

Cancer Research UK's supporting statement: Benefiting from the 'research effect', The case for trusts supporting clinicians to become more research active and innovative

The benefits of research extend far beyond developing successful treatments and innovations. Research is a key part of the NHS Constitution, enabling us to understand how to tailor services to meet the needs of patients.

The Royal College of Physicians has explored the benefits of research to patients, NHS staff and NHS Trusts in their new [research statement](#). Cancer Research UK endorses this statement and supports the ambition to encourage clinicians to become more research active.

Supporting the next generation of clinical academics

In line with this ambition, CRUK has awarded £50.7m over the next five years through our Clinical Academic Training (CAT) Programme Award. This will transform our training and support for clinician scientists. As a valued group in our community who bridge the gap between research and clinical practice, clinical academics play a vital role in helping us achieve our mission of seeing 3 in 4 people survive cancer within the next 20 years.

The CAT Programme will support nine programmes nationwide to offer early career clinician scientists greater flexibility and a wider range of training options, including MSCs, MB-PhDs and clinical training fellowships, while providing training of the highest quality. Trainee clinician scientists will benefit from holistic training support before, during and after their PhD, including a structured mentorship plan, funding and access to a growing clinical academic network between programmes.

Through this initiative, we want to address attrition among trainee clinician scientists, particularly women, and improve our support for the next generation of clinical academics.

Time for Research: Contributing to a culture of research in the NHS

While the CAT Programme will contribute to growing the UK's formal clinician scientist workforce, we also recognise the importance of enabling more health service staff to conduct or participate in research.

There have been some welcome steps to try and boost research in the NHS in recent years, but one well documented barrier preventing NHS staff getting involved in research is a lack of time¹. CRUK is exploring this issue in a new piece of work, [Time for Research](#), to provide recommendations to help boost the capacity within the existing NHS workforce across the UK.

We aim to identify practical policy solutions that will support the NHS and Departments of Health across the UK to optimise the health service research environment.

Ensuring a thriving research environment

Our work to bolster the UK's research environment reflects the government's Strategy for Life Sciences and the NHS long-term plan – both of which recognise that research is critical to the delivery of high-quality healthcare and to ensuring that the UK continues to be a global leader in medical research.

CRUK is working to ensure that the wider research environment continues to thrive by exploring the evolving landscape of trials as they become more complex. We're also working to address issues related to trial setup, such as Excess Treatment Costs.

¹ Every patient a research patient, CRUK (2015)

https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/sites/default/files/cruk_every_patient_may2015_web.pdf