

Research Impact: NIHR External Reference Board

Invitation to apply to be a Co-Chair of the NIHR External Referencing Board for Impact

Role:	Lay Co-Chair of the NIHR External Reference Board
Reports to:	Prof. Charles Wolfe (Chair)
Mentored by:	CCF Head of Impact and NETSCC Senior Impact Manager
Reimbursement:	Honorarium, travel and substitute care costs and agreed out of pocket expenses
Period of appointment:	Two years but to be reviewed after one.

1. Introduction

We are pleased to announce an exciting opportunity for a patient, service user, carer or member of the public to be the Co-Chair of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) External Reference Board for Research Impact.

NIHR is the largest Government funder of health and care research in the UK investing approximately £1.3 billion in research every year. Our aim is to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research and we have a duty to demonstrate to our partners, including the public, the difference – the ‘impact’ - this investment is making to patients and the economy.

NIHR has set up a new Impact Programme of work to help it understand and better illustrate this impact, and involving patients, service users, carers and the public is going to be critical to its success. This involvement will ensure that the voice of those who are supposed to benefit from research is heard and their perspectives incorporated, provide an independent viewpoint, and contribute to good governance and transparency.

2. What is the NIHR External Referencing Board?

NIHR has commissioned its Central Commissioning Facility (CCF) to manage the new Impact Programme and CCF has established an External Reference Board to provide oversight of this work.

As part of measures to strengthen the governance of the programme and in keeping with our commitment to public involvement we are now seeking a lay Co-Chair to work alongside the Board's Chair, Professor Charles Wolfe (King's College, London).

The External Reference Board exists to provide external input into the programme which is being delivered by an NIHR Impact Co-ordinating Group (NICiG) and, where appropriate, advise NIHR's Strategy Board which brings together NIHR's senior leadership Chaired by the Chief Scientists, Professor Chris Whitty.

The programme is managed by a Head of Impact and a Senior Impact Manager who are responsible for supporting the External Reference Board including the Chair and Co-Chair.

3. Who sits on the NIHR External Referencing Board?

Membership of the Board includes representation from NIHR's partners including other research funders, the NHS, Charities, Universities, public contributors and industry.

Professor Charles Wolfe (Chair), Head of School of Population & Environmental Sciences, King's College London and Director of Research and Development at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, chairs the board. Other members are:

- Dr Gert V. Balling, Impact Assessment Manager, Novo Nordisk Foundation
- Simon Denegri, NIHR National Director for Patients and the Public in Research and Chair, INVOLVE
- Dr Shona Haining, Head of Research and Evidence, North of England Commissioning Support Unit
- Martin Hunt, Chairman, Videregen Ltd, Director of NIHR Invention for Innovation (i4i) Programme
- Dr Sara Imarisio, Head of Research, Alzheimer's Research UK
- Professor Sue Mawson, Director, NIHR Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care Yorkshire and Humber
- Dr Nick McNally, Managing Director, Research, University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust/University College London
- Professor Jeremy Pearson, Associate Medical Director, British Heart Foundation
- Jessica Romo, Evaluation and Learning Manager, Wellcome Trust
- Professor Jo Rycroft Malone, Head of School for Healthcare Sciences and Academic Lead for Impact at Bangor University, Director of NIHR Health Service and Delivery Research Programme

- Dr Finn Willingham, Operations Manager, Northern Alliance Advanced Therapies Treatment Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

4. Time commitment and typical activities:

This role will involve a minimum time commitment of 6 days per year equivalent to half-a-day per month on average. Typical activities will include:

- Co-chairing and preparing for Board meetings as well as following-up Board actions where appropriate
- Attending external meetings with the Chair, Head of Impact or Senior Impact Manager as an observer/to represent the views of the Board where appropriate
- Presenting the Board's work at events, conferences or in meetings and teleconferences
- Joint planning of Board meetings/work with the Chair, Head of Impact or Senior Impact Manager
- Maintaining appropriate knowledge, networks and information channels which are relevant to the work of NIHR and the Board.

Most meetings will be face to face in either London but the Co-Chair should be prepared to travel to meetings in other regions if necessary.

5. Accountability:

The role will be accountable to the Chair who will also consider the views of other key stakeholders, including the Board.

The Co-Chair's activity and objectives will be set and reviewed with the Chair, Head of Impact or Senior Impact Manager.

6. Tenure:

Tenure of the role is 2 years (subject to the first review at 12 months).

7. Expenses and Support

This role will be supported by the Head of Impact and Senior Impact Manager. NIHR is committed to being as inclusive as possible in all that we do, and we will, therefore, consider any reasonable adjustments required to enable you to fulfil this role.

This role attracts an involvement fee for all pre-agreed activity of £300 per day/£150 per half day. Information and access to a helpline about payments and

welfare benefits can be provided on request. If already in employment this role would be on a secondment arrangement via the current employer; if self-employed then the candidate would be responsible for paying their own tax and National Insurance.

When attending meetings and events that have been agreed with the Chair, Head of Impact or Senior Impact Manager, reasonable and relevant expenses and travel costs will be reimbursed or prepaid as appropriate, in line with NIHR CCF internal policies (<https://tinyurl.com/rextq7p>). Appropriate and reasonable requests for other forms of support will also be considered on an individual basis.

8. Person specification

Knowledge/experience/skills

1. Promotion/Advocacy

[illegible]

2. Representation/Facilitation

	Essential	Desirable	How assessed?
Highly effective interpersonal and written/verbal communication skills	x		Application, interview
Thinks and acts at a strategic level and guides others to do the same	x		Interview, reference
Experience of dealing with political situations and effective judgement to deal with them	x		Interview, reference
Develops productive and professional working relationships with respect for role boundaries	x		Interview, reference

3. Group leadership/chairing

	Essential	Desirable	How assessed?
A leader who encourages the respect and co-operation of stakeholders at all levels	x		Interview, reference
Guides others to contribute effectively within established frameworks and systems	x		Application, interview
Effective chairing and facilitation skills	x		Interview, reference
Strong influencing and negotiation skills with a focus on achieving “win, win”	x		Application, interview
Experience of planning and supporting the development of others		x	Application, interview

4. Knowledge building

	Essential	Desirable	How assessed?
Self-motivated, with the ability to plan and manage own work and development	x		Interview, Reference
Ability to deliver results from targeted networking and relationship building	x		Application, interview
Demonstrates how their influence within/upon relevant networks or organisations would further the goals of NIHR and its impact work.		x	Interview

Other requirements: To ensure the independent integrity of the Board the following are not eligible to apply for the role:

- Candidates nominated to stand for elections as well as their election agents as defined under Part 2 of the Representation of the People's Act 1983
- Those with a pecuniary (financial/business) interest in health and care research funding
- Current employee of NIHR Co-ordinating Centre

Potential conflicts of interest must be declared during the application process.

10. How to apply?

Send a CV and a short covering letter explaining your interest and experience for the role to mark.taylor@nihr.ac.uk

The deadline for receipt of applications is **1pm on Friday 5th October 2018.**

If you have any queries or would like more information, please email mark.taylor@nihr.ac.uk

Dr Mark Taylor
Head of Impact
NIHR CCF
Twickenham

Annex 1 - Further information on the background to the role.

Context for the Board's Purpose and Existence

Impact - Research Councils UK (RCUK) defines research impact as 'the demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to society and the economy'. Assessing the non-academic impacts of research is far from new, but in recent years there has been growing interest, both in the UK and abroad, about how to measure the impact of research. This raises pressing questions for academics and funders alike: how can we capture the social, political and cultural impacts of academic research? What methodological approaches are most suitable and why? Is impact actually an appropriate metric for research, or does it simply make academics conform to funders' research agendas?

Impact assessment - This assesses the changes that can be attributed to a particular intervention, such as a Programme, programme or policy, both the intended ones, as well as ideally the unintended ones. Many desired outcomes of programmes are influenced by external factors, including other national, regional, and local programmes and policies, as well as economic or environmental conditions. Thus, the outcomes observed typically reflect a combination of influences. To isolate the programme's unique impacts, or contribution to those outcomes, an impact assessment must be carefully designed to rule out plausible alternative explanations for the results. This is different to outcome evaluation which is mainly questions about the extent to which the programme achieved its results-oriented objectives. This form of evaluation focuses on examining outputs (goods and services delivered by a programme) and outcomes (the results of those products and services) but may also assess programme processes to understand how those outcomes are produced, albeit from a mainly methodological point of view.

Why is this important – As any form of government investment comes under greater scrutiny due to the ongoing austerity it is essential that all research is justified? Justification through outcome measurement may not explain the worth or value of any given research. As importantly, outcome measurement may give a false sense of security to research that, for example, publishes much but achieves little patient benefit, surely the cornerstone of investment by NIHR. Finally, what sort of impact assessment does NIHR need considering the work of other medical funders and the work conducted jointly by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) and the Department for Employment and Learning, Northern Ireland (DEL), and the recent Research Excellence Framework (REF)?

NIHR funds medical and health research to the tune of approximately £1.3 billion a year. Any research to be ultimately meaningful to NIHR must have a patient benefit. This is reason for and the aim of exploitation of research outcomes in the NHS as codified by the Health and Social Care Act of 2012

Health and Social Care Act 2012

Promotion in England of a comprehensive health service designed to secure improvement—

(a) in the physical and mental health of the people of England, and

(b) in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of physical and mental illness.

Duty as to research

In exercising functions in relation to the health service, the Secretary of

State must promote—

(a) research on matters relevant to the health service, and

(b) the use in the health service of evidence obtained from research.”

The ability of us to understand and provide impact assessment and analysis will be, in part, due to our understanding of what happens within research and research management at Universities, Hospitals and what other funders look for with respect to impact.