (as advised by the NCRI Executive) will be reimbursed in line with the NCRI Expenses Policy. These will need to be discussed and agreed with the NCRI Executive in advance.

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 NCRI's Senior Programme Manager [Dr Carolyn Chan](#). 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 Groups of which they are a member. Where attendance at a meeting is not possible, apologies should be sent in advance to the meeting organiser / NCRI Groups Coordinator / NCRI Groups Manager.

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 CTRad Working Group) please complete the online application form by **12pm Monday 22 August 2022**. 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 (NCRI 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](#).