

## **NIHR Oxford BRC Deputy Director Expression of Interest**

### **About the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre**

The NIHR Biomedical Research Centres (BRCs) are collaborations between world-leading universities and NHS organisations that bring together academics and clinicians to translate lab-based scientific breakthroughs into potential new treatments, diagnostics and medical technologies.

The Oxford BRC was one of the first BRCs funded in 2007 and has received an award in each competition held since then. Funding for the current BRC began 1 December 2022 and will end 31 March 2028. The total funding is £94.9m. Oxford University Hospitals Foundation Trust (OUH) are the host institution for the funding and work in partnership with the University of Oxford (OU).

The Oxford BRC undertakes translational research, meaning first time studies of medical innovations in patients, to improve healthcare delivery for all. The vision of our BRC is to translate fundamental scientific advances into transformative new therapies and interventions that can improve survival and quality-of-life for patients and benefit the NHS by improving cost-effective health care delivery.

Our three strategic aims are:

1. To continue to deliver and expand our internationally leading translational and experimental medicine research that transforms clinical care and drives innovation. We will drive quality and value-for-money through an outstanding cross-disciplinary research environment, driven by rigorous peer-review, providing benefits to patients and the public, the NHS and care systems and the wider economy.
2. To embed PPIE throughout our BRC, following NIHR-INVOLVE principles. We will work hand-in-hand with patients, carers and the public to ensure the relevance of our work.
3. To develop the best people, equip them with the best infrastructure and empower them to realise their potential and deliver world-class outputs. To do this, we will deepen our supportive and inclusive research culture to allow all our researchers to thrive.

Our research is currently divided into [15 research themes](#). These focus on the most important priorities for patients and the NHS.

The research activity within the themes is underpinned by 6 enabling hubs:

- Academic career development
- Business development

- Data analysis and trial design
- Ethics
- Health economics
- Patient and public involvement, engagement and participation

The Oxford BRC works closely with other NIHR infrastructure in Oxford, including the Oxford CRF, the Oxford Health BRC and CRF, and the Thames Valley Applied Research Collaboration.

### **Role Summary**

We are looking for a Deputy Director to work with the current Director (Prof. Helen McShane) on the application for the next BRC. The expectation is that the Deputy will become the Director of the new BRC during its first year.

This is a vital leadership role tasked with developing the strategic direction and major research priorities for the BRC, taking advantage of strategic opportunities to develop new programmes of translational research, including cross-disciplinary initiatives.

The role also includes developing national collaborations and being part of national networks, including an effective BRC Directors group. This is vital to facilitate working alongside NIHR to ensure the value and importance of the BRC funding remains central to NIHR research strategy.

The Deputy Director will be accountable to the BRC Director, who is accountable to the OUH Chief Medical Officer (Chairperson of BRC Steering Committee). The expected time commitment is 0.2 FTE/2 PAs, which will be remunerated by the BRC.

Briefly the role will involve:

1. Leadership and direction to BRC themes, including oversight of the management/delivery/performance of the objectives/strategies and finances. Will include oversight of annual reporting to NIHR.
2. Local advocate for the BRC. Ensuring the BRC remains front and centre to research strategy locally and bringing the BRC community together to ensure the centre is greater than the sum of its parts. Includes fostering collaboration and driving a positive research culture.
3. Leadership and oversight of the BRC key governance structures (e.g. Steering Committee, Theme Leaders meetings).
4. Oversight of the management/delivery/performance of the PPIE institutional strategy, ACD strategy, EDI strategy, and other enabling activities (health economics, data analysis and trial design, business development).

5. Working across the OUH-OU partnership and in conjunction with other partners including the Oxford Health BRC and CRF, Oxford CRF, Thames Valley ARC, and Oxford Academic Health Partners.
6. Attendance at regional and national meetings (BRC Directors group) as an advocate for the Oxford BRC.
7. Continuous strategic planning to ensure the BRC programme remains innovative and new opportunities/areas are considered in relation to potential funding competitions.
8. Key point of contact and support for the BRC senior management team and theme leads.

### **Knowledge, Skills and Experience**

1. Clinically qualified professional with a track record of undertaking internationally competitive early translational and experimental medicine research that benefits patients, the health system and leads to broader economic impacts (evidenced by e.g. publication output, success at attracting external grant funding, developing IP).
2. Current employee of either OUH or OU.
3. A track record of leadership in a University-NHS research environment, with responsibility for management of large teams and budgets, and for setting and achieving strategic research vision and goals.
4. Organisational leadership experience, including examples at a local, regional and national/international level.
5. A comprehensive understanding of delivering a large and complex research portfolio within an NHS setting and the associated systems.
6. A commitment to, and experience of, improving research culture and equality, diversity and inclusion within research.
7. A commitment to and experience of supporting academic capacity development.
8. A commitment to, and experience of, patient and public involvement and engagement and how this supports innovative research.

### **How to apply**

Please submit a concise CV and a cover letter setting out your interest, how your skills, knowledge and experience align to the criteria in this EOI and why you would make a good candidate for the role. Applications are to be addressed to Prof. Andrew Brent

(Chief Medical Officer, OUH) and submitted by email to [Jennifer.Anderson@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:Jennifer.Anderson@ouh.nhs.uk) by 13:00 on Wednesday 22 April 2026.

The Oxford BRC is committed to building a diverse and vibrant team that reflects a variety of perspectives, and therefore we welcome applications from all individuals including applicants from diverse backgrounds and minority groups.

Informal enquiries to Prof Helen McShane ([helen.mcshane@ndm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:helen.mcshane@ndm.ox.ac.uk)) are strongly encouraged.

We aim to have the Deputy Director in post by summer 2026.