

How to future-proof UK health research

For decades, the United Kingdom has been widely recognised as one of the best places for health research, but we must not take this for granted. There is a collective responsibility to sustain the UK health research system.

The actions recommended in our report 'Future-proofing UK Health Research: a people-centred, coordinated approach' are summarised below.



1. Place people at the heart of health research

Organisations responsible:



Make sure research careers are secure and flexible through:

- Enhanced commitments between funders and employers on researcher salaries
- Provision of career development opportunities
- Support for team science careers

Nurture a research culture which rewards good academic citizenship and values the well-being of researchers through:

- Provision of training in inclusive leadership
- Innovating to reduce the burden in grant applications

Increase inclusivity of health careers by improving data collection to inform evidence-based equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) delivery plans

Ensure the UK remains open to talent from across the globe by addressing the high cost of the visa and immigration system

Value patient and public involvement in health research through:

- Provision of consistent and fair remuneration
- Creating opportunities for patients and the public to be involved in research from the start, in all areas and at all levels of decision-making, including at the very outset.





2. Ensure talented people can develop careers which span sectors

Organisations responsible:



Champion the conditions for multi-directional movement between academia, industry, NHS, Government and other sectors through:

- Evidence-based design of tailored schemes to promote cross-sector mobility
- Building a culture which promotes rather than discourages movement between sectors

Key

👗 Public funder 🛛 🧞 Charitable funder 🛛 🚖 Higher education institute 🏾 🏦 Government 🛛 🐼 Regulator 🗰 Industry





3. Cover the true cost of health research

Organisations responsible:



Create a funding model that covers the full cost of health research and reduces reliance on cross-subsidy, informed by:

• Coordinated and transparent data collection and publication to understand the relationship between health research funding and costs

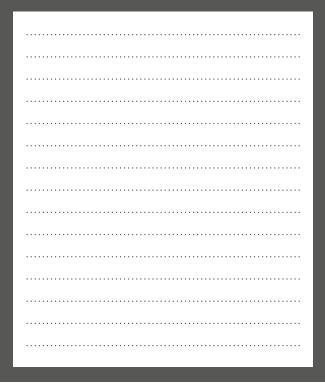
Maximise the strength of the UK's varied, vibrant and collaborative health research funding ecosystem by:

- Increasing investment across the UK in the fundamental underpinnings of health research
- Expanding innovative models of partnership funding between public, private and charitable sector

Pay for full range of people and activities:

- Account for the true costs of researcher career development and stable research careers
- Support and reward meaningful patient and public involvement

What can you, or your organisation, do to help future-proof health research?





4. Maximise the research potential of our healthcare system

Organisations responsible:



Reassert the value of research as a core part of the NHS's business through:

- Integrated Care Boards, NHS Trusts and Health Boards valuing and promoting research across their organisations, by:
 - Annually publishing information on research outcomes
 - Including research in business plans
 - Sharing innovation and learning

Nurture clinical academics through providing:

- Flexibility in training
- Balanced career support across pre/post-doctoral career stages

A research-engaged and informed healthcare workforce that has access to:

- Training, support and improved access to research skills
- Dedicated and protected time for research
- Clear pathways to work across NHS, academia and industry

Patient data as research resource:

- Share best practice
- Patient and public as active partners

Coordination is key

Three principles should underpin this coordination:

- 1. Clear accountability for a coordinating body/bodies