

Chief Executive Update to the Board, July 2022

Part 1 Public session

Wider policy environment roundup

This section is provided for wider interest and awareness of the Board. It does not need to be reviewed in detail.

ABPI Annual Conference and Life Sciences Superpower Report

[ABPI Life Sciences Superpower Report](#) which came out alongside the ABPI conference, has calculated the potential benefits of UK life sciences going forward, and suggests areas to focus on to deliver the UK's ambition of being a science superpower.

It sets out the opportunity and challenges facing the UK life sciences sector, and what can be done to address them.

It estimates the current economic impact of the life sciences sector on the UK of £36.9bn to UK gross domestic product and 584,000 jobs in the UK economy. Spending on pharmaceutical R&D totalled over £4.7bn (18% of all commercial R&D) and the single year's investment will raise the all-economy productivity by £45bn over the next 30 years.

The report also suggests that, for all the UK's strengths, there are areas for concern. The UK's clinical trial activity, manufacturing, R&D investment, and talent pool have all declined in recent years.

The UK is well positioned to become the leading global hub for life sciences, but we need to move at pace. This includes creating an environment that supports greater access to and uptake of innovative medicines, streamlining trial setup by centralising and standardising the contracting process, enhance the spread and reach of trial enrolment across primary, secondary, and tertiary care.

For more information contact Naho Yamazaki, Interim Deputy Director, Policy and Partnerships.

NHS England Data saves lives: reshaping health and social care with data

This strategy sets out how NHS England will improve the use of data across four key areas, for direct care, population health through targeting of services, planning and

improvement of services, and for research and innovation. Planning and improving services, and research and innovation are particularly relevant to our work.

The strategy sets out seven priorities

1. Improving trust in the health and care system's use of data
2. Giving health and care professionals the information they need to provide the best possible care
3. Improving data for adult social care
4. Supporting local and national decision-makers with data
5. Empowering researchers with the data they need to develop life-changing treatments, diagnostics, models of care and insights
6. Working with partners to develop innovations that improve health and care
7. Developing the right technical infrastructure

For more information see, [Data saves lives: reshaping health and social care with data - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/data-saves-lives-reshaping-health-and-social-care-with-data)

HRA updates

Research, Resilience and Growth Plan 2 plan launched by Lord Kamal

The second phase of the Recover, Resilience and Growth programme was published on the 30 June and announced by Lord Kamal.

- [View the press release](#)
- [View the Phase 2 implementation plan](#)
- [Patients to benefit following clinical research boost - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

This UK-wide plan summarises the progress that we have made so far and the actions that we will take over the next three years, from 2022 to 2025, ensuring we make the progress necessary to achieve our [vision for clinical research](#) in full by 2031.

The RRG Phase 2 Implementation Plan has been developed by the cross-sector [UK Clinical Research RRG Programme](#) in collaboration with all our delivery partners, public contributors and the wider research community and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your hard work in shaping the plan and supporting its implementation.

For more information, contact Janet Messer, Senior Responsible Owner for HRA's RRG programme.

Fast track

As agreed at the extraordinary Board meet on the 15/06/2022 we are making some changes to the way we handle applications for fast-track review of clinical trials, streamlining our process for the future. As part of our work to accelerate research, we're now integrating our single fast-track Research Ethics Committee into our wider

structure. It means a larger pool of ethics committees will look at fast-track applications as part of their usual meetings.

It is worth adding that this does not affect our other fast-track process for urgent national policy and public health reasons. This other route is what we used for COVID, and used recently for Monkey Pox and studies affected by the war in Ukraine. When it's most needed, review can take as little as 48 hours. We will still offer that service as well.

For more information contact Janet Messer, Director of Approvals

HRA Strategy 2022-25: Making to easy to do research people can trust

Think Ethics public conversation about new pathways for ethics review

The next phase of [Think Ethics](#) has been launched. This included.

- [Rethinking ethics review](#), seeking feedback about ideas for more proportionate ways of doing ethics review
- Details of our [new policy for participant information](#), including a new requirement for public involvement
- [Findings of the public dialogue](#) on ethics review

There will be a series of events going on over the summer to discuss the ideas in Rethinking ethics review in more detail. The launch included a supportive comment from Lord Kamal. The full news release is [here](#).

With Juliet's departure, Jonathan Fennelly-Barnwell has taken on the leadership role of Senior Responsible Owner. A full discussion of the next phase of Think Ethics will happen at the September Board meeting.

For more information, contact Jonathan Fennelly-Barnwell, Senior Responsible Owner for Think Ethics.

UK Life sciences industry engagement

Life sciences industry are an important user-base for our services, and fundamental to the UK's success both economically and for efficient and effective health services.

We have regular and wide-ranging operational interactions with the life sciences industry through several channels. These include individual user feedback, and discussion, and consultation on specific issues (for example through Combined Review and Fast Track).

At a strategic level and we work closely with industry umbrella organisations such as ABPI and BIA. We convene the Study Set-up Partnership Board, and the Phase 1 Advisory Group, both of which include industry members. We sit on several external strategic fora with industry; the DHSC-OLS Innovation Steering Group, UK Life Sciences Council Working and the Clinical Operations Managers Group.

I recently met with Director/VP/CEO level leaders from pharmaceutical and contract research organisations. One topic we discussed was how we could work together.

We agreed that we did not need further groups or opportunities to discuss sector wide issues, but that we could better orchestrate the existing discussions and convert discussion into tangible change.

I have recently established contact with the European Medicines Group which brings together 22 continental European headquartered, research-based pharmaceutical companies.

Executive Team Appointments

Following internal open processes, we have appointed Karen Williams to Deputy Chief Executive, Becky Purvis as Interim Director of Policy and Partnerships, and Naho Yamazaki as Interim Deputy Director of Policy and Partnerships.

The process to find a permanent replacement for our Director of Policy and Partnerships has been launched. **For more information see** <https://www.gatenbysanderson.com/job/GSe88136/Director-of-Policy-Partnerships>

Senior leadership stakeholder engagement presentations

The Executive Committee and senior leadership engage widely to support the delivery of HRA's social mission. This includes a wide range of informal and formal meetings. Listed here are some of the invited talks and stakeholder engagement events we have been involved with.

Speaker	Event	Title	HRA Objective
Janet Messer, Director of Approvals	NIHR Research for Patient Benefit Panel, 18 May 2022	NA – funding panel	Observing an NIHR funding panel as part of consideration of system changes to support people-centred research (RRG Programme)
Janet Messer, Director of Approvals	NHS Digi Trials – opt out workshop, 27 May 2022	NA - workshop	Exploring considerations for opt-out for Digi trials as part of Find, Recruit & Follow-up (RRG Programme)
Janet Messer, Director of Approvals	IT Challenges in primary care research	NA – meeting	Meeting with NHS R&D Forum and NIHR Clinical Research Network to explore issues and solutions for use of electronic data in primary care research
Matt Westmore, CEO	DHSC Senior Management Team 9 June 2022	HRA strategy 2022-25: Making it easy	To share the HRA strategy with DHSC sponsor team.

		to do research people can trust.	
Matt Westmore, CEO	MHRA One-Agency Live, 27 June 2022.	Partnerships working together to deliver innovation.	<p>To support our close strategic partner, MHRA.</p> <p>To share the HRA Strategy</p> <p>To demonstrate the importance of partnerships to innovation, and innovation to patient benefit.</p>
Janet Messer, Director of Approvals	International Academy of Clinical Research event, 29 June 2022		Face to face meeting with industry and NHS participants exploring how NHS sit and staff competency could improve UK competitiveness
Matt Westmore, CEO and Catherine Blewitt, Senior Development Manager, Approvals.	Surgical Placebo Controlled Trials, 29-30 June 2022	NA – workshop and round table discussion	To engage with the research community on new research practices. To promote the need for patient and public involvement.
Becky Purvis, Interim Director of Policy and Partnerships	ABPI Conference	NA - conference	Attended as guest of ABPI to hear and learn industry objectives. Notably lots of reference to the importance of public involvement, EDI and tackling inequalities throughout the presentations.
Matt Westmore, CEO	UK Clinical Research Collaborative Board meeting, 4 July 2022	HRA Strategy 2022-25: Making it easy to do research people can trust.	To share our strategy with UKCRC Board and sector leaders.
Matt Westmore, CEO	Panthera clinical trials dinner, 7 July 2022	Making it easy to do research, people can trust	To engage with senior figures in industry. To discuss challenges facing the UK life sciences sector and how

			we can work together to address them.
Matt Westmore, CEO	Surgical innovation oversight	Research governance – important, necessary, helpful	To raise standards and support innovation in surgical research. To ensure proportionate regulation across the spectrum of service improvement, audit and research.
Matt Westmore, CEO	AMRC Research Directors meeting, 12 July 2022	HRA Strategy 2022-25: Making it easy to do research people can trust.	To share our strategy with AMRC and member leadership.
Matt Westmore, CEO	European Medicines Group 20 th anniversary event 14 July 2022	From The Vision to Reality, in Partnership: The Decade to Deliver the Life Sciences Vision	To meet with industry leaders to understand how HRA can better meet their needs. To establish a line of discussion with them.
Janet Messer, Director of Approvals	CONTINUUM – The Institute of Cancer Research	NA – stakeholder meeting	Meeting with ICR and NHS Digital to explore innovative methods for long term follow up in cancer trials