

GM LCRN – Local Clinical Research Specialty Lead

Accountable to:	LCRN Clinical Director
Hours:	0.5 - 1 PAs per week
Tenure:	1 year, with the possibility to extend for an additional 1 years
Salary:	Pro-rata salary at a senior grade within the pay scale for the post holder's professional group
Liases with:	Chief Operating Office GM LCRN Relevant LCRN Research Delivery Manager Relevant LCRN Clinical Research Specialty Leads LCRN Clinical Research Leadership Group LCRN Industry Operations Manager Core staff of the GM LCRN Core Team Clinical Research Leads in other LCRNs National CRN Clinical Theme/National Specialty Leads R&D Directors/clinical community working within the specialty LCRN partner organisations Researchers based in Universities and other organisations Other stakeholders involved in the specialty in the LCRN NIHR CRN coordinating Centre AHSN senior staff LETB senior staff CEOs, R&D leads, research leads, nurses/managers etc across partner sites Universities, industry and other stakeholder organisations

Role Summary

The Clinical Research Specialty leads, along with the Divisional Lead and Manager form the Divisional management Team, will work collaboratively to make recommendations through the Clinical Leadership group for the allocation of resources for service support and infrastructure costs for studies in the relevant research themes.

In particular, the post holder will help develop the LCRN Clinical Research Activity within their specialty theme, encouraging local clinicians to participate in NIHR Clinical Research Network Portfolio studies, building upon local clinical strengths, research interests and priorities. The Clinical Specialty Research Lead will also be required to support the Divisional Research Lead in overseeing and managing research governance, feasibility and delivery (achieving time and target) of research within their specialty theme.

Local Leadership and strategy

The Clinical Specialty Research lead will:

- Contribute to national CRN initiatives, in particular developing and sharing best practice
- To engage with NIHR Faculty including Senior Investigators
- Promote NIHR CRN activity and the aims, objectives and successes of the NIHR throughout the network area and represent the CRN at local, regional and national meetings

- Proactively promote local clinical engagement and awareness of research within the specialty, providing advice, support, encouragement and mentorship to clinicians who express an interest in becoming involved in a research project
- Work closely with the Divisional Management Team to provide leadership and accountability for Divisional development, activities and performance
- With the Divisional Management Team, develop a comprehensive and transparent plan for the allocation of resources within the Division, which includes comprehensive cover for the delivery of NIHR portfolio studies at all research active organisations and ensuring there is appropriate balance between the clinical themes within the Division
- With the Divisional Manager, Divisional Research Leads and support of the core team, oversee the recruitment, training, support and appraisal of staff specific to the assigned research theme
- Liaise closely with other specialties and Divisions in sharing good practice and ensuring consistency
- Deputise for the Divisional Research Lead as required
- Be an active member of the Divisional Research Group, regularly attending relevant meetings
- Work with local investigators, NHS organisations and the LCRN management team to agree and report on the objectives and targets for the specialty in order to contribute to LCRN performance over the annual planning cycle
- Be accountable for the performance and spend of that Local Specialty Group
- Link with the NIHR local infrastructure (CLAHRC) and clinical trial units etc) to develop effective partnerships
- Work closely with the GM AHSN, providing the AHSN with expertise, intelligence and support in the delivery of its research mandate
- Support the Divisional Research lead and the Divisional Manager to ensure the LCRN delivers in line with the LCRN Host Organisation Contract

The NIHR Clinical Research Network Coordinating Centre

- Provide specialty clinical leadership for the NIHR Clinical Research Network Coordination Centre, NIHR CRN National Clinical Theme/National Specialty Lead
- Provide local intelligence to the national NIHR CRN Specialty/Clinical Theme Leadership, including: pressures/issues relating to the delivery of the portfolio; examples of good practice and positive impact in their locality; locally-led studies that are open to recruitment at new sites; emerging clinical needs; and unrepresented patient populations
- Collaborate and work closely with specialty leads from other LCRNs
- Be an active member of the National Specialty Group, attending national meetings and contribute to national initiatives led by the National Specialty Group, where the portfolio of the National Specialty Group is significant, members might also be expected to take a national (and local) leadership role for part of the specialty's national portfolio, or for some specific studies

Portfolio Management

- Support the Divisional research lead in overseeing theme relevant portfolio studies, ensuring that performance meets indices set through the Clinical leadership group
- Be responsible to the Divisional Research Lead for identifying underperforming studies and work with the CI's and LCRN Core staff to make demonstrable improvements in performance
- Work with the Divisional Management Group in delivering the objectives of the LCRN and in providing clinical leadership for the local delivery of NIHR CRN Portfolio studies. This will involve identifying local strengths, capacity and capability to ensure the continued

development of the local portfolio and to maximise patient focused research opportunities for patients within the clinical theme

- Liaise closely with specialty leads in other specialties and divisions in undertaking combined or shared studies, facilitating efficient use of staff and resources across specialty, divisional and Trust boundaries
- Work with the Divisional Lead and Industry Lead of the Core team to identify relevant commercial organisations and agree strategies for engaging industry.
- Provide clinical leadership, advice and accountability for specialty activities and performance, working closely with the Divisional Research Lead and Research Delivery Manager
- Engage with the local clinical research community within the relevant specialty to ensure the feasibility, timely and effective delivery of all the theme related studies on the local NIHR Clinical Research Network Portfolio
- Provide a strategic overview of the local infrastructure required to support the clinical research specialty with an emphasis on identifying and addressing local blocks to successful delivery
- Escalate problems through the Divisional Research Lead, Clinical Director and report to the National Clinical Research Specialty Lead and/or NIHR CRN Theme Leadership as appropriate
- Work with and support NHS organisations within the LCRN area to maximise their involvement in NIHR Clinical Research Network Portfolio studies, with particular reference to industry studies
- Support the development of new ways of working that will increase the integration of health research and patient care, and improve the quality, speed and co-ordination of clinical research
- Help to develop local research capacity for the specialty through actively seeking new opportunities for contributing to national multicentre studies and identifying local opportunities to expand expertise/experience across the LCRN's geography
- Work with the Divisional Research Lead and Divisional Manager to undertake local feasibility assessments and reviews for NIHR adopted studies, including identifying potential sites/investigators that could conduct the study, assessing the available research resources including skills facilities and equipment and provide robust recruitment goals
- Keep up to date with changes to national and local healthcare arrangements in order to advise the LCRN on new potential opportunities and/or challenges to the delivery of the NIHR CRN portfolio of studies
- Work in close collaboration with neighbouring LCRNs to remove artificial barriers to participation in NIHR CRN Portfolio studies

Person Specification

This is a part time post. The post holder is expected to be a clinician (of any profession) with knowledge and experience of clinical research. The Specialty Research Lead will be expected to have the following knowledge and experience:

- Substantial personal experience of conducting later phase clinical trials and other well designed studies as well as a strong track record in clinical trial delivery
- Substantial knowledge of the local health research economy, meaning: knowledge of and/or involvement with researchers, research activities, structure and strategies of local NHS organisations, academic units and a demonstrable understanding of the different issues that affect the different NHS sectors and constituencies
- Recognised credibility in a leadership capacity and a commitment to clinical research in all NHS sectors

- Experience of successful coordination of clinical studies at national level, either individually or in collaboration
- Experience of working in multi professional teams and experience in staff line management, including management of administrative and other non-clinical staff
- Knowledge and experience of NIHR Portfolio studies
- Experience of working with the major funding bodies in the UK, including the Government, Research Councils, Charitable and Industry sectors
- Proven ability to communicate highly complex information both orally and in writing to a range of audiences, including the general public
- High level planning, organisational and networking skills
- Up to date GCP training

Desirable Skills

Experience of holding and administering research grants and knowledge of NHS financial procedures and instructions