

UKCRC CTU Network Director

0.2 wte for initial 6 months tapering to 0.1wte, term of office – 3 years (with option to extend for further 2 years)

The UKCRC Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) Network brings together 51 Clinical Trials Units from across the UK that have been assessed for quality, excellence and integrity by an independent international panel of experts in clinical trials research. The Network was established in 2007 and its members are committed to sharing good practice and improving standards in clinical trials.

As the collective voice of clinical trials units the Network plays an important role in engaging with Government, funders, other agencies and patients to improve and strengthen clinical research in the UK. The Network is seen internationally as an exemplar for the development of national clinical trials support.

The Director appointment is made on a paid secondment basis at the successful candidate's current grade, with the University of Leeds (where the Network's small secretariat is based). Applicants should currently hold a senior role within a UK Clinical Trials Unit with personal experience of designing developing and delivering clinical trials and overseeing the strategic direction of the Unit. Experience at Director level is desirable but not essential. The role will be based at the person's employing organisation although the Network Secretariat will remain in Leeds. The successful candidate will be expected to take up the role ideally from the Summer of 2023. There will be travel associated with the role.

The UKCRC CTU Network is looking for a new Director to succeed Professor Julia Brown whose leadership has been pivotal to the development of the network over the last 15 years. This is an exciting opportunity to contribute discussions at a national level and lead the Network as UK clinical research looks to seize the opportunities of a changing landscape following the pandemic. The Director will be expected to engage with stakeholders at the most senior levels and work with the Network's Executive Group and members to develop and deliver a strategy which will put it at the forefront of current and future changes in clinical trials in the UK and internationally. The person will report to the Network Executive Group and its independent Chair.

Responsibilities

1. To be an ambassador for and represent the UKCRC CTU Network
2. To lead development of and ongoing relationships with key stakeholders for the Network in collaboration with the Policy Group eg DHSC and devolved nations, NIHR and other major clinical trials research funders, ABPI, MHRA, HRA, and relevant national and international clinical trials infrastructure (e.g. TMRP, UKTMN, CTTI)
3. To oversee strategic direction and evolution of the Network in collaboration with the UKCRC Network Executive Group. To include
 - a. Refresh of the UKCRC CTU Network Strategy
 - b. Reviewing the Network's current approach to governance
4. Finalising agenda and papers with the Network Manager and attendance at quarterly Exec Meetings.
 - a. Monthly updates with the Network Manager and ad hoc meetings as required

- b. Finalising agenda for Biannual Directors meetings with the Network Manager and attendance at Biannual Directors meeting
5. To provide oversight of the UKCRC Registered CTU Network activities in delivery of the strategy.
6. To set (annually) and monitor delivery of objectives (monthly), for the UKCRC Registered CTU Secretariat, based in Leeds, in line with the agreed work programme, in collaboration, with responsible University of Leeds professional line manager of the UKCRC CTU Network Programme Manager.
7. To ensure and provide oversight of relationships with Network funding underwriters.
8. To collaborate with the Clinical Co-Director of the Network.
9. To oversee the refresh of the International Registration Review Committee and Registration Criteria in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and current International Committee.
10. To ensure oversight of the Network budget and ensure regular reporting to the UKCRC CTU Executive Board and CTU Directors.

The post-holder is responsible to the UKCRC CTU Network Executive Group. The Director will have a key relationship with the UKCRC Programme and Delivery Manager, the clinical director of the Network and the Chair of the UKCRC CTU Network Executive Board.

Key attributes

- Integrity, diplomacy, strategic vision and sound judgement.
- Committed to the values and purpose of the Network.
- Excellent communication and leadership skills.
- Ability to engage with key UK organisations and leaders in clinical research.
- Proven commitment to equity, diversity and inclusivity.
- An in depth understanding of the strategic opportunities and challenges in UK clinical trials research.
- A collaborative working style that reflects the Network's values.
- Able to harnesses the skills and knowledge of interdisciplinary colleagues and staff at all levels within CTUs

UKCRC Director Appointment Process

Interested candidates are asked to submit an up-to-date short CV plus covering letter (500 words) outlining their vision for the Network, how they would evolve its activities and how they believe they fulfil the role description by Monday 19th June. A sub-group of the CTU Network Executive Group will shortlist candidates with interviews taking place virtually; if you have any dates you are unavailable for interview in July/August, please include this in your cover letter.

Expressions of interest and applications should be sent to Simon Denegri as Chair of the Executive Group at: Simon.Denegri@acmedsci.ac.uk