Executive Group Chair - UK Registered CTU Network

The UK Registered Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) Network is seeking a highly experienced person with expertise in clinical trials to Chair its Executive Group.

The successful candidate will have a wealth of experience, knowledge, and acumen within the field of non-commercial/academic clinical trials research, demonstrate an excellent understanding of best practice as well as current drivers for change.

Given the independent nature of the role, the Executive Group Chair should not be based on of our member CTUs in the UK. The CTU Network brings together 49 academic trials units from across the UK.

As the collective voice of non-commercial and academic clinical trials units, the Network plays an important role in engaging with Government, funders, regulators, and patients to improve and strengthen clinical research in the UK. The Network is seen internationally as an exemplar for the development of national clinical trials support. It was established in 2007, and its members are committed to setting and sharing good practice and improving standards in clinical trials.

Our network is funded by its members, and major funders have representation on the Network's Executive Group, this includes Cancer Research UK, NIHR, as well as devolved nations representation such as Health and Social Care Research Wales.

This role does not involve any report writing.

Role description

Working with UK Registered CTU Network leadership, in setting the strategic direction of the network.

Ensuring appropriate Board oversight and advice to the Network on:

- Key issues, providing strategic input into discussions and network responses to relevant external consultations.
- The definition of a high-performing CTU and overseeing the review of UK CTU Registration and provide assurance to IRRC decision.
- Working with Network Programme Manager to develop, review and oversee the Work Programme and Finances of the network of UK Registered Clinical Trials Units.

Maintaining awareness of the clinical trials environment and key national and international issues affecting trials and clinical trials units.

Leading good group governance including appropriate oversight of financial sustainability, Network performance, EDI and research including and environment sustainability.

Personal attributes

- A strong background in clinical trials either within the UK or internationally
- Integrity, diplomacy, strategic vision, and sound judgement.
- Committed to the values and purpose of the Network.
- An in depth understanding of the strategic opportunities and challenges in UK clinical trials research and the role of CTUs within the environment.
- The ability to think strategically and objectively and to take the long view.
- A collaborative working style that reflects the Network's values with strong relationship-building and communication skills
- Ability to chair meetings well, encouraging debate and facilitating decision-making

Governance and reporting arrangements

Terms of Reference for the Group are available here.

Attendance at meetings, travel etc.

Due to the self-funded nature of the Network, this is a voluntary role reflecting our nature as a collegiate community organisation. Travel expenses and hotel accommodation are reimbursed for face-to-face meetings. We do of course wish to ensure this opportunity is accessible to all, and for a candidate who is an exceptional fit, but requires support to undertake the commitment, we are open to discussing ways to facilitate your participation.

How to apply

Interested candidates are asked to submit an up-to-date short CV plus covering letter (500 words) outlining their vision for the role and how they believe they fulfil the role description by 6pm on 23 October 2026.

Informal conversations can be had with Prof Kerry Hood, Director of the UK registered CTU Network hoodk1@cf.ac.uk.