



# Clinical Research Statement of Intent

17 June 2024

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Together we are  
beating cancer

# Our research portfolio

## ***Discovery to clinical***

Our research strategy puts discovery research at the heart of what we do. To effectively deliver this we need to deepen understanding of how cancer develops, progresses and responds to treatment. In order to bring effective innovations to people we also need to translate this understanding of biology into better ways to prevent, detect and treat cancers.

## ***Clinical research portfolio***

Our clinical research portfolio encompasses a broad range of studies that are focused on studying people, their tissues and data to find the best way to detect, diagnose and treat cancer. We also want to ensure that, wherever feasible, these studies also enable increased understanding of its biological causes. It includes interventional clinical trials, observational studies and translational research involving the use of human tissues and/or data to derive model systems in which to study disease mechanisms in the laboratory.

## ***Importance of role of clinical academics / clinician scientists***

Clinician scientists are vital to the success of cancer research and play a critical role in bridging the gap between discovery science and research in patients. We recognise the importance of maintaining a pipeline of excellent clinician scientists who have trained in outstanding research environments and are committed to supporting them at all career stages.

# Statement of intent for clinical research

We will build a portfolio of clinical research that:

- Addresses critical clinical challenges
- Deepens understanding of cancer biology to inform more effective, kinder interventions
- Has a particular focus on:
  - early-phase proof of concept trials and
  - trials that optimise treatments while minimising adverse effects

To catalyse this, we will build a connected, collaborative and diverse research community:

- We will increase support for the brightest and best clinicians to train in outstanding research environments, such as our Institutes
- We will increase opportunity and diversity in clinical research participation and workforce
- We will build and nurture effective partnerships

## **A portfolio of clinical research that integrates evaluating interventions with advancing biological understanding of cancer and its treatment**

We will deliver this by:

- Identifying and addressing key clinical challenges
- Catalysing collaborations between discovery scientists, clinical scientists and trialists
- Maximising the value of the data and samples generated in our clinical research by making them available for high quality experimental medicine research and model systems
- Promoting innovation in trial methodology to efficiently incorporate translational studies

## Clinical trials portfolio

We will support a substantial portfolio of clinical trials addressing key clinical challenges, with an increased focus on:

- Early-phase, proof of concept trials
- Experimental medicine studies that link clinical trial data and samples with research that broadens understanding of mechanisms of cancer development and response to treatment
- Studies that provide the opportunity to improve or repurpose existing treatments

## **We will work in partnership to drive progress for patients**

We will do this by:

- Expecting and promoting excellence in patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE) across all of our clinical research
- Encouraging clinical research that addresses representation in both PPIE and trial participation, reduces barriers for underserved populations, and explores the impact of disparities on cancer treatment
- Establishing novel commercial and non-commercial partnerships
- Working with partners across science sectors and across government and the NHS to shape the clinical research landscape to enable optimal and efficient set up and delivery of our trials, and realise the opportunities afforded by new tools and technologies