



CAMBRIDGE CANCER TRIALS CENTRE

VISION & STRATEGY  
FOR 2019 - 2022

# FOREWORD

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## Cambridge Cancer Trials Centre by numbers

CCTU-Cancer  
Theme run  
**40+** trials

**50%** of  
which involve  
investigational  
drugs

**> 1800**  
participants  
recruited to CCTC  
run studies at CUH  
per year

**~ 150** open and  
recruiting studies,  
including  
observational &  
interventional

**~ 20**  
of which  
are  
co-sponsored by  
CUH & UCAM

## Our partners



# The CCTC

The CCTC aims to improve the outcome for people at risk of developing cancer and those diagnosed with cancer by supporting researchers from the CRUK Cambridge Centre in the design and delivery of high quality clinical studies

The CCTC hosts the **Cambridge Clinical Trials Unit (CCTU) - Cancer Theme**, which is the largest theme in the CCTU.



Over 1800 people from across the East of England and beyond, **participate** in clinical studies run by the CCTC every year, including a proportion of studies which were designed in Cambridge and are coordinated by the CCTU - Cancer Theme.



The CCTC is linked with the CRUK Cambridge Centre and the Cambridge Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre.

The Cambridge Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre designs and conducts experimental medicine studies, focusing on novel therapeutic approaches, biomarker, imaging and device studies.

<https://www.ecmcnetwork.org.uk/cambridge>

<https://crukcambridgecentre.org.uk>

# OUR VISION

1

## *Maximising access to clinical and translational research studies ...*

.... ensuring we can offer all patients at risk of, or with a diagnosis of cancer in the East of England and beyond, the opportunity to be involved in research studies and access emerging, new therapeutic interventions and treatment strategies.

2

## *To be a leader ...*

.... ensuring that the CCTC is identified as a national and international centre of excellence for clinical and translational cancer research.

3

## *To translate Cambridge science from bench to bedside ...*

.... by designing and developing impactful experimental medicine, cutting-edge translational, and novel early phase research studies, in addition to multi-site randomised controlled trials for Cambridge Chief Investigators.

4

## *Maximising the benefits of Patient and Public Involvement ...*

.... by ensuring that there is input from, and engagement with patients and members of the public in all CCTC activities.

5

## *Training the next generation ...*

.... by providing integrated learning for both clinical and non-clinical staff to gain experience in the conduct of all aspects of clinical and applied cancer research.

# STRATEGY

## **Vision 1, *Maximising access to clinical and translational studies ...***

... ensuring we can offer all patients at risk of, or with a diagnosis of cancer in the East of England and beyond the opportunity to be involved in research studies and access emerging, new therapeutic interventions and treatments.

### **More trials open**

Increase the number of trials across a balanced portfolio of studies, working collaboratively with industry and academia, and with the CRN to achieve this. The current challenge is the increase towards more complex, personalised and time-intensive trials in addition to innovative trials which tend to target specific mutations leading to reduced patient pools. This results in recruiting less patients. Together with the CRN, identify if this is a national trend and, if not, identify large recruiting studies for us to participate in.

### **More staff**

Continue to expand the number of staff within the CCTC, by increasing grant funding and industry collaborations, in addition to maintaining CRN funding.

### **Quicker set-up**

Together with CUH R&D, pilot changes to improve the current processes by conducting a divisional-wide review of costings and set-up timelines, and initiate innovative improvements, which may then be implemented across the Trust. This should improve set-up processes and timelines for oncology trials.

### **More Principal Investigators**

Promote engagement with non-research active clinicians in order to provide support to take on research roles. Raise the profile of research opportunities through a proactive and visible senior network of researchers, led by the Senior Research Leads (SRLs) for the tumour site specific teams.



# STRATEGY

## **Vision 2, *To be a leader ...***

... ensuring that the CCTC is identified as an international centre of excellence for clinical and translational cancer research.

### **Communications**

Create and maintain a web-based presence that will enable national and international audiences to understand the work of the CCTC, what we do and what we can offer.

### **Cancer Core Europe (CCE)**

Develop Cambridge-led studies, collaborative protocols and operating procedures, by fostering close relationships with CCE. Ensure representation and engagement from Cambridge for each of CCE taskforces.

### **ECMC**

Lead collaborations with other ECMC centres by actively engaging and providing input to projects from the ECMC national programme office. Encourage Cambridge investigators to express interest in opportunities promoted via the ECMC Combinations Alliance.

### **Partnerships**

Continue to develop the CCTC as a principle partner with multiple commercial companies. In line with CRUK Cambridge Centre strategy, identify key mutual areas for co-investment and collaborative research.

### **Quality Assurance**

Increase the capacity of the quality assurance team, to maintain a robust quality system across the CCTC to assure the quality of procedures, processes and data to the highest regulatory standards within the CCTC and associated facilities/labs.

### **Troubleshoot**

Identify areas that require improvement as they arise, e.g. CUH R&D set-up timelines, retention of staff, e-Hospital, data integrity, GCP compliance of facilities etc.

# STRATEGY

## Vision 3, *To translate Cambridge science from bench to bedside ...*

... by designing and developing impactful experimental medicine, cutting-edge translational and novel early phase research studies, in addition to multi-site randomised controlled trials for Cambridge Chief Investigators.

### Translating Cambridge science

Together with experts across all types of cancers, facilitate the set-up and delivery of Cambridge University Hospitals/University of Cambridge sponsored trials. Design and implement prospective, adaptive design studies that incorporate biomarker research into advanced precision cancer medicine.

### Increasing capacity

Expand the team by increasing grant income, and continue to develop innovative tools and processes to ensure quality and efficiency throughout the trials process.

### Expert trials unit

To build an effective CCTU - Cancer Theme, which:

- is **engaged** from the earliest stage and involved with the trial design in order to bring additional value to the original concepts
- is **inventive** in developing successful collaborative models
- is **reactive** and able to deliver in an optimal time frame
- delivers** impactful data, leading to publications in high impact journals
- maintain** NIHR and NCRI accreditation

### Partnerships

To reinforce our integration and involvement in national and international networks (NCRI CTU Group, ECMC Network, Cancer Core Europe) and develop further links to industry.

### Raising profile

Increase collaborations by improving communications via presentations, leaflets, and the website.

# STRATEGY

## Vision 4, *Maximising Patient and Public Involvement ...*

... by ensuring that there is input from, and engagement with, patients and members of the public into the CCTC.

### Annual ECMC Open Events

Following the successful event held in September 2018, we will hold an annual event to disseminate information relating to the work being done within CECMC, and to promote the role of PPI locally.



*Pictures from event held in September 2018, talks and lunchtime stands.*

### PPI group

- Expand and maintain a specialist PPI group to inform and develop the portfolio of our early phase and translational research.
- Optimise recruitment opportunities by advertising within the local cancer community, attending relevant events and increasing the profile of the group on social media.
- Organise training and other sessions of interest.
- Promote the group's availability across the scientific community, via face to face meetings, newsletters, and social media.
- Link with the external PPI networks (for example, the East of England network and CRUK), increasing the group's profile and access to wider networks.

### Feedback & review

Ensure PPI members are kept up to date on projects they have been involved in. Create and implement a procedure whereby all groups that receive input from the PPI group, feedback for key milestones, either via



# STRATEGY

## Vision 5, *Training the next generation ...*

... by providing integrated learning for both clinical and non-clinical staff to gain experience in the conduct of all aspects of clinical and applied cancer research.

### Education & training

Education and training are key aspects of the CCTC, with investment in staff a key priority for both job satisfaction and retention. We offer access to external training opportunities and an internal educational programme, open to all CCTC staff, has been developed and will be expanded over the next three years.

All our teams (Coordination, Participation, Statistics, Sample Handling, Clinical Trials Admin, Trials Pharmacy, QA) participate in the training programme. We also employ International Clinical Fellows for training in clinical trials.

An example of the potential for flexible career paths for science graduates in data management, trial coordination and trial delivery is shown below.



Vacancies are advertised on NHS jobs and UCAM jobs, depending on the specific role.

# ORGANISATION OF THE CCTC

